

Libertarian Concepts

PUBLISHED BY THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY WEBSITE: www.LP.org

Why the Libertarian Party is the future of American politics

BY STEVE DASBACH

Libertarian Party National Director

Just 12 years after winning the presidency in 1848 with Zachary Taylor as their candidate, the Whigs ceased to exist as a political party.

Could the same thing happen to the Republicans or Democrats? Consider:

- In the 1996 presidential election, 90 million eligible voters didn't even bother to go to the polls.

- Only one in four Americans trust their government to do what's right most of the time, according to a *Washington Post* poll.

- A whopping 66% of Americans think the federal government either has no effect on their life, or makes it worse, reported a Scripps Howard News Service poll in 1997.

- Astoundingly, a study by Maricopa Research about life in the next century found that more Americans think we will be able to beam people back and forth like they do in *Star Trek* (31%) than think we will be able to end the political corruption of Republicans and Democrats (15%).

- Even long-time politicians admit there is something drastically wrong with the

Republicans and Democrats.

For example, former U.S. Senator Gary Hart said in *Talk* magazine (February 2000): "I no longer believe that the two parties are going to fix our [nation's] problems, because they are both too corrupt. Both parties are caught in the politics of the past, intellectually bankrupt, and morally bankrupt as well."

Here's the good news: Although many Americans have given up on this government, they haven't given up on making positive changes via the political *system* — more than 60% want to see a new political party.

What kind of new party?

The question is, what *kind* of new party are they demanding?

Whatever it is, it's nothing like either of the

Question:

What is Libertarian Concepts?

Libertarian Concepts is a free, introductory newsletter about the Libertarian Party. When you read it, you'll learn what the party believes, how Libertarians are working to protect your liberty, and why supporting the Libertarian Party would benefit you, your family, and your country.

two older parties. Most surveys show that nearly half of the American electorate is registered as neither Democrat nor Republican. And more and more Americans are demanding a smaller, less intrusive government — which is why the most likely candidate to become the *next* major political party is the Libertarian Party.

Libertarians are in touch with the mood of America. Libertarians believe Americans have the right to live their lives as they wish, without the government interfering — as long as they don't violate the rights of others.

Politically, this means Libertarians favor rolling back the size and cost of government and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices.

A high degree of freedom

Does this mean that Libertarians are conservatives? No — unlike conservatives or liberals, Libertarians advocate a high degree of *both* personal and economic liberty. You might think of it this way: Libertarians “borrow” from both sides of the traditional political spectrum to come up with a logical whole.

“The Libertarian Party [is] the feistiest, most opinionated, most high-minded party in the political universe.”

— Barry Farber, Talk America Radio Network, January 19, 2000

For example, Libertarians agree with conservatives on the need for freedom in economic matters; we're in favor of reducing taxes, cutting regulations, and charitable — rather than government — welfare.

But Libertarians agree with liberals on freedom and tolerance in personal matters; we're in favor of people's right to choose their own personal habits and lifestyles without interference from the government.

What caused it?

If there's a problem, the first question a Libertarian asks is not: “How can government solve it?” Instead, Libertarians ask: “What

Another Friend of Liberty



Kurt Russell

Actor, and star of *Backdraft*, *Stargate*, *Escape from New York*, and *Silkwood*.

I'm a libertarian. I think a lot of people are libertarians and they are afraid to admit it. I'm not a Republican. I'm a libertarian.

government program *caused* this problem to begin with, and what government program must be eliminated to fix it?”

The Libertarian Party is the only party dedicated to dramatically reducing government and doing it as quickly as possible. It's the only party that recognizes that the federal government has expanded far beyond the small, limited government envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

And the Libertarian Party is working hard to turn its political beliefs into political action.

Since its founding in 1971, the Libertarian Party has become America's most politically active, successful, and influential third party. It has helped to fundamentally shift the nature of American political debate — even though it has yet to elect a member of Congress or a president.

Intellectual forces

Libertarian ideas that were considered outlandish 20 years ago — like getting rid of the income tax and the IRS, ending the failed War on Drugs, replacing the bankrupt Social Security system with private retirement accounts, and so on — are part of *mainstream* political debate now. Libertarianism has become one of the most powerful intellectual forces in America.

This influence hasn't escaped the notice of the media.

