

# Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

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## Griffin Wins Maryland Primary

Former RLC Executive Director Mike Griffin, candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates District 34, has declared victory in September's Republican primary.

Out of a field of eight Republican candidates, the Griffin campaign has won the third seat nomination with a total poll and absentee ballot count of 2,261.

The campaign's primary message has been that if taxes are reduced, then citizens will have more choices they can make regarding housing, education, employee benefits, charity support and lifestyle.

In addition, the campaign did not hedge its attacks against porkbarrel projects such as taxpayer-financed sports stadiums and hotels, unlike all of its opponents. These pet projects have become popular for many politicians despite the polls which consistently show overwhelming voter opposition.



Former RLC Director Mike Griffin

Furthermore, Griffin's pledge to serve only two terms underscored another key difference from all of his opponents.

"This victory confirms that grassroots conservatives and our principles are what the voters truly want," declared Griffin. "Maryland voters do want their representatives to express constituent frustration with big taxes and big government agencies running amuck."

The Griffin organization used its extensive grassroots support to leverage its campaigning tools.

Voters still want genuine, honest representatives who personally listen to their concerns," Griffin observed. "This campaign was not designed in the backrooms with status quo politicians and special-interest groups."

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## RLCer Steps Past 'Shoo-in' in Michigan Primary

by Mike Neely

When 31-year-old RLC member Leon Drolet filed for a seat on the Macomb County Board of Commissioners in Michigan, few county political observers took notice.

The Republican nominee was expected to be longtime City Councilwoman and Trustee Nancy Dedenbach. Instead Democrats are scratching their heads as they face an unexpected opponent: a young libertarian Republican newcomer who won without an establishment pedigree or elected experience.

The 16th County Commission District covers part of Michigan's largest township in a Macomb County Detroit suburb.

Macomb receives national attention every presidential election year because it is considered a "bellweather" county.



Macomb County candidate Leon Drolet

Bill Clinton's pollster, Stanley Greenberg argued in his book *Middle Class Dreams*, that Macomb represents the last group of

voters in America with no firm affiliation to either political party: blue collar, union background, working class Catholics who are socially conservative.

When the Republican incumbent decided to run for higher office, Republican Nancy Dedenbach filed early for the seat, scaring out primary opposition.

Dedenbach has a lengthy establishment resume: Eight years on city council, eight years as an elected township trustee and a former state senate candidate. She had the support of Michigan's Secretary of State, who hails from the county. Dedenbach is an old family name in the community dating back to the 1600s. When youthful-looking Leon Drolet filed for the office just before the filing deadline, few people seriously thought "a kid" could beat Dedenbach

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# Minnesota State Representative Joins LP



Minnesota State Rep.  
Tom Workman

Minnesota State Rep. Tom Workman, a three-term libertarian Republican from Chanhassen, announced via a July 28 press release that he had joined the Libertarian Party.

"I've joined the Libertarian Party ... I still consider myself a Republican, but a libertarian Republican. I am fiscally conservative and socially tolerant like the Libertarians," he said.

**"I still consider myself a Republican, but a libertarian Republican. I am fiscally conservative and socially tolerant."**

Workman added that he joined the LP because of the large number of shared principles and positions as well as to recognize a "long history of mutual respect" between the representative and the Minnesota LP.

RLC Executive Director Tom Walls welcomed the move.

"Workman has been walking the walk in his first three terms as a state representative, injecting libertarian policy ideas into real world politics," Walls said. "By joining the LP he is explicitly identifying his political outlook for voters. It is a gutsy move and a great step forward for the libertarian Republican movement in Minnesota."

The move came as Rep. Workman is seeking his fourth House term as a Republican.

## Drolet Wins

.....from page 1

in the primary.

Some of the people who did take Drolet seriously were libertarian Republicans, Second Amendment supporters, motorcycle enthusiasts and anti-tax activists.

In spite of his young appearance, Drolet has a lengthy record of libertarian activism and real-world campaign experience. He had been groomed by maverick Republican state Sen. Dave Jaye on how to win elections and tutored on issues and policy as a staffer for influential libertarian Republican state Rep. Greg Kaza.

