



News & views, of, by, and about North Carolina Libertarians

The Tarheel Libertarian

October-December 2008

Munger campaign shifts into high

Dr. Mike Munger's Libertarian campaign for governor is shifting into high gear. The campaign just went online with a new web site, including new "short-hair" photos. Dr. Munger has been invited to two WUNC-TV sponsored debates, and he is polling three to four percent in statewide polls.

"The terms seem to indicate that the debate will go forward if any two show up. That's a good strategy by UNC-TV and a strong inducement for all to come," said Mike. The dates are September 24 and October 8. Each will be an hour long, from 8 to 9 p.m.

Meanwhile, the campaign continues the effort to "break into" the exclusive major party debates. Mike conducted a



"shadow debate" August 20 on the Brad & Britt Show on WZTK FM 101.1.

He replied to questions and answers from the Democratic and Republican candidates from the previous night's appearance on WTVD-TV 11.

Mike has also been invited to the

debate at Queens College in Charlotte on October 15, hosted by WSOC-TV, WTVI and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg League of Women Voters.

"We need to keep up the pressure on WRAL and the Public School Forum of North Carolina to include Mike in their debates," said Barbara Howe, Munger campaign manager. There are links to the websites of these groups on the campaign website.

For more information on the campaign, go to <http://munger4ncgov.com/> or contact them at this address:

Munger4NCGovernor
PO Box 4983
Greensboro, NC 27404
(919) 690-1423

Libertarians reach 30 (years on the ballot)

The 2008 election marks the 30th year the Libertarian Party of North Carolina has been on the ballot.

The party first appeared on the ballot in 1978 and for every presidential and gubernatorial election since then, except 1998. The party had been on the N.C. ballot continuously from 1996-2004.

This could also be the first year the LPNC retains ballot access by meeting the State threshold for votes.

Since it was born, the LPNC has placed over 300 candidates on the ballot for every office from President of the United States to county soil and water district supervisor.

In 2002, the party fielded candidates for a majority of the seats in both house of the General Assembly. This was the first time in North Carolina history that

any party, other than the Democrats and Republicans, had achieved that goal.

Many people who help found the LPNC or joined shortly thereafter still remain active in the party. Among them are the current state chair, Barbara Howe, who has run for both governor and U.S. Senate.

The LPNC currently has elected members on three city councils, five soil and water district boards, and in the office of Harnett County Surveyor. About a dozen Libertarians currently sit on various appointed city and county boards across the state.

In 1992, the Libertarian candidate for governor Scott McLaughlin achieved 4.5 percent of the popular vote in a fully contested race, with

104,983 votes. This remains the highest percentage gained by a third party candidate for that office by any party since then.

The party has maintained a website consistently since 1996 (www.lpnc.org). The LPNC has had a booth at the N.C. State Fair for the last three years as well as in the early 1990's, as well as a booth at the Dixie Classic Fair for at least the last seven years.

It has an unbroken history of annual conventions held at various locations across the start. An executive committee is elected biannually at these conventions to carry out the essential functions of a political party.

The party also currently maintains active local organizations in more than

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We're on the ballot; now let's stay there

By *Barbara Howe*

This last petition drive to qualify for the ballot was the most grueling ever. Volunteers and donors spent more than \$130,000 and months of volunteer petitioning time to qualify for North Carolina's ballot this year.

Now that we're again able to participate in the electoral process as Libertarians, we have to make it count for something.

Our first order of business is to stay on the ballot. The LPNC candidate for governor or president must win at least two percent of the vote in November for the Party to remain officially recognized.

This is actually a much lower barrier than previous years. During the 2005-06 legislative session, Libertarian and other activists lobbied successfully to reduce the requirement from ten percent to two percent.

This is exciting news for the Libertarian Party. We've achieved the two percent threshold before (in 1992 when Scott McLaughlin received four percent of the vote).

I'm confident we can exceed two percent again — a first step toward big-

ger and consequential goals. A permanent place on the ballot is the foundation for spreading our message of freedom, and winning offices in state and local government.

“Imagine having \$200,000 to broadcast our message, instead of focusing on petitions.”

From the chair



We have two exciting candidates to help us meet this first goal. Bob Barr, former Georgia Congressman, is running for president. Dr. Michael Munger, Duke University political science department chair, author, and a much sought after speaker in the areas of economics and politics, is in the race for governor.

Mike has been invited to one of the televised gubernatorial debates. This is a first in LPNC history. He's an intelligent and witty spokesperson for liberty and will shine in this October 15 debate.