Libertarianism has been called “the de facto philosophy of a generation [for] the youth

of the 1990s" (*USA Today*, 1995) and "the cutting-edge politics of the time" (*The Village Voice*, 1996). It is "gaining adherents and credibility." (*The New York Times Magazine*, 1998). And the Libertarian Party is "the most successful and coherent third party in the United States." (*Worcester Magazine*, 1998)

"Libertarianism has contributed much to defining American political thought in the '90s," reported the *Los Angeles Times* (1997). "Libertarian themes are part of contemporary political discourse."

Beyond its philosophical victories, the Libertarian Party has also helped redraw America's political map, rewrite the record books on third-party success, lead the fight

against higher taxes in communities all across the USA, and reform the nation's ballot access laws.

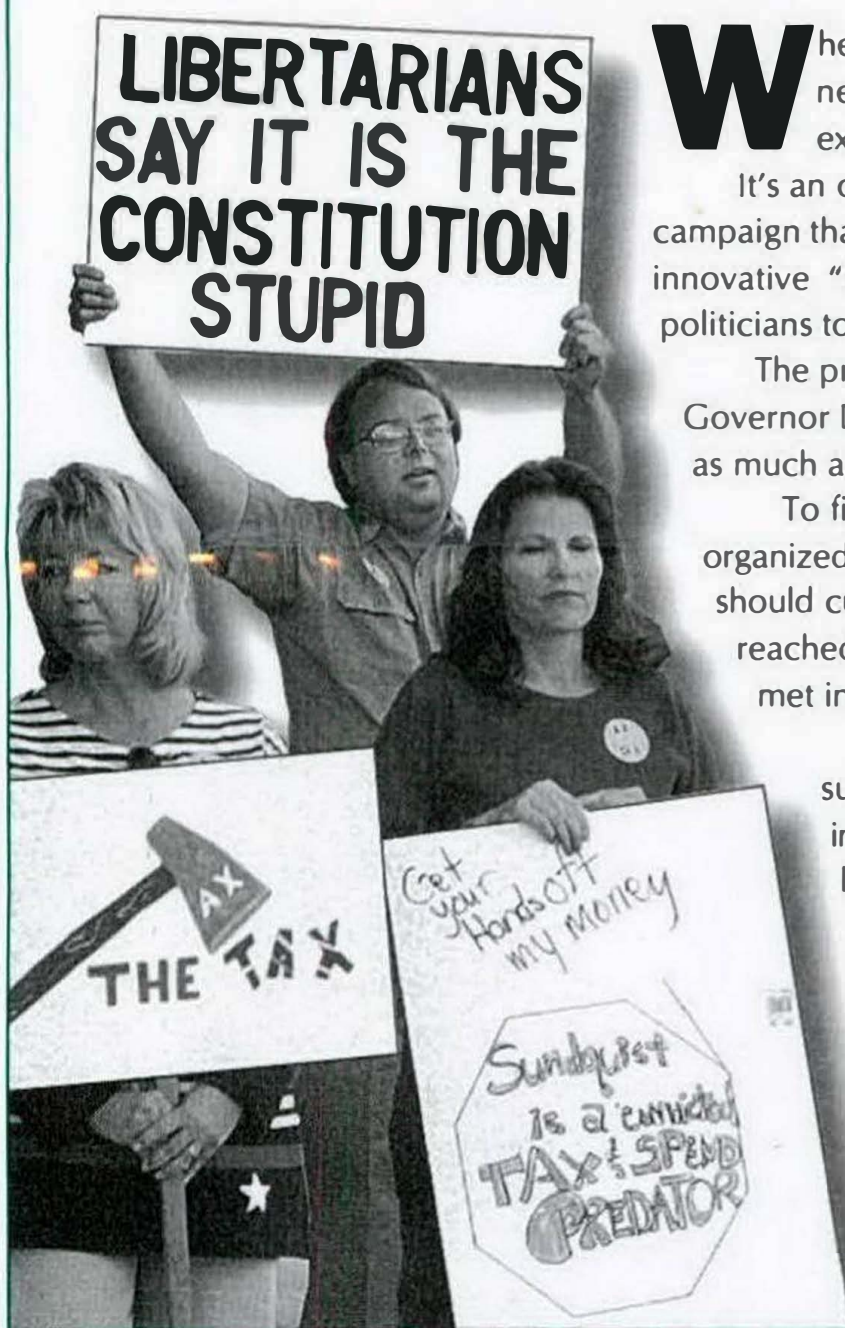
■ **Political Map:** Americans used to think that politics was a straight line from left to right. Now, every credible political scientist understands that politics is actually a four-way spectrum that includes libertarianism and authoritarianism. In 2000 and beyond, you can't talk about politics without acknowledging the growing *influence* of libertarianism.

