

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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From United Press International: Libertarian Party Buoyant

By Gerry Harrington

Cravings for less Washington gave the Libertarian presidential entrant a record vote count.

The nearly 1.2 million votes won by Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson, a former two-term Republican New Mexico governor, supported public-opinion polls showing "consistently that a majority of Americans want less government than we have today," party Executive Director Carla Howell told United Press International. His vote count beat the previous Libertarian Party record, set in 1980 by lawyer-politician Ed Clark, of 921,128 votes, or 1 percent of the nationwide total. Johnson had the strongest showing as a percentage of statewide presidential votes in Alaska, Maine, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming, the UPI analysis showed. He had the weakest showing in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York and Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Howell told UPI Wednesday the voter desire for radically less government was so powerful that Johnson might have won Tuesday if the media had covered his campaign more fully and if the Commission on Presidential Debates had let him debate Democratic President Barack Obama and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

"If he had been in the debates, he possibly would have been the president-elect right now," she told UPI.

The commission, which sponsors and produces the debates, is currently directed by former Republican National Committee Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf Jr. and former Clinton administration press secretary Mike McCurry, a Democrat.

Critics say the commission excludes third-party and independent candidates. Besides Florida, swing states this year were Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Howell told UPI the Libertarian Party -- whose slogan is "minimum government, maximum freedom" -- planned to move forward by seeking to enlarge the party through alliances with supporters of U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, who sought this year's GOP nomination for president and is widely known for his libertarian positions.

It would also seek ties with "tea partiers, disenfranchised Republicans, independents, Democrats" and others who "share our goals and want to see government downsized from the dangerously high spending levels that it's at today."

Finally: A Stark Look at All 3 Presidential Candidates

| The Issues | Libertarian Gov Gary Johnson | Democrat Barack Obama | Republican Mitt Romney |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Balance Budget | NOW | In 10 years | In 10 years |
| Federal Spending | Reduce 43% | Raise spending | Raise spending |
| Increase Govt. Debt | \$0 | Trillions and trillions | Trillions and trillions |
| Bailouts | No way! | Absolutely! | You betcha! |
| Patriot Act & NDAA | Repeal | Renew & expand | Renew & expand |
| Federal Reserve | Abolish the Fed | Keep it | Lip service |
| Medical Insurance | Repeal Obamacare | Keep Obamacare | Replace Obamacare |
| Mandates | | | with Romneycare |
| Guns | Pro-gun rights | Anti-gun | Anti-gun |
| War in Afghanistan | Bring troops home NOW | Stay until 2014+ | Stay until 2014+ |
| Iran | Peace and Diplomacy | Embargo: Cut off food | Embargo and Attack |
| 500,000 US troops stationed abroad | Bring home | Keep U.S. military in 130+ countries | Keep U.S. military in 130+ countries |
| Military Spending | 250,000 troops | Increase spending | Increase spending |
| Same-Sex Marriage | Reduce 43% | Waffle, delay | Waffle, oppose |
| Marijuana | Fundamental Right | Raid, prosecute, imprison | Raid, prosecute, imprison |
| Campaign Donors | Legalize | Special Interests | Special Interests |
| | Same as wine and beer | | |
| | Individuals | | |

Libertarian Perspective: Voting For, Not Against

Published with permission from *The Toledo Free Press*
Written by Kenneth Sharp

I knew that after the final tally one of two men would be president. I knew it would not be Gary Johnson. The work of Libertarians and all minor parties is the same as it was the day before the election. For the Republican Party and many of its supporters, the defeat has been a powerful personal blow. Do not blame Libertarians, though it may be tempting. Blame falls squarely on the Republican Party.

In Tampa, at the Republican National Convention, the party elite decided to disenfranchise Ron Paul Republicans and Tea Party conservatives. These voters, millions in numbers, did not all flock to the Libertarian or other parties. An overwhelming number of Ron Paul supporters were the highly desirable youth vote. I have had personal conversations with a few of these young new voters, and their experiences have led them to decide that they will never vote for a Republican. Some refuse to vote at all. You only get one chance at a first impression. Among older Tea Partiers it is probably different. But many of these voters will also not return. This does not mean Libertarians or other parties automatically get them. Your party elite decided they did not need every voter. Also do not blame certain local media that gave a voice to Libertarian candidates and ideas, specifically WSPD and Toledo Free Press. Both were very fair in their coverage. Both gave credit to all candidates when and where it was due. No one told you or anyone else how to vote. Allowing free and full debate is to be desired not denigrated.