Our statewide candidates are already polling well -- Barr at six percent and Mike at five percent. We also are getting attention in the hotly contested U.S. Senate race, where Christopher Cole is polling at seven percent.

The benefits of not having to do a petition drive for the next election cycle are astronomical. The total number of signatures for the next drive will easily exceed 80,000. An outstanding showing in this election will save your Party between \$150,000 to \$200,000, not to mention all the time and energy that has to be devoted to petitioning.

Imagine having \$200,000 to broadcast our message, instead of focusing on petitions.

There's good reason to be excited and optimistic about both of these races, but there is a lot of work to be done for the Party to succeed in November.

Let your friends, family, and co-workers know there's a better choice on the November ballot. Since we're small, the media feels justified leaving the Libertarian Party out of most of its coverage of the campaign season.

Our candidates are depending on grassroots support from people like you.

When the media does fail to mention the Libertarian candidate in its coverage, write letters to the editor and voice your concern. Be sure to mention their campaign website. Go to LPNC.org to get a full list.

Let the media, and their audience, know Libertarians are on North Carolina's ballot in November.

The Party and its candidates need your support. We currently have over three solid weeks of outreach activity scheduled at local, regional, and state fairs, and we'll need lots of volunteers to speak to voters about the Libertarian choice in this election and beyond.

We have some great folks running for state, local, and national office. Contact them through LPNC.org and volunteer to help. Placing yard signs, organizing a county group, informing the campaigns about upcoming events, passing out literature, and sporting a bumper sticker are all ways to help.

November isn't far off. **Prepare now to take several hours to work a busy polling place in your area.** Place a Munger or Barr yard sign, hand out literature, and answer questions as people go in to vote.

You become an LPNC member just by registering Libertarian, but consider becoming a dues paying member. For \$25 a year you can support the Party and help maintain a website, contacting media, and renting space at outreach events like the NC State Fair.

We have a golden opportunity this year. Voters are dissatisfied with business as usual. We must take advantage of this opportunity and make certain they hear the Libertarian alternative.

We need to keep up the momentum and keep the pressure on the Democratic-Republican duopoly.

The Tarheel Libertarian

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Fannie, Freddie bailout more 'legal plunder'

By Jason Bateman

Unless you have been living under a rock recently, you have heard of the crisis in the mortgage industry and seen politicians on television demanding that those responsible be brought to justice.

Since foreclosures have been overwhelmingly concentrated in California and Florida, a North Carolina resident may ask. "What does this have to do with me?" The answer is simple ... we are all going to be saddled with the burden of paying for the debacle.

We will pay in several ways, most of which are completely unwarranted. The first is through higher interest rates and more constrictive lending policies that banks will have to implement nationally to make up for losses in specific geographic markets.

Secondly, jobs will be lost in the Old North State as our banks contract to cut costs. These ramifications are legitimate because they are results of market forces and voluntary participation.

Banks, borrowers, insurers, and government agencies voluntarily over ex-

tended themselves and the market is making them pay with accounting losses, foreclosures, and general embarrassment.

The final punishment heaped on the people will only add insult to injury and will, of course, be delivered by our government.



Government guarantees to Fannie and Freddie Mac, which purchase bank-originated mortgages, will only transfer the risk from financial institutions and borrowers onto taxpayers. Since the government is funded by coercive means, taxpayers are not allowed to opt out.

You don't have to take out a loan,

buy stock in a bank, or seek employment in the mortgage industry. However, you cannot avoid paying taxes.

I am reminded of Frederic Bastiat's famous statement in "The Law:"

"But how is this legal plunder to be identified? Quite simply. See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime."

Politicians can't blame banks for fear of losing lobbying dollars. They can't blame consumers for fear of losing votes. They can't blame governmental agencies for fear of accepting blame themselves.

However, they can confiscate all the property they want (via taxation) and print (via the treasury) themselves out of almost anything. They easily forget that both options lead to declining wealth through higher tax bills and inflation.

Oil 'crisis' needs real solutions, not gimmicks

Dr. Mike Munger, Libertarian candidate for governor, calls the proposals for the oil crisis coming from Democrats and Republicans half-measures, stop-gaps, and gimmicks.

He said that the sudden support for off-shore drilling will have no effect on the price of oil, and will do nothing to affect the prices NC consumers pay for gas at the pump.

Dr. Munger has a PhD in economics and experience working in regulatory policy at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. He holds a current joint appointment in Duke's Economics Department.

Only comprehensive energy reform will work to solve the nation's energy security problems and help consumers in our state, he said.

