

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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New study: LP is #1 in U.S. House races

The Libertarian Party has run more “most-successful” candidates for U.S. House than any other third party over the past five decades, according to a new survey in *Ballot Access News*.

The Libertarian Party has run 18 of the 50 highest vote-getting alternative-party U.S. House candidates since 1948, according to Richard Winger, the publisher of *Ballot Access News*.

By contrast, the Green Party and the Reform Party have each run only five “most-successful” U.S. House candidates, followed by the

Natural Law Party (4) and the American Party (3).

The study appeared in the December 1, 2001 issue of *Ballot Access News*.

Also #1

It mirrored a similar study in the November 1 issue of *Ballot Access News*, which revealed that the LP was also the #1 third party of the last 50 years based on the number of its “most-successful” U.S. Senate and gubernatorial candidates.

Both studies are good news for Libertarians, said said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

“Based on the one criteria that really matters — the number of voters who are willing to pull a lever for our candidates — the Libertarian Party really is the most successful third party of the latter half of the 20th Century,” he said. “These studies conclusively prove that no other third party is in the Libertarian Party’s league.”

The new *Ballot Access News* study featured the minor party candidates — that is, any candidate other than Democratic or Republican — who won the highest percentage of the vote for any U.S. House race in each

of the 50 states between 1948 and 2000 (including special elections).

The final list included candidates from 19 different minor political parties, both famous (Libertarian, Reform, and Green) and obscure (Liberty Union and A Connecticut Party).

Broken down by decade, third-party candidates for U.S. House have been most successful in the 1990s, according to Winger, with candidates from that decade occupying 28 of the 50 spots. By contrast, 1948-1968 generated only two “best” candidates.

Aaron Russo plans run for NV governor

Flamboyant Hollywood producer Aaron Russo is poised to enter the 2002 race for governor of Nevada.

Russo, 58, who skyrocketed to fame in the 1980s when he produced the hit movies *Trading Places* and *The Rose*, will announce his campaign in mid-January, said campaign manager David Owens — and has a real chance to emerge victorious.

“This race is winnable,” he said. “Aaron is already

well-known throughout the state.”

Russo, who joined the Libertarian Party in 1999, said that if elected governor, he would slash taxes, end “government control over the economy,” and “challenge the federal government’s authority over Nevada citizens.”

In addition to his career as a producer, Russo is the former manager of singer Bette Midler and creator of the one-hour television program, *Aaron Russo’s Mad As Hell*.



Aaron Russo: He will run

LP marks 30th anniversary with radio interview barrage

The Libertarian Party marked its 30th anniversary with a media blitz that resulted in radio interviews around the USA.

The party celebrated its 30th birthday on December 11 — three decades to the day after a handful of individuals voted to form the LP in David Nolan’s living room in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

To commemorate the occasion, the party’s Washington, DC headquarters invited radio stations to interview Nolan and discuss the impact the LP has had

on the political system.

Sixteen hosts called and scheduled Nolan for a barrage of back-to-back interviews on December 10-11. Including networks, Nolan appeared on 161 stations.

An op-ed essay written by Nolan also appeared in four newspapers with a combined circulation of more than 400,000.



David Nolan: 16 interviews

Thompson governor run likely

Ex-governor's brother inspired by Ventura's win

BY JOHN DIPKO
jdipko@greenbaypressgazette.com

When Ed Thompson told his older brother, Tommy, that he might run for Wisconsin governor, the former state leader replied, "Don't do it."

Then he added, "Don't be looking to me for any help," Ed Thompson said.

That apparently suits the supper club owner and first-term mayor for the 8,000-residents of Tomah just fine.

"Tommy is a Republican through and through. He's everything I'm not," Thompson said of the 14-year former governor who resigned to become secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services this year.

"I love him dearly as a brother, but we're on different pages politically."

Ed Thompson, a former firefighter, boxer, prison cook and professional Las Vegas poker player is also a member of the Libertarian Party. He has all but announced his candidacy for the 2002 governor's race. He said — shortly before an assistant handed out Thompson-for-

governor buttons and plugged his Web site www.edthompson.com — that a formal announcement should come this month.

