

16 more 'LaRouche Democrats' score primary victories across the nation

by Marla Minnicino

Beginning with the election of Claude Jones to the chairmanship of the third-largest Democratic Party organization in the country, that of Harris County (Houston), Texas in March 1988, sixteen more LaRouche Democrats won electoral victories during the course of 1988. Candidates associated with the policies of Democratic presidential pre-candidate LaRouche won primary victories in state and federal elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, Indiana, Iowa, Washington state, Georgia, and New Hampshire. Candidates running in state, local, and congressional races elsewhere frequently polled 10-40% of the vote. Below is a chronology.

March 8: In Texas, Claude Jones defeated incumbent Harris County party chairman Larry Veselka, with 54,394 votes (51%). Jones's victory caused an immediate frenzy among party officials. The county party leadership immediately tried to ram through rules changes to strip Jones of the powers of party chairman, and reduce the chairmanship to a titular position.

March 15: LaRouche Democrats running in the Illinois primary polled 20-40%. One was Sheila Jones, Midwest director of the LaRouche presidential campaign, who received 116,000 votes (21.2%) in her race for Cook County Recorder of Deeds. Three congressional candidates polled 25-38% in Chicago and Cook County districts. In the 4th C.D., George Laurence polled 26% with 7,647 votes; Tom Glossenger, in the 6th C.D., won 38% with 7,580 votes; and Dominick Jeffrey won 25% with 7,330 votes in the 13th C.D. Former firefighter Ernest Washington polled 4% in a four-way challenge to incumbent Rep. Gus Savage in the 2nd C.D. and Maurice Johnson polled 8% in the 3rd C.D. with 7,647 votes. In the race for Cook County Circuit Court, Janice Hart polled over 19,000 votes for 4%. The LaRouche Democrats in Illinois polled a total of close to 200,000 votes, despite a costly effort to stop them by the Illinois state Democratic Party leadership through mailings and distribution of slanderous campaign material.

March 26: In Pennsylvania, party officials tried to bar Claudia Billington from the ballot in the 7th C.D. primary race with a spurious court challenge to her petitions. The challenge was unsuccessful.

April 11: In Texas, Claude Jones, now Harris County Democratic Party chairman, went to court to request a preliminary injunction to prevent outgoing chairman Veselka

from tearing up the party rules and stripping Jones of his duties as chairman.

April 15: A vote was taken to change bylaws, and was denounced by Jones as the work of a "liberal clique" who "are afraid of me because I can't be bought."

April 26: LaRouche Democrats Donald A. Hadley and George Elder won the nomination for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania's 5th and 21st C.D.s. Hadley defeated the endorsed party candidate, Robert Houchins, by a margin of 53% to 47%, polling 10,667 votes. In the 21st C.D., George Elder was unopposed, and polled 35,900 votes—more than received by incumbent Republican Rep. Tom Ridge, whom he would face in the November election. In other significant showings, George Eddleston received 10,566 votes (32%) in his bid for the congressional nomination in the 10th C.D.; Claudia Billington, running in the 7th C.D., polled close to 20%. In addition, well-known LaRouche Democrat Steve Douglas amassed over 145,000 votes in his bid for the U.S. Senate nomination, polling 20-25% in former steel-producing areas of western Pennsylvania.

May 3: In Ohio, LaRouche Democrat Mark P. Brown won the party nomination for Congress. Running in Ohio's 12th C.D., Brown was unopposed in the primary. He nevertheless polled 17,000 votes. The local party leadership decided to back Michael Gelpi, a Republican-turned-independent, who later announced he was a homosexual.

May 7: Jones assumed chairmanship of Harris County Democratic Party and chaired his first meeting.

May 10: LaRouche Democrat Georgia Irely won the primary in Indiana's 32nd Assembly District, with 4,035, comparing favorably to her Republican opponent's 3,679 votes. Irely was unopposed.

June 7: LaRouche Democrat Gary Genazzio became the party nominee for state Senate in Iowa's 20th District. Genazzio was unopposed.

June 7: Don Marquis, won the primary in California's 39th C.D. (Orange County) with 32,781 votes, or 97.1%. He was unopposed except for an ill-fated write-in campaign mounted by local party hacks. Marquis announced that he will target Republican incumbent William Dannemeyer's "voodoo economics," and focus on a program to stop AIDS.

June 7: Michael Fraijo was chosen as one of six candidates elected to represent the 15th Assembly District on the

Alameda County (California) Democratic Central Committee. Fraijo placed sixth in a field of eight, with 4,031 votes.

June 10: Lewis du Pont Smith, a LaRouche activist and heir to the du Pont fortune, announced his campaign for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Congress in New Hampshire's second C.D. Retired Air Force Major Robert Patton of Rye Beach also announced his campaign for Congress in the 1st C.D.

July 13: Oklahoma LaRouche Democrat George Gentry filed for his party's nomination for the 1st Congressional District seat. Gentry, whose farm was foreclosed last year, said he would stress solutions to the food crisis and fight liberal efforts to weaken U.S. defense, such as the Department of Justice raid on the Pentagon.