The Macomb County Taxpayers' Association, Michigan's most influential taxpayer organization, knew Leon for his participation in tax fighting petition drives dating back to the mid 1980s. Gun owners appreciated Drolet's organizing "Gunstock" rallies that drew over 10,000 people to protest Clinton's gun bans. Motorcyclists appreciated Leon's help lobbying for repeal of Michigan's mandatory helmet law.

By the time Nancy Dedenbach awoke to the fact that she had an actual chance to lose, it was too late. Drolet had personally door-knocked every likely voter in the district two times. Volunteers had made phone calls to every household. Leon out-mailed Dedenbach by more than 3-1 using money donated primarily by libertarian Republicans from around the state and even the country.

As a last-minute effort to suppress the growing Drolet surge, Dedenbach rented a fleet of ice cream trucks, plastered them with campaign signs and distributed free "Dedenbach ice cream" to voters at the polls on election day.

Drolet defeated Dedenbach 56-44 percent, stunning establishment Republicans and county political insiders.

The Macomb County Democrats, however, vow to write the end of this story. County Democrats targeted the 16th District seat after having nearly captured it against the Republican incumbent in 1996. Congressman David Bonior and his staff are providing expertise and money to the Democrat nominee George Fitzgerald. He currently is Vice President of the local school board and supported heavily by the teacher's union.

Leon Drolet could lose this election on November 3, even though the district is marginally Republican, if he is considerably out spent. *Contributions to the Committee to Elect Leon Drolet can be sent to 16820 Edloytom Way #172, Clinton Township, MI 48038.*

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*"Leon Drolet's election is a victory for political reform and the anti-tax movement ... Drolet ran on an agenda of real change -- the agenda of Macomb County independent voters."*  
**Michigan State Rep. Greg Kaza**

# Looking Back

## After 6 years, the term-limited Michigan legislator considers his libertarian Republican legacy

Eight public acts and a sweeping agenda of open government and political reform are the legacies cited by term-limited Michigan state Rep. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, as he prepares to leave the Michigan legislature after six years in office.

"Our movement has made great strides in Michigan in the '90s," he said. "We've taken our ideas into the real world and made them happen through hard-fought political action. Voter approval of term limits in 1992 was our movement's greatest victory this decade," Kaza said.

Some argue that Proposal A, Gov. John Engler's 1994 tax-shift plan is more important "but term limits and the Headlee Amendment will go down in history as the most significant political developments in Michigan in the last quarter-century," he said. The citizen-initiated Headlee Amendment, approved by voters in 1978, was a tax cut, not a shift, and radically limited government's ability to increase taxes. Both citizen initiatives were vehemently opposed by the state's political and media establishments.

"A cardinal rule of politics is 'Define yourself or be defined.' Our opponents, both left and right, constantly attempt to define us as irrelevant or even marginal. In fact, voter approval of tax relief and term limits suggests those opposing reform are the irrelevant ones," Kaza said.

Kaza won a state house seat in 1992 by taking on a 10-year Republican incumbent and the establishment on a platform of term limits and tax relief. Many incumbents never face an intra-party battle but Kaza always had primary challenges from bitter GOP liberals backed by party bosses, and he always beat them.

One reason for Kaza's victories was his ability to convince Independent voters to cross-over and vote in the Republican primary because he supported open government and political reform. Two of Kaza's public acts expanded the state Freedom of Information Act; one became law after staffers for Gov. Engler attempted to restrict the public's right to know under FOIA.

"The fact that he (Kaza) was willing to take on the governor of his own party endeared him not only to the press but to many moderates and liberals as well," a Republican staffer said. "They finally came to understand his political agenda transcended the traditional left-right spectrum."

Another Kaza act required state bureaucracies to disclose de-

tailed information about obscure spending practices such as the purchase of derivative financial instruments. A favorite Kaza tactic was to use FOIA to obtain government documents after a state bureaucracy refused their release. The documents would then be placed on-line via the computer Internet, embarrassing the secretive

bureaucrats. After several such incidents, the bureaucrats concluded resistance was futile.

Kaza used his post as ranking Republican on the Advanced Technology and Computer Development Committee to successfully fight for legislation making bills, analyses, roll-call votes and other information available to the public via computer.

