
Libertarian Strategy Gazette

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Development Notes

Now is a good time to subscribe to your local weekly and daily newspapers.

They do not have the circulation of the bigger dailies, but they will print lots of your letters, and they are likely to do a nice story on your campaign.

We California LP candidates don't have the money or time to campaign over our large districts, but there is no reason why we can't do a much better job by campaigning in our own communities, neighborhoods, cities, counties.

We can be in our own communities on a regular basis, and we do have some chance of getting a larger vote total where we live and might be better known (than the outlying areas of your district).

With limited resources it is almost impossible to get noticed in a widespread area.

In a small and local community, we LP candidates can hope for reasonable and regular media coverage, if we go out and campaign. ...Jonathan Zwickel - Madera, Ca.

Advice From an Elected Libertarian

The best advice I can give someone who wants to serve in public office is to go to their Town Clerk and ask for a list of vacancies on Town boards. The list is usually long.

Volunteer to be on a board and "get known" in the community. Then when you run for an elected board you already have a track record and people know a little bit about you. Your chances of success are greater.

It is also possible you may learn what it is like to be part of government and want nothing more to do with it.

David Atkinson
Libertarian Selectman
Provincetown, Mass.

Less Tax! More Beer!

The new, revised Less Tax! More Beer! flier with Tom Paine, Beer of Patriots! will soon be available with revised language. The enhanced message? Vote Libertarian! Join us! Graphics files on the CMLC web site. We're short an artist who can give us the figures to go besides the Tom Paine on the label, the craggy MinuteMan in trousers and coat with flintlock, and the modern MinuteBabe with cutoffs, halter top, M-16, and Dragon ATGM over one shoulder. Opinions on the need for the figures are also welcome.

How Do People Become Activists?

Writing in answer to a conundrum "Have any of us been offended by being asked to "join" the NRA or GOC or the Advocates or any of the many groups out there?" posed by Jonathan Zwickel, Mark Murphy writes:

That's the wrong question.

The proper question is:

What is the progression of someone becoming politically active?

When you know that, you then can determine how best to get people involved in something.

Here's a fact and a reality.

Being a "member" is *not* the first thing people do to become politically active or even inactive.

How do I know this or dare to make such a claim?

Why, by empirical evidence.

Look at the political landscape, across all parties.

What do we see?

We see people registered as a particular political party with a small chunk declining to state. Registered voters make up a certain chunk of the population... but it's not a super majority.

What's the next thing we see?

We see a chunk of those registered voters actually voting... not all do. We also see a smaller number voting in all elections. Many sit out and just vote in major elections or perhaps just Presidential elections.

What's the next thing we see?

Well, we see political action, ballot initiative, or candidate committees. What do people do with these? Well, they give money. An even smaller chunk of voters give money in this way. Some don't give money, but they give time. Even a smaller amount of those who donate money or time actually *join* one of these committees.

What's the next thing we see?

(Continued on page 2)

We see people actually trying to be very involved in these committees by being elected or appointed to these committees... perhaps even hired. This makes up a very, very small chunk of the voters.

Got the picture?

That's reality.

Now.

What is the Libertarian Party?

It's a committee?

A committee of who?

A committee of people who feel they are Libertarians.

What does this committee do?

It organizes in order to run candidates and promote a Libertarian agenda in the counties within CA, and it also organizes itself from those counties at the state level. We call these County Central Committees and the State Executive Committee respectively.

As a committee, we ask people to get involved with us some how at all the various levels I described above.

- o Vote
- o Register Libertarian
- o Donate Time/Money
- o Get involved in our sub-committees
- o Become a committee member
- o Perhaps even hold office in the committee
- o Perhaps even be a candidate

I intentionally listed the above in the order I laid out earlier in my post, from initial limited involvement to very heavy involvement.

Here's my issue with how most Libertarian approach someone about getting involved.

They skip the middle part and go right for asking a person to become involved in the committee right off the bat!