"It's an election year, which means it is silly season for politicians. The supporters of new drilling are promising miracles, and the opponents are predicting disaster. They are both exaggerating for their own political purposes," Dr. Munger said.

Dr. Munger's proposed comprehensive solution would require broad cooperation at the Federal and state level. The key points are:

1. End tariffs on ethanol imports.
2. Allow drilling and new exploration for high-yield sources of oil and natural gas on Federal lands and offshore in all U.S. waters.
3. End domestic ethanol subsidies, which waste both energy and money.
4. Allow the increasing price of gaso-

line and oil to do its job, by encouraging consumers to conserve, and rewarding oil companies for finding new reserves.

5. Allow the immediate development of new domestic refining capacity and cracking facilities, which has been held up for more than a decade by short-run political gamesmanship.

"The key is to recognize that the increased price of oil and gas will solve this problem for us, if we let it," according to Dr. Munger. "Oil companies will develop new reserves and new refining capacity. Consumers will choose more fuel-efficient cars and heating options.

"Alternative fuels and energy sources will become competitive and will be developed rapidly in the marketplace," he said.

Cole reveals dirty secrets of 'Fed drinking age'

Chris Cole for U.S. Senate campaign release

Christopher Cole, Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, agrees with the college presidents who want the Federal government to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18.

If 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds are trustworthy with automatic weapons, driving tanks, or standing toe-to-toe with terrorists in Iraq, only a deranged busybody could claim they are unable to handle a beer.

However, Cole believes the academics are right about the problem, they are wrong about the solution. He points to three dirty little secrets about the "Federal drinking age."

Dirty secret #1: There actually is no Federal drinking age. Rather, Congress

put a limitation on federal transportation funds, cutting disbursements to states that had a drinking age lower than 21. They understood that they had no authority to set a standard directly, so they used money as a leash on state autonomy.

Which leads to **dirty secret #2:** There is no Constitutional authority for Congress to collect or disburse funds for transportation. The Federal bureaucracy has chosen to ignore that limitation, because it gave them control over state and local governments.

Which leads to **dirty secret #3:** North Carolina is a net donor to Federal transportation expenditures (recently increased to 92 cents on the dollar). That means money is transferred from N.C.

taxpayers to other states for their transportation needs. It follows that the elimination of those funds would actually result in an increase in transportation funds available to North Carolina needs.

As a lover of the Constitution, Cole advocates the abolition of the collection or disbursement of transportation funds by Congress from or within the states.

He would limit the Federal Department of Transportation to those areas under proper Federal authority: the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, such as Puerto Rico, or Constitutional federal enclaves, such as Indian reservations and military bases.

The Constitution also authorizes postal roads, but that need was met long ago.

Harry Brown museum opens in Kernersville

North Carolina is now home to a library museum dedicated to a bestselling author of investment and finance books and two-time Libertarian candidate.

The Harry Browne Library Museum opened in Kernersville August 14.

It includes manuscripts, photographs, awards, items from his presidential campaigns, books, magazine articles, newsletters, personal documents and memorabilia, original music, video and audio tapes, CDs, and DVDs.

The museum was put together by Harry's widow, Pamela Brown. The mission of the museum is to introduce the public to Harry Browne's political and



investment books, his speeches, radio shows, articles, seminars, and philosophy of life.

It will also serve to educate the public about libertarian philosophy and make Harry's campaign material from his 1996 and 2000 U.S. Presidential campaigns more accessible to the public.

"Harry was a wonderful spokesman for the ideas of liberty," said Barbara Howe, chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina.

"The Libertarian Party of North Carolina applauds Pamela Browne for putting this museum together and sharing Harry's memory with the world."

Pamela scheduled the opening August 14 to commemorate the anniversary of Harry's 1994 announcement of his first run for the presidency.

The library museum is open by appointment only and admission is free. Contact Pamela by email at PLWBrowne@HarryBrowne.org.

You may learn more about the Harry Browne Library Museum, goals and future plans at www.HarryBrowne.org/LibraryMuseum.htm

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two dozen counties and on a half a dozen college campuses.

Prior to being decertified as a State-recognized party in August 2006, there were 13,006 registered Libertarians. The party regained official State recognition in May 2008, after a three and a half year,

\$130,000 ballot access drive.

The party currently has a lawsuit pending in N.C. Court of Appeals challenging the legality of the election laws under the state constitution.

The LPNC may also be the only party in U.S. history that had an Indian Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, as an active local affiliate.

To our readers

Since we have exhausted our budget in the ballot access drive, there are no funds to print *The Tarheel Libertarian*. Until we replenish our treasury, we will "publish" it only in downloadable PDF format.

— The Editor