"I'm quite sure of it," Thompson, 56, said during a meeting Tuesday with the Green Bay Press-Gazette's Editorial Board. "Money has been coming in ... all indications are pointing that way right now."

A man with a colorful past and name recognition to boot, Thompson said he joined the party in 1998, after a run-in with the law in 1997 over allegations he operated illegal video-gambling machines at Mr. Ed's Tee Pee, his tavern and supper club in Tomah.

Authorities raided dozens of taverns and seized video gaming machines.

He ended up settling the matter out of court.

"Just about all the people involved with that raid were Republicans, and the attorney general was (Democrat) Jim Doyle, but before that my strong belief was a belief in liberty and less government," Thompson said. "That (the raid) was the coup de grace."

Thompson said third-party candidate Jesse Ventura's victory over bipartisanship and election as Minnesota governor prompted him to run for mayor.

"I think he's doing a tremendous job," Thompson said. "He's not doing things that career politicians do to get re-elected. That's how I'd hope to govern."

Thompson said his campaign has raised \$60,000, a far cry from what he'd need to beat Republican Gov. Scott McCallum, Doyle and other highly financed hopefuls for 2002. He said the campaign cash

has trickled in, much of it by \$5 and \$10.

"We'll return to Tomah tomorrow to see if we've gotten another \$35," he joked.

Ventura won with less than \$500,000, and Thompson said he hopes to raise about that amount through donations and matching funds.

Thompson supporter Dennis Clinard said he initially encouraged Thompson not to run in

the Libertarian Party. Clinard warmed up to the idea after he saw Ventura win as a third-party candidate.

"People think it really can happen here," Clinard said.

As for how he'd deal with the state's budget shortfall — which could climb to \$1.3 billion — Thompson called McCallum's hiring freeze "too little too late." He said spending in the state prison system to house nonviolent offenders was too expensive and would cost less to oversee under electronic bracelet monitoring.

Thompson said too much money has funneled into schools but not into classrooms.

And he said he'd try to get the best minds under him in Madison to help him get the state's budget on a better track.

"Less government and smaller taxes — that's the key to getting money back," Thompson said.

Thompson said taverns either need to be allowed to have video gambling, or no one should have gaming, including the state lottery and American Indian casinos.

"I feel they got a lot better deal than the taverns, and they're not paying their fair share compared to what the taverns do," he said.

“
I love him dearly as a brother, but we're on different pages politically.

Ed Thompson,
brother of former Gov. Tommy Thompson

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▲ *The Fairfield Ledger*, Fairfield, Iowa,
November 5, 2001

◀ *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Green Bay, Wisconsin,
November 7, 2001

Fairfield man to run for governor

Clyde Cleveland running as the Libertarian candidate for state's highest elected post

Clyde Cleveland of Fairfield formally announced today his intention to run as the Libertarian candidate for the governor of Iowa.

Cleveland, a businessman and entrepreneur from Fairfield, is touring the

state of Iowa this week announcing his candidacy.

He made his first announcement at the Iowa State Capitol this morning and was slated to discuss his candidacy tonight at Iowa State University in Ames.

Cleveland also is slated to speak in Grinnell, Cedar Falls, Iowa City and Davenport this week.

During his announcement tour, Cleveland will be joined by another Fairfield man, Edward Noyes, who is running as the Libertarian candidate for attorney general.

Noyes is an attorney in Fairfield.

Libertarian businessman to run for governor

By **CHARLOTTE EBV**
Courier Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD

A Fairfield businessman has announced he will run for governor under the banner of the Libertarian Party.

Clyde Cleveland, founder of a number of companies that promote socially conscious products, announced this week he would seek the governorship in 2002, the year Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack's term expires.

Cleveland, 52, spent the last 10 years belonging to both the Republican and Libertarian parties. He ran as a Republican for the Iowa House in 1998, but later dropped his ties with the Republican Party when he became disillusioned with the political process.

He felt as if the mainstream parties were more interested in maintaining their power than coming to solutions, he said.

Now, after banding together with the Libertarian Party, he envisions a coalition of Libertarians, Reform Party activists and environmentalists coming together to support him as a candidate.