There's a whole middle part that has been skipped and ignored.

You wonder why we have such a turnover rate for "members"?

It's because we ask people we don't know, who we have not built a trust or relationship with to join our committee. Af-

ter some time without any of that previous support that comes before being involved in a committee, they drop out (i.e. are not a member any longer). You see, I'm not against asking people to become a member.

I'm against asking them at the wrong time and in the wrong place. I'm against asking them to become a "member" when I haven't even established trust with them in some other way... or them not being involved at some previous level... like donating time or money to a campaign (a real one) or political action.

We, as a group, ignore that middle ground.

We jump right for membership.

The whole party is focused on getting members... instead of *building* members.

There's a huge difference.

Getting members is doing exactly what we do today.

We take just about any cold body/contact and ask them to become a committee member... leaving most people who we contact asking what the heck is that!?

Instead, we should be building up the levels I have spoken about... asking for money or time for political action. After all, we are a political party.

Imagine going door to door to gather signatures for yourself as a candidate or someone else. Then, instead of asking them to become a "member" what if you asked them if they realized how much utility tax there is on their utility bills? Further, you asked them if they realized their city council was looking to *increase* it more! Further, you tell them that you and other Libertarians in their community are going to do something about it and would they be able to help out by signing a petition *and* could they donate some money or time to the effort?

You see, that's political action. That's what we ought to be doing. We will find more people willing to sign such a petition and perhaps even give money or their time.

And guess what all that political action leads to?

Wins and credibility.

And guess what those people who signed the petition... or gave time and money will perhaps do as they've gained trust in their fellow Libertarians?

That's right.

They'll want to *join*.

But you see, we won't need many people to "join" the Party any longer.

Why not you ask?

Well, because we already had them "join" the Libertarian political effort when they helped out on that political action. The Party activists were already doing someone.

No big budget need from the Party.

No dues money required to help fund projects.

With the activism approach, there's already projects going on... being funded by people who "joined" that effort.

Who at that point should we count as "members".

Why... anyone who's been a part of our political activism efforts by donating their time or money.... and dare I say... our registered Libertarians.

Who should the County Central Committee be?

It should be the people who out of all that political action want to get involved in actual party activities.

What are party activities?

The Party should be the place that organizes conventions for all of our political active groups to meet... to share ideas. The Party should be the place to help facilitate action and communications. It should be the place we network among other activists.

Jonathan, I know you want to do what's best for this party.

I also know that we've been given the impression that "membership" is paramount and that we need to grow it.

In fact, we do.

However, not in the way we've been doing it... and not just because membership is the end goal.

We all want to grow this party... and grow its influence in our communities in order to preserve Liberty and in some cases increase it.

If that is our common goal, we must work smart towards those ends. We must work with people the way they are used to being worked with. We must be politically active and achieve the political goals we set out to reach.

I ask you to consider what I have written here this morning.

I believe it is the right and correct course for our success. Thank you for your time. Mark Murphy

How the LPWS Campaigns Committee Works

Kelly Haughton, Committee Chairman
[Reprinted by Permission from the Libertarian Victory Fund.]

Overview

The Libertarian Party of Washington State (LPWS) won nine elective offices in 2001 including one Mayor and three City Council members around the state. The members of the LPWS Campaigns Committee contributed to this result with strategy, structure, tactics and money. The Campaigns Committee is a subcommittee of the State Central Committee. The primary responsibilities of the Campaigns Committee are candidate recruitment and candidate support. The Campaigns Committee is responsible for both partisan and non-partisan campaigns.

Strategy and Tactics

The state of Washington holds almost all of its local nonpartisan elections (e.g. city council, school board, various commissions) in odd-numbered years. In 1999, the Campaigns Committee recruited its first major batch of candidates for nonpartisan office (25). This was done by using the results of a membership survey which asked if a member would be willing to run for office. And then calling them and asking them to run.