Kaza's promotion of open government was in the tradition of former state Rep. Stephen Dresch (1991-1992), a libertarian Republican. Dresch fought government bureaucracy and played an important role in uncovering the 1993 House Fiscal Agency scandal, which led to the criminal prosecution of several state bureaucrats.

Kaza was also influenced by conservative State Rep. Margaret O'Connor (1982-1992), who was fond of saying she was "90 percent libertarian." O'Connor published annual Pork Barrel lists that documented extensive waste in state government.

Political reform was the other area Kaza focused on, developing an anti-political critique known as the Real Change Agenda. It included support for term limits, popular votes on pay raises, a ban on double-dipping by politicians, revised ballot access laws and None Of The Above (NOTA). In 1995, Kaza convinced House colleagues to approve an experiment that would have placed NOTA on the ballot in his suburban Detroit district. The measure passed by 56 votes, the bare minimum, but was later killed by conservative

Republicans in the Senate. One conservative warned NOTA experimentation would lead to "anarchy and chaos."

But one part of the Real Change Agenda was accomplished in 1994 when Officeholder Expense Funds were abolished.

Kaza's final legacy is the public record of dissent that he leaves behind in the House Journal. In six years, Kaza placed more than 25,000 words on the record against tax increases, wasteful spending, economic regulation, government threats to individual liberty and foreign adventurism -- more than any state representative in Michigan history. They have been compiled in the booklets *Liberty In The House* and *More Liberty In The House*.



"We've taken our ideas into the real world and made them happen through hard-fought political action... Voter approval of term limits in 1992 was our movement's greatest victory this decade."

### Rep. Greg Kaza

## PAC Update

# Making It Happen

## PAC Contributors the Real Heroes of Libertarian Republican Movement

by Mike Holmes, RLFCF Treasurer

Once again, contributors to the RLC's affiliated political action committee, the Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund (RLFCF), have pulled through -- pushing the PAC to yet another record.

As of mid-September 1998, the PAC has raised over \$7,000 to aid libertarian-oriented GOP candidates. This total nearly equals the entire amount raised -- \$7,333 -- in the comparable prior non-presidential election year in 1994. With the fall RLFCF fund-raising letter due out in early October, it is guaranteed that 1998 will be another record breaking fund-raising year for the RLC's PAC.

The spring 1998 mailing raised approximately \$4,200 to date and of the \$7,000 raised this year, \$5,000 was immediately passed on to RLC-backed federal, state and local candidates. Expenses are so low for this fund-raising effort that once again the Federal Election Commission has sent a threatening letter to PAC treasurer Mike Holmes demanding to know "why your administrative expenses are so low?" PAC expenses consist of bank charges, postage and printing for the periodic fund-raising mailings.

As the 1998 GOP primary dust has settled, RLFCF priorities have come into sharp focus. At the federal level, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (TX-14) remains the highest priority.

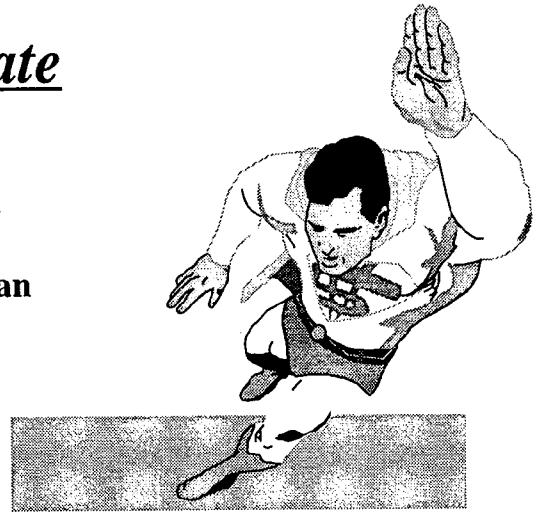
RLC chair Clifford Thies has announced "we need to 'max out' to Ron Paul once again, since keeping him in office sends the strongest possible signal that libertarian Republicans are for real. While his opponent has not yet caught fire, we have to anticipate the usual last minute smear effort launched by the DNCC and AFL-CIO, who continue to place Rep. Paul at the top of their hit lists."