July 28: Four file for congressional and state legislative races in western New York State. They are: Charles Carman, for the nomination in the 31st C.D. (Buffalo); Keith Perez for the nomination in the 29th C.D. (Erie); Melody L. Long, for State Assembly in the 133rd A.D., and Yvonne Hill for State Senate in the 54th district. Perez, Hill, and Long are siblings.

Aug. 2: John Gallagher, running for the nomination in Missouri's 6th C.D. primary, polled 31% (17,600) in the primary. A corn and livestock farmer, he campaigned for a "space-age industrial revolution."

Aug. 2: In the Michigan primary, state legislative candidate Jim Green polled 42%, running in the 84th A.D. (Lapeer County). Long-time LaRouche Democrat Sam Johnson polled 12.5% in the primary for A.D. 80.

Aug. 9: In the Georgia Democratic primary, LaRouche supporter James Olson, a construction worker and former fighter pilot, won the nomination for the Georgia House of Representatives in District 61 (Gwinnet County) with 56.6% of the vote. John Chaney won his election in the 41st State Senate District. He was unopposed.

Aug. 23: George Gentry polled 12.5% of the vote in Oklahoma's 1st C.D.—a very strong showing against the Establishment candidate Kurt Glassco who outspent Gentry 50 to 1. Gentry had told voters, "If you want to eat, you must put a farmer in Congress to clean the manure out."

Aug. 26: The party leadership in Gwinnet County, Georgia announced it will publicly repudiate the candidacy of James Olson, who beat a party-endorsed candidate for Georgia's 61st House District Aug. 9.

Sept. 5: Party-backed opponents of LaRouche candidates Perez, Long, and Hill in Rochester, New York send out a hate-filled mailing saying the LaRouche candidates were "anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, and anti-human," and urging voters to defeat the LaRouche Democrats to "preserve the integrity of the party."

Sept. 13: Lewis du Pont Smith and Robert S. Patton in the New Hampshire congressional primary won 9% and 5% respectively in the 1st and 2nd C.D.s. Smith called for a recount, based on the "known and proven record of vote fraud" against LaRouche in the state.

Seven LaRouche Democrats won their state assembly primaries. Five were uncontested, and two defeated party-backed opponents. The winners were Wayne Blanchard of Guildford, Lucien Fogg of Franklin, Charlotte Tatro of Allenstown, Dick Werren of Concord, David Ayala of Merrimack, and Ken Bush of Plaistow.

Sept. 14: LaRouche Democrat Richard van Bergen won the primary of the Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) Party in Minnesota's Legislative District 22B, with 53% of the vote, against opponent Mel Moench. He headed a slate of 11 who polled between 10-35% of the vote. Kent Hershbach polled 10% in the U.S. Senate primary against Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey; Andrew Olson polled 20% in the 2nd C.D., and Stanley Bentz polled 15% in a three-way race in the 3rd C.D. In other races: State legislative candidate Mark Bentz polled 35% in District 35B, Jim Jutz won 16% in District 35A, Gary Legare won 15% in 23B, Karl Foster polled 23% in 52A, Dorothy Reisinger received 20% in 53B and three other candidates got 5-10% of the vote in other legislative districts.

Sept. 15: Keith Perez, running for the congressional nomination in New York's 29th C.D. (extending from Rochester to Oswego) polled 11.2% in the Sept. 16 primary. His two sisters, running in legislative races, polled 5-6%. Charles Carman, another LaRouche Democrat running in the 33rd C.D. (Buffalo) primary, polled 9%. Anti-LaRouche forces in the state party leadership had spent thousands of dollars to prevent an political upset by the LaRouche candidates.

Sept. 15: Six LaRouche Democrats in the Massachusetts primary received between 3% and 23% of the vote. In the 11th C.D., David Peterson polled 23% of the vote in his challenge to Rep. Brian Donnelly.

Sept. 20: Marian Hatch, LaRouche Democratic candidate, won the primary in Washington's 48th Legislative District, defeating a last-minute effort by party officials to stop her with a write-in campaign.

Nov. 9: The LaRouche candidates in nine states in the general elections polled 20-30%, demonstrating a strong base of support consistent with LaRouche's base among the American people. In Pennsylvania's 5th C.D., Donald Hadley polled 23%, with 37% in Delaware County. In Minnesota, Richard van Bergen in State Legislative District 22B won 33%, as did Steve Horodyski in a three-way race for school board in Ohio. Congressional candidate George Elder (21st C.D., Pennsylvania), Don Marquis (39th C.D., California) and Mark Brown (12th C.D., Ohio) won 22%, 27%, and 21% respectively, against favored incumbent Republicans. In New Hampshire, seven state legislative candidates received 12-30% of the vote. In Washington state, Marian Hatch, running in the 48th State Legislative District, polled 26%. In Georgia, Jim Olson and John Chaney in the 61st and 41st Legislative Districts respectively, received 23.4% and 28.2%. Gary Genazzio in Iowa's 32nd legislative district received 25.4%. In Indiana, Georgia Irey polled 30% in Indiana's 32nd Legislative District.