Six of these candidates filed for offices that no one else filed for. They ran unopposed and won. None of the other candidates managed to pull out a victory, but some came close enough to encourage us. Three candidates received over 40% of the vote. One candidate lost by 800 votes out of 150,000 cast. A real heartbreaker, but made us feel like wins are possible.

For 2001, we wanted to focus our candidate recruitment on candidates we thought could win. To start with our Executive Director provided the Campaigns Committee with a listing of the offices up for election in 2001. In the state of Washington, there is a filing week for nonpartisan elections, the last full week of July. We recruited some people to be "Friday candidates". The LPWS defines "Friday candidates" as people who are willing to serve, but not willing to campaign. If someone agrees to be a "Friday candidate", the Campaigns Committee monitors the filing and if no one has filed by Thursday night, we call the "Friday candidate" and tell them to go file the next day. We won five races this way, including two seats on one Park & Recreation Commission.

In addition, we had some serious candidates who were willing to run hard campaigns to beat an opponent. Our model candidate was Bruce White for Kent City Council. Bruce had been preparing for two years to run this race and with help from the LPWS and the Libertarian Victory Fund, Bruce received 59% of the vote against an incumbent!

Structure and Money

As noted before, the Campaigns Committee is a subcommittee of the State Central Committee. We try to have representatives from each Congressional district in the state (although we do not always have a full slate of volunteers). The Campaigns Committee is supported by LPWS' paid Executive Director. The Executive Director feeds us names of potential candidates and collects information on the campaigns as they move along.

The State Central Committee supports our candidates by providing funds to the Candidate Support Fund. The Candidate Support Fund is allocated by the Campaigns Committee to those campaigns that can win with a bit more money. In 2001, the Campaigns Committee sent out \$15,000 to various campaigns. By having a relatively small group making decisions and an excellent, supportive Executive Director helping us get the money to the campaigns quickly, the Campaigns Committee was able to make a difference in several campaigns. Not all of the candidates we sent contributions were elected. But we are sure we made a difference in a couple of elections.

Contested Results

We won one Mayor's race and three City Council races. Also, we had four other nonpartisan candidates receive over 40% of the vote. This was good progress for us. We have gone from five elected Libertarians in the state to fourteen.

Sidelights

We discovered that the state GOP does not have a similar effort for local candidates. The Executive Director had candidates calling her to find out if they joined the LP, could they get support from the LPWS. One candidate remarked the mere fact that the LPWS Executive Director called to ask if there was anything we could do to help, was more help than he had ever received from the GOP. This may help our candidate recruitment in 2003.

We also discovered the state GOP does not have a candidate recruitment or candidate support function for county level positions. County level positions in the state of Washington are primarily partisan. The Campaigns Committee believes this hole in the strategy of the GOP may provide the LPWS with its opportunity for a partisan victory in 2002. Indeed, the LPWS had one candidate for county level office in 2000 who finished only 5% behind the victor, so we are encouraged that a victory is a possibility.

(For more information on the Libertarian Party of Washington -- <http://www.lpws.org>)

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Funding LPUS

My preference for funding LPUS is that we insist on practicing what we preach, that our organization of the LPUS in relation to State LPs be instituted how we would want Federal govt toward the states and the people.

Most of LPUS funding should come from the state LPs as the Federals should apply to the state governments for revenue, with Federal to individual interaction kept to a minimum.

Control and power is where the wealth comes from and is held. Most funding appeals should be made on behalf of state LPs, who would then tell LPUS what they want. Authority and responsibility must be reintegrated as close to local control as possible.

This past election our NJ gubernatorial candidate (Mark Edgerton) was told he had to pay for the LPUS mailing list. I don't know all the particulars of this situation, but it seems to me that our own "bureau-geoisie" in LPUS DC should be there to serve local electoral candidates, not to set up gate tolls to make it more expensive than need be. We are all supposedly working toward some common goals of getting libertarians elected, we all pay dues to get access to LPUS resources, yet LPUS sets toll-rending barriers between our candidates to access libertarian contributors? Was this mailing list fee supposed to be a "traffic congestion user fee" or what? Was there an excessive demand for this same list by too many Libertarian candidates at once this past election, or what? Are we trying to encourage LP candidates or are we trying to *limit* them by internally imposed LPUS fees?