"Libertarians may well be the third party most capable of siphoning voters from a broad spectrum of dissatisfaction."

—Darrell Laurant,
The Lynchburg News & Advance (Virginia),
September 1, 1999

Libertarians In Action: Fighting Tax Increases

Libertarians beat \$79 billion Tennessee tax



When the Republican governor of Tennessee tried to pass a new income tax in 1999, he ran into an obstacle he didn't expect: The Tennessee Libertarian Party.

It's an oversight he now regrets. Thanks to a vigorous lobbying campaign that included petitions, e-mail messages, and even an innovative "honk-a-thon," Libertarians were able to convince state politicians to veto the plan.

The proposed 3.75% income tax — the pet project of GOP Governor Don Sundquist — would have cost Tennessee taxpayers as much as \$79.9 billion over the next decade.

To fight the tax, Libertarians and other political activists organized a lobbying campaign, arguing that the state government should cut spending instead of raising taxes. The activities reached a crescendo in late November when the legislature met in a special session to consider the income tax.

Libertarians joined hundreds of Tennessee residents to surround Legislative Plaza with their cars and honk horns in protest. At the same time, the legislature was bombarded by thousands of anti-tax e-mail messages, after Libertarians spread the word over the Internet.

The "overwhelming e-mail avalanche that rained on state legislators in the hours before they were to vote on the tax proposal" definitely helped kill the tax, said Libertarian David Carew — and convinced the governor to keep his hand out of taxpayers' wallets.

Libertarians and other Tennessee residents picket the pro-tax Republican governor.

Another Friend of Liberty

Nelson DeMille

Bestselling author of *The General's Daughter* and *The Lion's Game*

Q: How would you describe your personal politics?

A: Libertarian. I think there's a strong libertarian movement toward smaller government.



■ **Political Success:** The Libertarian Party has elected State Representatives in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Alaska, mayors in California and Georgia, and hundreds of other candidates to local and county offices.

In fact, the party has more than 270 members serving in public office — giving it “a status that no third party has enjoyed in decades,” wrote the *Congressional Quarterly's Researcher* (1995). By comparison, the Reform Party has only seven elected officials, according to its website.

There's more good news: In 1999 alone, at least 53 more Libertarians were elected to public office.

That's 53 *more* Libertarians who are working to lower taxes, repeal regulations, stop censorship, protect property rights, halt government discrimination, and defend liberty.

To Republicans and Democrats who say, “Libertarians can't make a difference because you haven't elected anyone to Congress yet” . . . well, we say, “To the citizens of those towns and counties where Libertarians are serving in office, we *will* make a difference.”

■ **Fighting Taxes:** In 1999, Libertarian Party members saved taxpayers at least \$3.094 billion dollars, thanks to energetic lobbying campaigns against new taxes, bond issues, and wasteful government programs.

Libertarians helped stop a \$149 million bond measure (San Diego, CA); a \$475,000 million government-funded Regional Art Center (Lubbock County, Texas); and a \$110 million sales tax hike (Cobb County, Georgia).

But it didn't stop there. Libertarians also helped kill a whopping \$1.274 billion government-funded football stadium (Connecticut); a \$423 million sales tax boost (San Diego County, California); and a \$148 million bond issue (San Mateo, California).

And to top it all off, Libertarians also played a pivotal role in defeating a huge \$1.8 billion income tax proposal (Tennessee).

No, \$3.094 billion isn't a lot of money compared to the mountains of cash that the government still spends annually.

But to every taxpayer in, say, Cobb County, Georgia, whose tax bill will be a few dollars lower this year because of what Libertarians accomplished — *it makes a difference*.

To a struggling single mother in San Diego — *it makes a difference*.

To a business owner in Connecticut — *it makes a difference*.

To a family in Tennessee — *it makes a difference*.

To Republicans and Democrats who say, “The Libertarian Party isn't big enough to have an impact” . . . well, we say, “To taxpayers in those towns and states, we *already* did.”

In fact, Libertarian tax-fighting prowess has become so well known that when voters in Washington state voted in 1999 to roll back automobile taxes, Charlie Plumb at the *Senior Times* (Spokane) wrote: “Voter's recent approval of [reduced car] license fees was a victory for Libertarian Party politics.”