Virginia's Demaris Miller, challenging a Beltway Democrat for the northern Virginia CD 8, is in line for PAC support following her convincing 55 percent primary win in June which left her campaign debt-free. Miller is a former school teacher and pediatric nurse who is the spouse of James Miller III, former Reagan administration budget director and unsuccessful VA GOP U.S.

### **Help Elect RLCers to Office!**

Individuals are allowed to contribute up to \$5,000 per year although corporate contributions cannot be accepted. To help elect good libertarian Republican candidates, send your contributions to: RLFCF, 10878 Westheimer 395, Houston, TX 77042.

The Federal Election Commission requires that we request your employer and occupation information. The PAC financial reports are on file with the FEC in Washington, DC.



Senate candidate. Her campaign has challenged the incumbent's "more government" orthodoxy with refreshing doses of common sense and free market oriented policy proposals.

On the non-federal level, several priorities have emerged. In California, former Reason Foundation Privatization Director Bill Eggers is coming off of a strong June primary showing and his recent Sept. 14 fund-raiser with Gov. Pete Wilson to win an open seat in the 53rd Assembly District. Eggers hopes to join several other RLC advisory board members in the California Assembly's GOP Liberty Caucus group. The PAC hopes to match its earlier \$500 primary contribution for this very expensive race.

Across the country, former RLC Executive Director Mike Griffin is heading full throttle towards election day after his successful Sept. 15 primary victory in the Maryland house delegate District 34 race. Griffin finished 3rd of 8 GOP candidates in a race which will elect three delegates from this northern Baltimore suburban district. Our PAC hopes to match its prior \$500 contribution to finish off a successful effort for Griffin.

Further north, the Massachusetts RLC PAC has selected several worthy Bay State Republicans for help, including longtime RLC Advisory Board member State Sen. Bob Hedlund. The RLFCF hopes to aid the state RLC PAC in that effort.

In Texas Fred Ebner's House District 51 battle against ultra liberal Glen Maxey is in need of another RLFCF fund-raising boost, and RLC member Michael Franks is waging a strong effort for the District 28 house seat for this central Gulf Coast district which is completely within Congressman Paul's U.S. House District 14. Franks was active in Paul's successful 1996 election bid and promises to bring similar libertarian-oriented views to the Texas legislature.

In Utah, J. Robert (Rob) Latham is waging a vigorous effort for the Utah House District 25 seat in the Salt Lake City area. RLCer Latham is the Director of Public Affairs for the Utah Association of Realtors and is producer/director of the Lawyers Communication Network. He received primary support earlier this year from the RLFCF.

In the Show Me state, Missouri state house candidate John Watson continues his principled battle for the south-central District 150 seat. Only recently brought to the attention of the RLC, Watson polled 9 percent as a Libertarian Party candidate and 42 percent as a GOP challenger in previous battles and is described as a strong libertarian with a practical outlook. His effort will be considered for help, funds permitting.

## RLC Notes

# California RLC Focusing on Eggers Race

The CA RLC is dedicating their efforts to the election of Bill Eggers to the California State Assembly. Chair Laura Crockett reports that Eggers has entered this race for the 53rd Assembly district wholeheartedly.

Crockett was an organizer for a Sept. 17 fundraiser for Eggers held at the home of Dan and Amy Sommers Gifford. The honorary guest host was KABC radio talk show host Larry Elder. Crockett was also personal host for California Gov. Pete Wilson when Wilson attended a Sept. 14 Eggers benefit.

The new RLC brochures, being shepherded through to completion by CA RLCer Bill Westmiller, are ready for distribution. On back of these new trifold sheets is a space for local chapters to list their own information, address, telephone numbers, etc. Those chapters who would like to have copies of the brochure may either email, call or write Crockett at 9420 Reseda Blvd. #566, Northridge, CA 91324 or Sumlaura@aol.com.

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In a clear demonstration of the danger to the First Amendment inherent in so-called campaign finance reforms, the Federal Election

Commission is suing publisher Steve Forbes for \$94,900.

As the Associated Press reports, \$94,900 is the value the FEC put on columns Forbes wrote for his magazine while campaigning for president in 1996. The commission contends the columns amounted to an illegal campaign contributions by *Forbes* magazine, even though he has been writing the columns for years before, and now after, the election.