How ignorant is this? Can anyone spell "entrenchment?" How about "special privilege" or "license" that is extracted at the expense of equal liberty? How about only libertarianism for the "well heeled?"

The "royal libertarian" mindset at National seems endemic. National needs to stop running LPUS as if it were a private colonial fiefdom, as a closed corporation for a favored select few. All the "finger-pointing" would disappear overnight if there was a tidal change in LPUS mindset. I'm not concerned with the nitty-gritty particulars so much but with into what the overall pattern is integrating.

Libertarians at National need to realize that the heart of libertarianism is a coalition to replace political power & privilege with equal liberty. We can't replace the establishment's politics if our own LPUS "bureau-geoisie" routinely mimics the same habits and metaphors as our alleged political enemies.

Libertarianism should not be about neo-feudalism. Equal Liberty is the heart of Civil Society. Until LPUS starts learning to be "civil" to all libertarians equally, we aren't going to convince many new people, nor encourage our existing members much..Chris Toto Mercer County Chair, LPNJ

What Are You Doing?

Ok, I'm going to anger some people...

I worked for a company that was going down the tubes, because it wasn't getting any business. Two companies which had a bad reputation and were near bankruptcy were acquired by another. Customers didn't flock back, and after a few new debacles, business completely failed to appear. I've never seen anyone as clueless as the president of that surviving entity; a month before they closed the doors forever, he spent three days and six hours of meetings with a dozen attendees working up a mission statement. IMHO, he should have been out finding out what the customers needed to come back, and then provide it. Instead, he felt good about having created a mission statement that we would endeavor to be the absolute best fulfillment house in Silicon Valley. It was pap, and he didn't do a damn thing to fulfill that mission.

Now, how many people spending time talking about mission statements have run for office? How many have helped out or put together an outreach booth? How many are active in their communities, publicizing through deeds that Libertarians are ready to govern?

A mission statement is central planning. It is yet another way to exercise control over other people, to make sure that growth doesn't mean that we'll end up attracting new members who disagree with some precise ideas existing members hold.

Here's an idea: stop yer yammering, and go help do some actual work this weekend. Frankly, I don't need a mission statement to guide me. I'm going to run for office at every opportunity, I'm going to help petition when necessary, and I'm going to donate small sums to libertarian activities which I think will help us, and I'm going to try to be as visible as I can locally. While I'm doing this, I'll be looking for ways to be creative, so that I can evaluate different ways of raising our visibility and acceptance as I go. Come up with whatever structure you want: I'm going to ignore it, and work at whatever I feel like working on.

Am I not libertarian enough for you? Forgive the vernacular, but tough shit. If you don't like my brand of libertarianism, go out there and be more visible than I am. I'm not going out there to present *your* version, I'm going out there to present mine.
...Dan Fitzgerald

School Board Elections: What Works

I've been telling everyone who asks me "How did you do it?" one thing above all: Know Your Stuff. I have been attending Grand Rapids Public School Board meetings, work sessions, public forums, and committee meetings for two years. I've been researching as much as I could, getting district profile information, visiting schools, getting input from parents and

staff, and reading everything I could on the district. Know Your Stuff. Voters won't vote for you if they don't believe that you understand the issues. I had one gigantic thing working against me; my age. Everyone knows I am 22, but I made up for it with knowledge and sincerity.