■ **Ballot Access Reform:** Through relentless lobbying and lawsuits, the Libertarian Party has made it easier for newer parties like the Reform Party to get on the ballot all across

“The [Libertarian Party] is a political party gaining momentum. It seeks reform — not power.”

—*The Sentinel-Tribune*, Bowling Green, Ohio, May 17, 1999

the country — and for voters to have *more* choices when they go to the polls.

■ **Growth as an organization:** Over the past six years, the Libertarian Party has almost tripled its contributor base. Membership growth in the last several years has exceeded that of the previous 25 years combined.

From 1994 to 2000, the number of registered Libertarians increased by 88% — far faster than either the Republicans or Democrats.

And the party seems to have an even greater potential for *future* growth: A nationwide survey taken in mid-January 1996 by Gallup found that 20% of the population was philosophically libertarian. That study confirms that libertarians are a significant political force in America — with a larger base of support than Ross Perot had in 1992.

Point out their sins

For more than a quarter-century, Republicans and Democrats have been hoping that Libertarians would quietly go away. But there's no chance of that. Every time they suggest a new tax, or create a new bureaucracy, or impose more censorship, or get America involved in another futile, bloody war in some faraway country, or subsidize their corporate clients, the Libertarian Party will be there to point out their sins.

And when the American public eventually grows tired of the politics-as-usual of the two

Question:

Where do Libertarian ideas come from?

Libertarian ideas come from a wide variety of sources: The Founding Fathers, Nobel Prize-winning economists, writers, philosophers—and even the occasional humorist like Mark Twain. Here are a few famous quotations that sum up much of what Libertarians believe.

"I heartily accept the motto, 'That government is best which governs least.' " — **Henry David Thoreau**

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master." — **Attributed to George Washington**

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it." — **Thomas Jefferson** (1791)

"Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom." — **Albert Einstein** (1950)

"Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none." — **Thomas Jefferson** (1801)

"If you want government to intervene domestically, you're a liberal. If you want government to intervene overseas, you're a conservative. If you want government to intervene everywhere, you're a moderate. If you don't want government to intervene anywhere, you're an extremist." — **Joseph Sobran** (1995)

"One of the greatest delusions is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation." — **Thomas B. Reed** (1886)

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." — **Benjamin Franklin** (1755)

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." — **P.J. O'Rourke**

"No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." — **Mark Twain** (1866)

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding." — **Justice Louis Brandeis** (1928)

Another Friend of Liberty



Dwight Yoakam

Grammy Award-winning county music star

"Libertarianism, the pure Jeffersonian ideal, to me is appealing. I'm not an active member of the Libertarian Party, but I do think there is room for their concepts in our experiment in democracy. We are responsible for our actions. We should consider taking that road less traveled with less government."

Question:

How big, expensive, and intrusive is government?

Government has gotten so big that it's hard to keep track of everything it does. Here are a few statistical snapshots that show what Libertarians are fighting.

- Cost to taxpayers to clean up the federal government's 61,155 toxic waste sites: \$300 billion
- Cost to clean up all the pollution caused by chemical and oil companies: \$57 billion.
— *The Boston Globe*, November 14, 1999
- Number of foreign countries where U.S. troops were deployed in 1997: 100
- Total number of countries on the planet: 197
- Percentage of countries with U.S. troops: 51%
— U.S. Army News Release, July 4, 1997
- Number of Americans arrested in 1997 for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault: 717,720.
- Number arrested for marijuana offenses: 695,200.
— *Playboy* magazine, April 1999
- Percentage of Americans who send their children to private school: 14%
- Percentage of U.S. Senators who sent their children to private school: 50%
— *The Heritage Foundation*, September 9, 1997
- For every new law passed by Congress, number of new regulations implemented by bureaucrats: 18.
— Paul Harvey, *Imprimis*, October 1998
- Amount of money the federal government spends annually to train new doctors: \$7 billion
- Amount of money the federal government plans to spend over the next several years to pay hospitals not to train doctors, to reduce the doctor glut: \$9.7 billion.
— *The Washington Post*, August 24, 1997
- Percentage of Americans who say politicians tell the truth: 12%
- Percentage who say prostitutes tell the truth: 55%
— *Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*, February 1997
- Number of days the average American had to work in 1998 to pay their taxes: 129.
- Number of years the average American family head will have to work in their lifetime to pay taxes: 15-20
— *The Tax Foundation*, Washington, DC, 1998

older parties, the Libertarian Party will be ready to help the Republicans and Democrats follow the Whigs into the history books.

