

Will 100 Libertarian candidates make a mark?

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Dick Jacobs felt he had arrived last week when he had his first "head-to-head" debate with Democrat James Blanchard and Republican Richard Headlee on regional television. Jacobs, 45, is the Libertarian Party candidate for governor. Not only that, but he boasts his party has fielded 100 candidates for state, congressional, and legislative offices across Michigan. "I had set a goal of 70 and got 100," said the owner of a Grand Blanc industrial marketing firm, adding: "We're the only third party on the ballot in all 50 states."

THE LIBERTARIANS aren't worrying Headlee, for one. "Jacobs hasn't shown up in the polls," the GOP nominee told an audience recently. "They're not including us in the polls," replied Jacobs. Jacobs has been in luck at getting exposure outside than in the metropolitan Detroit area. He sends out weekly batches of clippings of interviews with outstate weekly and daily papers.

He gets invitations to Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Realtors and other small city groups. He has appeared at forums and in classrooms of four state universities and several community colleges. And he is encouraged by the reception he gets. "I went to an all-black church on 12th Street and told them the same thing I say everywhere else. I said we should end welfare, and paused. They said 'right on' and wanted to talk more." Jacobs still smarts at being left out of Economic Club of Detroit and Oakland chambers of commerce debates. "Bette (Erwin, Senate candidate) and I were both locked out. They used to not let women, blacks and Chinese vote," he said.

LIBERTARIAN candidates have several things in common: • Virtually none has ever held a political office before, even a nonpartisan school board or city council. This shows up in League of Women Voters surveys. • A high proportion have college educations in business or engineering — rarely in such fields as sociology. Nota-



Dick Jacobs freedom valued

ble exception: Senate candidate Erwin, a clinical psychologist. • The age span is broad. But although Libertarians talk like liberal Democrats on civil rights issues, they have only a few black and Hispanic members. • Strong points are medium-sized and small cities — Dearborn, Flint, Bay City, Jackson, Kalamazoo — along with Oakland County. • They run on the identical platform and can substitute for one another freely. The platform: Less government spending, more personal freedom, less government regulation, elimination of the federal income tax and Michigan single business tax, disarmament. Jacobs summed it up: "They're all well educated, and they all have freedom high in their value principles." MANY LIBERTARIANS — including Jacobs himself — are former backers of tax-cutter Robert Tisch. Jacobs was executive director of the Tisch II

property tax cut plan. But Tisch failed to address many issues, as Jacobs saw it. "I'm principled. I want to know where people stand. I talked to him. I wrote letters and got no response. So I terminated my position. "When I pulled out, a lot of people left with me, though it was not my intention to dismantle his campaign. "This is not a one-issue campaign." Despite the strong strain of economic conservatism, Jacobs finds that "Democrats split to us more than Republicans. They like our civil libertarian's stand." Nationally, said Jacobs, Libertarians hold 24 offices — three state representatives in Alaska, the rest at the local level. In Michigan, the Libertarians have yet to elect a candidate. In this respect, they have not matched the record of the Human Rights Party, which in the early '70s elected several city council

members in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Among their state candidates: Steven Furr, a Ford engineer from Canton, lieutenant governor; Brian Wright, a law student from Birmingham, attorney general; Louis Goldberg of Southfield and Alan Kurczynski of Plymouth, University of Michigan Board of Regents; and Richard Ferrell of Westland, Wayne State board. Suburban Wayne and Oakland candidates include: Barbara McKenna, 25th Congressional District; Harold H. Dunn, 14th Congressional; Virginia Cropper, 17th Congressional; Anthony J. Cote, 18th Congressional; John Cruz, 6th state Senator; Robert M. Malr, 12th Senator; Gordon Beerbower, 15th Senator; David Gravin, 16th Senator; James Rayman, 17th Senator; Scott Davidson, 24th state House District; Keith Zilby, 36th House; Keith Kaye, 38th House; William Hollander, 62nd House; Theresa Hercher, 65th House; and Randolph Szabla, 69th House.

Astronomer's topic: alien life

Jim Loudon, a staff astronomer at the University of Michigan, will present a free lecture entitled "Is There Life on Other Planets?" on Nov. 4 at the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College. The lecture will be in Room F-116 at 7 p.m. The campus is at 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Heights.

Loudon, who bases his lecture on scientific data collected through space exploration, will also discuss space colonization. He has given hundreds of lectures to audiences throughout the U.S., has reported missions on two national radio networks and has taught space courses at several universities.

Greenfield Village extols nation's past

The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn is one of America's top tourist attractions. The 12-acre Henry Ford Museum has major collections in Transportation, Power, Agriculture, Lighting, Communications and Home Arts. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Greenfield Village is an open-air museum separate from but adjacent to Henry Ford Museum. Historic buildings tell the story of America's transformation from an agricultural society to an industrial society. Village hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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