Second, I would say that direct mail is the next most important campaign tactic. Not everyone gets to hear you speak, so you have to reach the average voter and get your name in front of them. I made a flyer that had one picture of myself on the front and all text was in blue or red. On the inside, my name was huge. In small races, especially school board, the race is often solely about name recognition. Get your name in front of the person, with some personal information, as well as a few main points highlighting your views. I had a website and my phone number on the brochure, so if voters were truly interested, they would have a way to find out more. This flyer was sent to about 10,000 people who either were voting this year as absentee voters, or had voted last year in the school board election.

Get your voter list from the local clerk (city or county). In my city you can ask for the list of voters for a particular election, so it is easy to find out who actually votes in that election. This is particularly important for a low turnout election, like mine (8%). My city also offers to e-mail the names and addresses of all the voters who had requested absentee ballots. The names came in to me as the ballots were being mailed out. I sent out about 1,700 flyers to absentee voters so that my flyer arrived the same day as their ballot. In this election, absentee voters made up about 28% of the total number of voters. To ignore them can be fatal. As mentioned, I sent flyers to about 10,000 people. This also included a number of people who had voted in previous school board elections. I ran out of flyers, and had 2,500 postcards printed (again, with my name really big), those were sent out as well. In all, I reached about 14,000 voters with my flyers and post cards.

Third, it is important to talk to community groups. I spoke with PTAs, the Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP, and concerned parents. Again, this is where the "know your stuff" adage comes in. Very important. I would print up a balance sheet for the school I was speaking with to point out where budgetary savings could be realized if central administration were cut out. Everyone was very receptive and no other candidate was even close to my knowledge level.

Fourth, I had 200 yard signs printed up. It is extremely difficult to get yard signs placed when no one knows you. I had a friend place around 100 of them himself. The trick was to take his young son with him -- so no one could say no. An additional 100 signs were placed around the city by other supporters. The signs were placed in the yards surrounding each precinct's voting spot, so each voter had to see my sign on the way in.

Finally, I would like to go through a few things that didn't

work. I ran for school board last year and spent a lot of money on radio ads. Radio ads are bad for such a local race. They are very untargeted. Your money is much better spent on direct mail. Also, and this is just for me, but precinct-walking was very unproductive. I looked at the precincts that I and other volunteers walked through last year and the vote totals for me were only marginally higher than the other precincts.

Although I'm not a statistician, I would say that the effect of precinct-walking was statistically insignificant. One candidate that walked about every precinct this year came in dead last in votes -- among eight candidates. Of course, your experience as a candidate will be unique to you and your race.

The single most important lesson I learned in my campaign for the Grand Rapids School Board was best summed up by President Calvin Coolidge, who once said: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Genius will not. Education will not. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." by Jeff Steinport [Reprinted from the Libertarian Victory Fund <http://www.LibertarianVictoryFund.com>]

Character matters

The easiest way to know what actually concerns women, as opposed to what the media says, is to look at where they volunteer time. As a Libertarian you know that volunteer time is something you use for the things closest to your heart.

Women work at shelters for battered women, in other services for women who have been emotionally or physically impacted by predatory behavior. They work with and for children who are either neglected, abused or are suffering from problems with an emotional or physical basis. They work with elders.

Women work for birthing rights; for access to the birth attendants of their own choice. They worked for the right to breast feed. They work in schools; to try to make schools safer; they are the main force for staffing literacy programs.

They do hospice care; work in AIDS care facilities. They work with the babies born to drug addicted women. Nurses take time off to work in third world countries, tending to children who will not live to become adults.

The list is seemingly endless. As a consequence they form strong bonds with others who also volunteer time. They have a clear understanding of what social problems are in the area where they work. They attend conferences as volunteers to develop better skills. Those who bind up the wounds understand the impact of violence. They are not fooled by figures that do not count tears.

They network with women from other parts of their communities and other parts of the country to compare the problems that confront them. They recognize each other as community dedicated to the same concerns.

So they have a level of assurance on these issues that is based on their personal experiences. You cannot convince them these things are not problems.