When will that day come?

When *you* decide that it should.

It's that simple: It will come the day that voters like you decide to join the Libertarian Party, and help build a new political alternative.

Tens of thousands have already made that decision. Hundreds of thousands will follow. Then millions.

But you have a chance now to be among the first. And you have the chance to make a political prediction come true.

In 1998, the dean of American political columnists, David Broder, wrote in the *Washington Post*: "The party to watch in the 21st century may well turn out to be the Libertarians."

By joining us today, you can help make the 21st century the century of liberty for America.

Not sure?

Not quite sure yet about joining the Libertarian Party?

Then ask yourself: Is government too big or too small? Are taxes too high or too low? Does the government regulate my business too much or too little? Does the government control my personal life too much or not enough?

If you agree, like most Americans, that government is too large, too expensive, and meddles too much, the Libertarian Party is for you.

"Libertarians have considerable philosophical appeal for many Americans."

—*St. Petersburg Times* (Florida), October 10, 1999

Now it's time to take action. Join the Libertarian Party today — and become part of the new choice in American politics!

In return for your contribution, we'd like to offer you gifts that will help you to learn more about our party.

1. For a gift of \$25 we'll give you a subscription to *Libertarian Party News*. This lively, informative newspaper will allow you to

Another Friend of Liberty



Melanie

Emmy Award-winning
singer/songwriter

Vote Libertarian; don't worry about wasting your vote. We've got to get all of them [Republican and Democratic politicians] out of there. That's the only way. We need to clean the slate and start over again. I am not a Democrat, a Socialist, or a Republican. I'm a total Libertarian.

follow our activities on a monthly basis.

■ You'll learn why people like Hugh Downs, Charles Murray, John Stossel, Clint Eastwood, Dave Barry, Kurt Russell, Drew Carey,

Dwight Yoakam, and thousands of others have added their voices to the Libertarian cause.

2. For a gift of \$50 or more we'll give you the newspaper plus the 28-page booklet, *Libertarian Solutions*. This booklet gives you a Libertarian perspective on a dozen major issues, including the environment, trade, and education. You'll learn . . .

■ How Libertarians would deal with the nation's *worst* polluter — the government. And learn how bureaucrats stuck us with a \$300 billion bill for cleaning up the government's chemical and nuclear dumps.

■ What government schools could learn from the "miracle" of St. Adalbert — but why they almost certainly *won't*.

■ What Gandhi (of all people) said about guns.

This booklet will give you some idea why

Libertarians In Action: Working for Privacy

Libertarian Party praised in book about cyber-politics

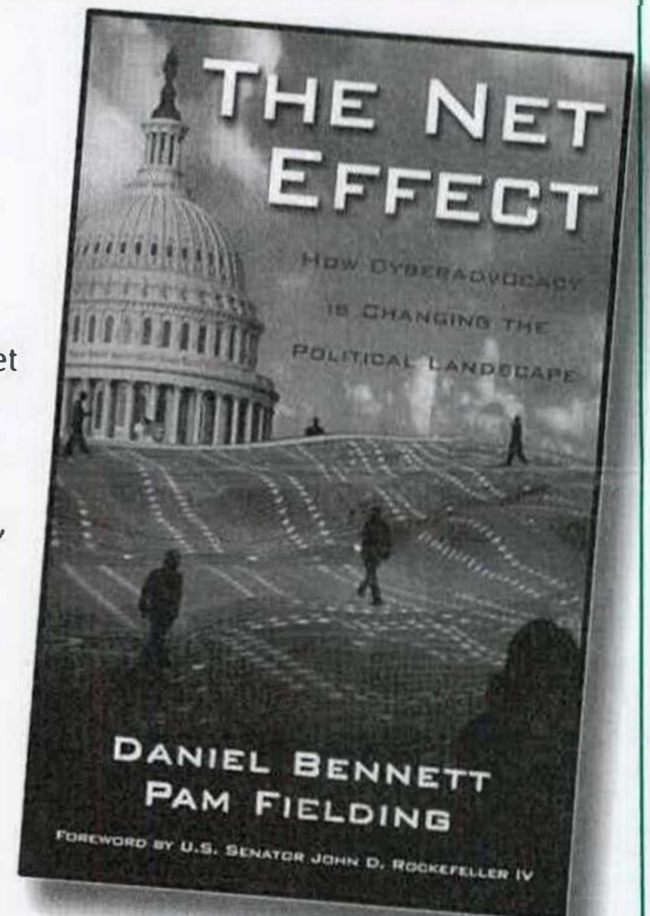
How influential is the Libertarian Party? So influential that it's been cited in a new book as an example of how organizations can effectively use the Internet and World Wide Web to accomplish political goals.