The Natural Law Party based in Fairfield, and made up mostly of followers of Transcendental Meditation, has endorsed his candidacy for governor and agreed not to field its own candidate.

Cleveland thinks state government has too much control over what happens locally.

He wants to give power to communities to decide how they will handle social problems like poverty and crime, building a society from the bottom up rather than the top down.

"It's a very unique concept," he said. "It's not the way most people think."

Tax issues are big on the list of changes he'd like to see in Iowa. High income taxes and property taxes have made the state unattractive to new businesses and young people living here, he said.

Phasing out the state income tax would do more to draw new businesses to the state than anything else, and so would eliminating the high income taxes that discourage companies from locating executive positions in Iowa, Cleveland said.

"People don't realize how much damage tax policy can do," he said.

▲ *The Courier, Waterloo, Iowa, November 8, 2001*
▼ *The Investor's Business Daily, [National Newspaper], November 27, 2001*

COUNTERPOINT

An Obvious Link U.S. Adventurism Laid Groundwork For Sept. 11 Attack

By **STEVE DASBACH**
FOR INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Here's a thought experiment for armchair political scientists: Suppose that Switzerland were suddenly to abandon its policy of strict neutrality and embark on an entirely different course.

Suppose Switzerland started deploying troops in dozens of foreign nations, some of them vehemently anti-Swiss. Suppose further that it began arming both Israel and the Arab states in the Middle East; flying in troops to eradicate coca plantations in South America; propping up dictatorial Third World regimes; and occasionally bombing nations engulfed in civil war, like Yugoslavia.

Suppose, finally, that angry fanatics from one of those nations were to infiltrate Switzerland and launch a bloody terrorist attack on a Zurich business district, killing thousands.

The civilized world would be horrified, outraged and saddened. But would anyone be genuinely surprised? In fact, wouldn't most sensible people point out that by embarking on this new, interventionist foreign policy, Switzerland had made itself more vulnerable to terrorism? That by taking sides in bloody, decades-old conflicts, it was courting disaster? And that by returning to its former policy of neutrality, it might return to the peace it once enjoyed?

Sensible people would say all of those things. Unfortunately, sensible people are badly outnumbered in the discussion of post-Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Indeed, the common-sense position that a connection exists between yesterday's military interventionism and today's terrorism has been roundly denounced.

In a Nov. 5 *Investor's Business Daily* column, syndicated talk radio host Michael Medved ridicules libertarians for suggesting a link between U.S. foreign policy and the 9-11 attack. Medved claims that moving toward a noninterventionist policy could never reduce terrorism because it "assumes absurdly that suicidal killers are rational."

But declaring that all suicidal killers are irrational is, well, irrational. Japanese kamikaze pilots were suicidal killers. But they clearly weren't irrational. Otherwise they might have randomly chosen their targets, hitting a wayward tugboat here, taking out a fishing boat there.

Likewise, the Palestinian suicide bombers who terrorize Israel are not irrational. When they strap on explosives and charge into an ice cream shop or discotheque, they know exactly what they're doing, and to whom they're doing it: Jews.

And if the Islamic fanatics who murdered nearly 5,000 innocent people when they destroyed the World Trade Center and Pentagon were crazy, precisely how did they manage to establish a sophisticated covert network inside the U.S., steal identities, attend flight school, commandeer four jumbo jets simultaneously and pull off the deadliest terrorist hijacking in history?

Like it or not, bloodthirsty terrorists — like most criminals — do act rationally. And politically. In the case of Sept. 11, their motives aren't a mystery: They wanted to punish the U.S. for aiding Israel and for a perceived foreign policy bias against Arab nations; for stationing U.S. troops in Islamic nations; and for a host of other foreign policy sins, real or imagined.

That's why they attacked — and pledge to continue attacking — Americans, not people in Switzerland or the Galapagos Islands.

To acknowledge a connection between military interventionism and terrorism isn't to condone terrorism, any more than acknowledging a connection between walking through Central Park at midnight and getting mugged is to condone violent crime. Recognizing that link is the first step toward avoiding more terrorism.