They know that each community has in its midst social problems that destroy lives. They are looking for better answers. Collectivism does not work; but the individualist answers that could work are not enunciated because Libertarians do not seem to understand that individualism is for everyone. It is in the pledge.

You cannot use force, coercion or fraud to get your way. Then there is the Bill Gates Principle. The more powerful/wealthy/politically influential has the obligation to make sure the relationship/trade/exchange benefits both. If you cannot afford justice it doesn't exist.

There is an individual who is now firmly on the side of the State. The person is a woman. She has been convinced through the experiences of her life, that the world that is America today is a jungle where people will take advantage of the sick, the weak, the poor., and the elderly. She knows that both women and children are at risk from violence and sexually predatory behavior. She is working to change that. She volunteers time and money at community institutions. Some are wholly or partially funded by government. Others are entirely private. She does not care about that. She cares about ending human suffering and making individual lives better.

She has a firm vision for what she wants to accomplish, and it is entirely resonate with Libertarianism. One example: There is an entirely private charity in Santa Barbara called Unity House. It has enormous community support. It feeds 14,000 indigent people every year. Unity House gives out food that families choose to eat. So none is wasted. You probably don't know this but most charities that provide food give the same thing to everyone. Unity House what people want within the range of the available.

She provides training and clothing for individuals to put themselves back on their feet. She insists they help others while they're learning to help themselves.

Barbara is a friend of mine. She spoke at my sister's funeral soon after I came to live in Santa Barbara. She is a dedicated to what she does. It works.

What she does is entirely Libertarian. She is a liberal. At Christmas Barbara sets up a store with the help of the community what makes it possible for the poor to come in and use script they are given to 'buy' presents for people they love. Watching the faces of families doing their Christmas shopping never fails to move me.

Libertarianism will not work until it involves women like Barbara.

But then it cannot fail.

... Melinda Pillsbury-Foster

Electing One Libertarian What Could Be Accomplished

[As sent to us by Sean Haugh of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina.]

The Plan was greeted mostly with amazement, that I would be so crazy to stay up late nights all week (and until 7am Friday) reading the budget and putting it together. Yet everybody saw something in there they liked, so it took life.

It gave me tremendous power. By doing this work and offering it freely to the class, I had the respect of others who had not done the work themselves. And since I was far and away more prepared and organized than everyone else, I set the tone for everything that followed. My paradigm dominated.

That was the first lesson I learned: knowledge really is power. The Senate Finance Committee consisted of 5 Democrats (2 liberal, 2 moderate, 1 conservative), one conservative Republican, and me. I was immune to the concerns about my reelection, a luxury others did not choose to have. I reasoned that I was doing just what I said I would do, and that if I could win as a Libertarian challenger, I certainly could win as a successful Libertarian incumbent.

Another nice benefit of being a Libertarian is that the lobbyists left me alone, assuming I was an ideologue and so talking to me would be a waste of their time. This turned out to be a critical error on their part, as not only did I develop incredible influence, but as it turns out I was more sympathetic to them than they thought. Yes, believe it or not, I am a Libertarian who is a friend to the state employees and to pensioners locked into state retirement plans.

Once in committee, my power mushroomed. I was able to put together coalitions for every proposal I could get to the floor. Our Chair took a very casual approach, which allowed me to control much of the debate. I wasn't just the swing vote, I was the power vote. Most of the spending cut votes went 4-3 or 5-2 in my favor, with a variety of allies for each. The Chair (at the behest of the Republican) managed to block a vote on the War on Drugs proposal, and stymied me in my efforts to present everything on my list, yet I was able to push through my program.

Once we got to the revenue raising side of the debate, I didn't fare so well. Quite often, the votes became 5-2, with my esteemed Republican colleague joining me. Yet I see some strong victories in what we didn't do: we left personal, corporate, and sales tax rates untouched, when to raise them would've been the easiest solution. On the spending side as well, by setting the tone of the debate I ensured that most all new spending programs (including massive prison building projects) were never even considered. I'm proud to say there was only one 6-1 vote, when I got rolled over on a \$25 million package for preschool handicapped children.