After negotiations failed, the FEC filed suit last week in U.S. District Court in New York City, charging Forbes Inc. with making illegal corporate contributions and Forbes' presidential campaign with failing to report the donations.

"Mr. Forbes repeatedly disseminated his opinions about issues on which he was also relying in his presidential campaign," the FEC suit said.

Forbes called the FEC's action an assault on the First Amendment.

"This action is a frightening effort by the FEC to unconstitutionally and impermissibly control basic political expression and the freedoms of speech and the press," Forbes said. "This is precisely the kind of government intrusion into the activities of the press that the First Amendment strictly prohibits."

Forbes was endorsed by the RLC during his primary run for president in 1996.

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The Republican Liberty Caucus **Massachusetts** chapter announced the opening of their website at <[www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Congress/1741](http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Congress/1741)>. The site is a work in progress, being developed by former chapter secretary Greg Rose (a former member of the Cambridge and Somerville MA Republican city committees, now living in Illinois).

As of now the site includes a homepage with extensive background and introductory information about the chapter, the RLC, and chapter officers; a page for our political action committee, the Republican Liberty Mass. PAC; and a page with a printable membership form.

The site contains links to, among others, the national RLC, the Mass. Republican party, Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government, the Gun Owners' Action League, the Cambridge RCC, Americans for Tax Reform and the homepages of legislative candidates our PAC is supporting.

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In July, the U.S. House voted 383-1 to expand the after-school food programs and starting an elementary school breakfast program aimed at all students. The initiatives, contained in a bill reauthorizing the Agriculture

Department nutrition programs, was opposed only by Rep. Ron Paul, (R-TX), former chair of the RLC.

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In September, **Virginia** RLC Chair Rick Sincere represented the RLC at the Dallas convention of the Log Cabin Republicans. There

### *RLC to Clinton: RESIGN!*

**WHEREAS** there is substantial and credible evidence that President Clinton is guilty of impeachable offenses, to wit: perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of office,

**WE**, the National Committee of the Republican Liberty Caucus,

**RESOLVE** that the U.S. House of Representative should proceed with all due speed to impeach President Clinton;

that the U.S. Senate should proceed with all due speed to remove him from office; and,

that, for the good of the nation, Mr. Clinton should immediately resign from the office of President of the United States.

*Resolution passed unanimously September 1998.*

# RLC Notes

were about 200 in attendance and Sincere reports excellent speeches were given by Arianna Huffington and Ward Connerly.

Sincere expects many new members as a result of the RLC's hospitality suite. While the leadership of the Log Cabin Republicans tends to be liberal, the memberships tends to be more conservative or even libertarian.

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**Florida RLC** Chair Jeff Palmer and the FL RLC's Charter Committee Chair Cathy Smith represented the RLC at a recent fundraiser with gubernatorial candidate Jeb Bush in Miami Beach. Smith was

an organizer of the event.

Palmer reports that as an official event sponsor, he was invited to a pre-event reception of sponsors and elected officials and promote the RLC to many South Florida Republican Party notables.

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The Libertarian Party of **Maryland** has singled out two races that they feel deserve support from the Libertarian Party members. One is the state delegate race of Mike Griffin, the former RLC executive director and current MD RLC chair, and the other is incumbent Republican delegate Patricia Faulkner.

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The latest set of the **Nevada RLC's** "Mission Impossible" meetings will be held Oct. 14 at the caucus office in Las Vegas. The meetings will focus on voter registration, assembly candidates workshops, fundraising and other topics. For more information, call NV RLC Chair Chuck Muth at (702) 454-0350.

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Andy Lindberg of Minneapolis, MN, has signed on as the state coordinator for the **Minnesota RLC**. Lindberg is a real estate agent and a candidate for the state house in District 61B.

Lindberg reports there is a weak Republican Party in the Minneapolis area, and that the group is ripe for involvement by

principled people.

He is a fan of Cato and a subscriber to *Reason*. His main campaign focus is the ridiculous spending of the state. He helped push the concealed carry idea to the state level, and now the state RP endorses it in their platform.

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In mid-September, six Republican Congress members voted against House Resolution 117, the non-binding anti-medicinal marijuana resolution. It passed 310 to 93, with 31 not voting.