The book, *The Net Effect: How Cyberadvocacy is Changing the Political Landscape* (e-advocates Press, 1999), outlined the party's successful 1999 campaign against the FDIC's "Know Your Customer" proposal — and described it as the first real proof that the Internet "was an effective tool" for political lobbying.

"In three short weeks the Libertarian Party had created the largest cybercampaign ever against a federal regulation," wrote authors Daniel Bennett and Pam Fielding. "Only the Internet allows for low cost, nearly instant messaging. And the Libertarian Party proved that it was an effective tool."

The authors discussed the party's role in alerting Americans to the threat posed by the regulation, which would have required banks to spy on their customers. They also noted that "over two-thirds of [the] messages" opposing Know Your Customer "came directly through the Libertarian Party's [DefendYourPrivacy.com] Web site."

Libertarian Party National Director Steve Dasbach said it was "gratifying" for the party to be publicly recognized as a pioneer in Internet advocacy. "The publicity our Know Your Customer campaign has received is encouraging to all Americans who are working for liberty," he said. "The fact that it was also a big victory for privacy makes it all the more sweet."



Hugh Downs of ABC News says, "Libertarians have all the good ideas."

3. For a gift of \$100 or more we'll give you the newspaper, *Libertarian Solutions*, and a quality paperback book: *Libertarianism In One Lesson* by David Bergland. Mr. Bergland was our 1984 presidential candidate.

This book will tell you . . .

■ About a new "political map" that is being used in many political science textbooks, and by the Gallup Poll organization.

■ Where Libertarians agree with liberals and conservatives — and, more importantly, where and why we *disagree*.

■ Why politicians — and voters — fall for the "Utopian Fallacy."

■ Plus, we'll give you a detailed explanation of the Libertarian approach to hundreds of issues — all in a mere 158 pages!

This book will explain why Don Frazen of *The Los Angeles Times* says, "Libertarians have contributed much to defining American political thought in the '90s."

4. For a gift of \$1,000 Mr. Bergland will autograph his book to you personally.

We hope you'll decide to join or support our effort in some way. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Let's face it: In the next 12 months, we Libertarians won't solve every problem in America, repeal every excessive tax, privatize every unneeded government agency, or eliminate every harmful law. No political party could.

But a review of what we've accomplished over the past few years — against overwhelming odds — proves that we can solve *many* problems.

Libertarians can win political victories, and make the lives of our families and neighbors better. Libertarians can get things done, and make our communities better places to live.

And with your help, we can accomplish even more this year.

With your membership, we can save taxpayers' money, defend your privacy rights, and elect even more Libertarians to public office.

We can build a bigger, stronger Libertarian Party that can do even *more* good in the coming year.

■ The cost to you: A minimum of \$25. But the value of freedom: *Priceless*.

Please, join the Libertarian Party today. Working together, we can build the kind of *free* America we all want . . . member by member, vote by vote, victory by victory.

"[The Libertarian Party] follows the credo that non-intrusive government is best, meaning it is most effective when it stays out of your pockets and your bedroom. I am predicting big things for the Libertarians."

— Kyle Hannon,
The Elkhart Truth,
Elkhart (IN), May 16, 1999

The Libertarian Party

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Question:

How can I help the Libertarian Party?

- 1. Join the party!** For a contribution of \$25 or more — and your proud signature on our statement of principle — you can become part of the "Libertarian solution." And you can help provide an alternative to the big-government parties that raise your taxes and meddle in your life and business.
- 2. Get active!** When you join, we'll send you a list of state party contacts, so you can meet other Libertarians and get politically active at the state or local level. Can't wait? Call us at (202) 333-0008, and we'll put you in touch with Libertarians in your state. Or visit our website: www.LP.org.
- 3. Get a subscription!** Not yet sure you want to join? For \$25, you can get a year's subscription to our newspaper, *LP News*. You can read more about our political beliefs and activities all around the USA. The more you learn about us, the more we think you'll want to be part of the Libertarian Party!