It was an exhausting, chaotic, and sometimes contentious pro-

cess, resulting in an unsightly patchwork solution, yet in the end every single one of us could be proud of the package we had put together. And it contained some amazingly radical stuff. I got them to take a cleaver to the budget and wield it with a passion. Here's what we came up with (a shortened list):

We abolished all the corporate welfare programs in the Department of Economic and Community Development, including the state Microelectronics Center, the Biotechnology Center, the Travel & Tourism Bureau, the Film Office, and the Rural Economic Development Commission (among others).

We cashed in the undisputed heavyweight procurable champion, the \$552 million Highway Trust Fund in its entirety, and ended all new highway construction. (And I had only asked for 50%!)

We privatized alcohol sales and abolished alcohol regulations. We abolished the Governor's Crime Commission, which had been pushing for increasingly draconian measures and massive new prison spending. We abolished all agricultural research. We abolished all state funded scholarships to private universities.

We abolished the Division of Motor Vehicles, except for school bus maintenance and driver's licenses. It's a beautiful plan, about the only thing we did with aesthetic appeal. We doubled the drivers' license fee, but eliminated vehicle registrations and inspections. So now, under our plan, when you pay \$50 every five years for your license, you get along with that a permanent tag that's attached (in concept) not to the car, but to your license. You can put the tag on any car you own, without having to inform the state when you change vehicles. If you want a second vehicle tag, that's another one-time \$50 fee. This streamlines the process, while shifting the cost burden of highways more onto the people that use them.

Instead of going over my proposals line by line, we mandated what amounted to a 23.4% across the board cut (!!) of all remaining administrative spending. We charged the department secretaries and administrators with selecting for elimination those programs that had outlived their usefulness or were not part of some federal mandate, and to make up the rest on improved efficiency. (Thus, most of what I didn't get through the front door, I got through the back door.)

We raised health insurance deductibles for state employees, and raised in-state tuition fees for state universities.

We un-exempted liquor, bingo, newspaper inserts, manufacturing machinery, boats and aircraft from sales taxes, and we raised "sin taxes", including a new one cent per pack cigarette manufacturing tax.

We gave public school teachers an 8% raise, but no raises to other state employees. We appropriated for a variety of new education and environmental programs, including packages to reduce class size and equalize funding between rural and urban schools.

We created a nice severance package for the 1,700 or so layoffs (mostly Department of Transportation workers), and established a policy of reducing costs (both to the state and to employees) by freezing outside hiring and filling open positions with layoff candidates. We got rid of the entire 3% food tax, the entire 3% tax on nonprescription drugs, and the entire intangibles tax. And, hallelujah, we sold the railroads for a whole big pot of money.

Obviously, I didn't vote for every one of these items. But considering everything we could have done -- heck, everything that govt is doing all the damn time -- I'm thrilled to death with what we accomplished. Lesson two: those who do, get -- even in politics. My hard work and debating skills earned my appointment to the House-Senate Conference Committee. This part of the exercise was cut short, due to lack of time, yet it was also quite enlightening.

The House proposal had some similarities to our plan, but in my view was far weaker. They cut far less in spending and taxes, and basically balanced the budget on the backs of cigarette manufacturers and smokers. We thought our Democrat-dominated committee's radical new penny-a-pack Cigarette Manufacturing Tax was radical? The Republicans did us five cents better and made it a nickel.

But this reflects a truth already clear to Libertarians. Republicans talk all they want about downsizing govt, but they are the most eager to continue expanding a govt that's already beyond all limits. It was the Progressive Democrat-Libertarian coalition that showed the greatest zeal for cutting taxes and spending. I can't tell you how much fun I had learning lesson #3: yes, a Libertarian in a legislative body, even just one, can make a hell of a difference. "Senator" Sean Haugh (L-Durham)

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