The six Republican nays were: Reps. Campbell (CA), Johnson (CT), Paul (TX), Morella (MD), Porter (IL), Rohrabacher (CA).

(Northeast liberal Republicans Nancy Johnson and Connie Morella are by no means libertarians.)

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The National Center for Public Policy Research reports that U.S. Rep. Jack Metcalf (R-WA) is proposing a bill to limit President Clinton's excessive use of Executive Orders to skirt congressional opposition.

One provision would prohibit the President from using an Executive Order if it clearly violates the Constitution. Contact Rep. Metcalf at (202) 225-2605.

Rep. Metcalf is a RLC Advisory Board member.

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**Texas State Sen.** Jerry Patterson recently joined the Texas RLC after receiving a recent copy of their newsletter *Free Texas*.

Sen. Patterson was an unsuccessful primary candidate this spring for Texas Land Commissioner but is expected to re-



main active in politics after the completion of his current term in December.

Patterson has often been described as a "maverick libertarian" and was the primary sponsor of the now enacted concealed carry law in Texas.

He is expected to be active in promoting Initiative & Referendum legislation in Texas and Texas RLC chairman Lonnie Brantley plans to meet with Senator Patterson soon to explore matters of mutual interest.

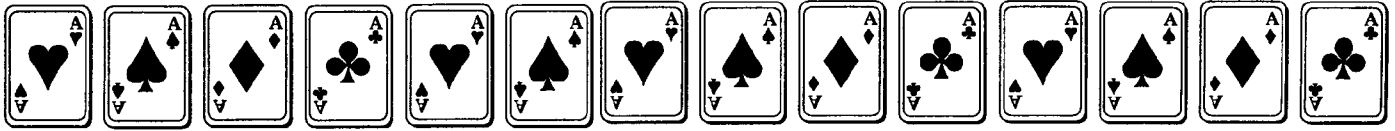
## Is Libertarianism Trendy?

*"The broad trend of policy and public opinion in recent years has not been liberal or conservative but libertarian -- favoring conservative ideas like free markets, open trade and lower taxes but also liberal measures like barring the government from telling us what we can read, how we should pray or what ideas we can express."*

**Columnist Steve Chapman, Chicago Tribune**

## Griffin Wins.....from page 1

The primary was held Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1998, and the three-delegate-seat district encompasses the southern half of Harford County which includes Bel Air, Havre de Grace, and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.



# VEGAS '98

## Less Is More!

Several speakers have been confirmed for the Republican Liberty Caucus 1998 National Convention on December 11-13, at the Sands Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- Michigan State Rep. **Greg Kaza** will be there with stories on how a real libertarian Republican behaves in office -- and stays there!
- **Murray Sabrin**, the 1997 Libertarian Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, will explain how a libertarian running as a third party candidate influenced the campaign debate and almost decided the election!
- 1992 LP candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia **Jim Hudson** -- now spokesman for Republican U.S. Sen. Paul Coverdell -- demonstrates the role principled libertarians can play in national politics!
- **Robert Poole**, president of the Reason Foundation, explains how privatization and markets are a winning issue for libertarian Republicans in local and state races!
- **Bill Eggers**, Republican candidate for California Assembly, and **Mike Griffin**, Republican candidate for Maryland House of Delegates and former RLC executive director, will share their plans to bring about a revolution at the roots of state government!

And, because we cannot possibly compete with the entertainment available in Las Vegas, we are leaving evenings free of business and politics. So come prepared to have a good time! Hence this year's theme "less is more."



Start planning, now, to join with your already-made and soon-to-be-made friends in the RLC to enjoy Las Vegas. Visit the casinos, attend the shows, cruise the strip, get married by Elvis at the 24 hour "Viva Las Vegas" wedding chapel -- whatever you like. In fact, the convention is half price to anyone who gets married during the convention. Talk about family values!

**As incredible as it sounds, through Oct. 31, the price is only \$79; and after that to \$89. Therefore, make your reservations today -- right now even. Just fill out the registration form, indicate your payment option -- check or plastic -- and mail it to us.**

Our convention hotel is Harrah's, conveniently located near the Sands Convention Center. Call 1-800-HARRAHS and tell them you're with the RLC to qualify for our special room rate of \$89 per night. *See you there!!!*



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