Of course, revising our foreign policy is not a panacea; we'll always have enemies who loathe our culture, secular beliefs, trade policies or democratic ideals. But as long as U.S. politicians insist on meddling in the affairs of dangerous, unstable nations, America will continue to be a tempting target for terrorists.

Our leaders still can't see that, even in the wake of Sept. 11. And they get plenty of help from myopic commentators like Medved.

It's time to move toward a noninterventionist foreign policy. The lives we save may be our own.

■ **Steve Dasbach** is national director of the Washington, D.C.-based Libertarian Party.

Libertarians debate future

Candidates: How much compromise is needed to advance party?

By Peter Sandberg

For the Camera

Candidates for the state's gubernatorial Libertarian nomination debated Sunday whether it is in their party's best interest to compromise at all on issues to advance their cause if elected, or if they should hold to a strict party

line.

About 50 people turned out to see a debate at the Boulder Public Library between James Vance and Bob Glass for the party's 2002 gubernatorial nomination. Libertarian party members will choose between Glass and Vance at a convention in May.

Vance is a 30-year-old Littleton resident and a project manager at IBM in Boulder.

Glass, 46, who recently closed his Paladin Arms gun store in Longmont, became a visible activist in the gun de-

2001 Vote

School shootings. He campaigned against the successful ballot initiative to require background checks for all gun-show sales.

Both candidates agreed Sunday on many key Libertarian issues, such as abolishing taxes, drug control and gun control. But they disagreed on how many political compromises they would be willing to

bate that arose after the Columbine High

make if elected.

Vance said it was important to advance the Libertarian cause, even if that means compromising.

"Anything closer to the Libertarian goal is one step closer than we are today," he said.

But Glass was more emphatic about keeping to a strict, no-compromise party platform and philosophy.

"A Libertarian that is not consistent is not a Libertarian," he said.

Please see DEBATERS on 5B

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The candidates agreed that something must be done to privatize the public school system, but they disagreed on how to accomplish the goal. Glass advocated a concentrated push to get rid of property taxes, which would help low-income people afford private schooling.

Vance said privatization is possible, but that it would take

more than a couple of years.

"There's the long-term possibility of phasing out public schools as we know them today," he said. But, he acknowledged, the issue is one that does not resonate with the public.

Other topics discussed included the use of a toll on U.S. 36 to reduce traffic, and privatizing public transit.

▲ *The Daily Camera*,
Boulder, Colorado,
November 5, 2001

▼ *The Gazette*,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa,
November 7, 2001

Libertarian runs for governor

Cleveland: Slash federal social programs, fund local governments

By Susan J. Demas

Gazette staff writer

IOWA CITY — Libertarian Clyde Cleveland will announce his bid for governor at the Iowa City Public Library at 7 p.m. tonight. Edward Noyes, candidate for attorney general, is scheduled to join him.

"I'll be in Iowa City a lot," said Cleveland. "Students are critical to the success of my campaign."

Cleveland will focus on his "green and free" message of individual freedom and environmentalism and detail his plans for energy self-sufficiency in Iowa, cutting and eliminating taxes, and prison and criminal reform. Calling the "war on drugs," welfare, social security and medicare "worthless programs that don't work," Cleveland

advocates eliminating state and federal social programs and allocating funds to local government.

Cleveland said he offered members of the Green Party the lieutenant governor position to reach out to other parties. "I think many Greens agree with Libertarian principles," he said. He has been a member of both the Republican and Libertarian parties for the past 10 years.

Cleveland, 52, has been married to his wife, Debby, for 31 years and the couple



Clyde Cleveland
Targeting students

have four children. After graduating with a political science degree from Indiana State University in 1971, he became a venture capitalist and co-founded seven businesses.

A resident of Fairfield for about 20 years, Cleveland is currently the securities principal for Cleveland Trading, a company founded by his son, Kyle. "This allows me to make enough money so I can run for governor full-time," he said.

Despite lackluster performances by Libertarian candidates in past elections, Cleveland is optimistic about his chances in 2002.

"I'm going out there to win this thing," he said.