

Eminent domain opponent to address libertarians

By CHARLES WALSH
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Susan Kelo, a leader in the battle to stop officials in New London from using eminent domain to take homes for commercial development, will be a featured speaker at the Libertarian Party of Connecticut's 2006 convention Sunday at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport.

Kelo's small house near New London harbor was one officials wanted to replace with a hotel and shopping mall. She joined with other homeowners to sue the city. Eventually the fight went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the end, the court ruled against the homeowners, but Justice Sandra Day O'Connor dissented, saying the ruling will help only "citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process."

The convention begins at 1 p.m. with Kelo's address scheduled for 2.

Phil Maymin, the party's congressional candidate in the 4th District, will deliver the keynote address at 7 p.m. While admission to the full convention requires a \$45 fee that includes dinner, Maymin's address is free and open to the public.

Although Maymin, 31, was not sure how many Libertarian Party members would be in Bridgeport for the convention, the minutes of the 2005 convention indicated there were then 255 members in Connecticut.

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David Boaz, author of "Libertarianism: A Primer," describes libertarianism as "the view that each person has the right to live his life in any way

he chooses so long as he respects the equal rights of others."

Libertarians, Boaz says, defend each person's right to life, liberty and property rights that

people possess naturally, before governments are created.

Asked if he supported such governmental regulatory agencies as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Maymin said he could think of nothing worthwhile the agency has done.

"If a workplace is unsafe," he said, "workers don't need government to tell them.

They can see it is unsafe. leave it."

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Maymin said he believes there are many philosophical libertarians in Connecticut reluctant to become formal party members.

"Libertarians are people who believe in living free from government restrictions, and so listing themselves as party members is almost an oxymoron for them," he said.

Maymin, who lives in Greenwich where he operates a hedge financial fund, will speak on "The Libertarian Approach to the War on Terror."

"The Libertarian Party is the only anti-war party in Connecticut," he said Wednesday in a phone interview. "We oppose all wars started by government that are not directly in defense of the nation's security."

Maymin said he also favors deporting illegal aliens and permanently banning them from re-entering the country.

"The exception would be illegals that voluntarily give themselves up and return to their native lands," he said. "They could return if they go to the back of the line in the legal immigration process."

In campaign literature, Maymin promises to slash taxes and pay down the debt. He calls the invasion of Iraq "a mistake."

Maymin, who has recently purchased a series of full-page advertisements in the Connecticut Post and other newspapers, said he was not solely financing his campaign, but had a "war chest" to draw from. He declined to elaborate.

Maymin was born in Moscow, emigrating with his family to the United States when he was 5, according to his Web site. He holds degrees from Harvard, and is a Ph.D. candidate in finance at the Universi-