Libertarians will continue to fight Big Government and the rapid erosion of civil liberties under this and future administrations. We continue to represent the majority of Americans' views on issues as diverse as the war on terror, the domestic wars on drugs and poverty (which have become wars on the poor and minorities), civil rights for the LGBTQA community, repeal of the NDAA, an audit and review of the Federal Reserve and drastic and immediate debt reduction in part by eliminating unnecessary military spending and ending the wars. For the past four years the current administration has expanded or failed to address these issues.

There is good news nationally and locally. Six states voted to nullify federal law. Montana, Alabama and Wyoming all voted to nullify the health care mandate, and Colorado, Massachusetts and Washington state all voted to nullify some aspect of federal marijuana prohibitions. I do not expect President Obama to respect the rights of the citizens of these states on either issue.

Locally, the numbers of people willing to break free of "fear and revenge" voting to vote Libertarian more than doubled from the 2008 presidential election and more than quintupled from the 2011 primary election. While we did not reach the number of votes nationally to directly break the monopoly of the two party system, we have loosened the hold. There is a lot to do before the next election, not even considering the next presidential election. The Libertarian Party considers itself right of the left and left of the right. That places us in the middle for the majority of Americans. The issue has been meeting more of the voting public to expand our base. The Lucas County Libertarian Party is, logically, most concerned about Lucas County. Expect us to reach out more, and we hope that you will reach out to us even if you are unsure where you fall with your political beliefs.

We seem to be a divided nation. The numbers between Democrat and Republican votes are close. Americans seem to enjoy a specific form of Schadenfreude, or the enjoyment of other people's misery. I have seen in the Bush and Obama eras the delight taken at the expense of others in our society over election results. This creates in voters an "us versus them" mentality. Lost in any discussion is an honest debate about policy and the effects on us all. A large number of the electorate vote to watch the anguish of others even if it is detrimental to them.

I am very content, even though my candidate failed to win, even though he failed to surpass a threshold to break the monopoly, because I voted for a candidate I believed in and not against anyone.

**From *The Washington Post*:
Libertarians Win Access To D.C. Ballot**

Written by Mike DeBonis

For a candidate who just lost his race by 83 percentage points, Bruce Majors is a pretty happy guy. Some of his friends were so happy about his loss, in fact, that he autographed his signs for them on election night.

Why? “I achieved my objective,” the real estate agent and Libertarian Party candidate for D.C. congressional delegate said Friday. That objective: To make the Libertarians an official party in the home town of its sworn enemy, big government.

The 13,462 votes that Majors earned were well over the 7,500 necessary to make the Libertarians a major party in the District for at least the next four years.

Though local candidates have run under the Libertarian banner previously, this is the first time the party — known for its outspoken views against taxes, regulation and public spending — has earned that distinction here.

Bob Johnston, a national Libertarian Party employee who monitors ballot access, said D.C. now joins 30 states in granting the party ballot access. It’s a big deal, he said, because “It’s one of the toughest places to get on the ballot.”

Carla Howell, the national Libertarian Party’s executive director, said the party’s blend of fiscal conservatism and social tolerance is an easy sell in urban areas, particularly to those voters put off by the GOP’s social positions.

Nick Jeffress, executive director of the D.C. Republican Committee, said he gladly voted for Majors.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Betty Agnew | David E. Lemke |
| Donald Alexander | John C. Lennon |
| Donald N. Anderson | Joseph M. Lewis |
| Nicholas Arena | Timothy Loungeway |
| James M. Artis | Aaron C. Lucia |
| Leonard B. Bailey | Vaughan T. Lund |
| Aaron W. Barnes | Dustin B. Martin |
| William M. Bates | Thomas P. Mathers |
| Sarah L. Baxter | Melvin T. Matze |
| Timothy B. Berryhill | Daniel L. McElvain |
| Charles Bigelow | Ben P. McGuire |
| Gerry Boudreaux | John Mcinnis |
| David A. Braatz | Ray N. Minter |
| Char-Lez B. Braden | Dave Moore |
| Brandon L. Brison | Jeffrey Motta |
| Mark A. Bryngelson | Frederick T. Nichols |
| Michael Butkowski | Aaron J. O'Brien |
| Linda C. Cain | Anthony S. Parker |
| Edward Chase | George M. Pavlyak |
| Matt J. Cochi | Brent Pearson |
| Bryan J. Collins | Walter D. Pearson |
| Michael W. Cook | Michael T. Penrow |
| Ryan Courter | Aaron Pewtherer |
| Will Crawford | John B. Phillips |
| Joseph Crescenzo | Dennis Pitman |
| Michael Crow | Jason Pohlman |
| Martin Q. Dale | Jay Purvis |
| Marian L. Dalton | John E. Rainbolt |
| John I. deCausmeaker | James A. Ream |
| Karl DeSimone | Theresa M. Ream |
| Lance D. Dixon | Shannon Roberts |
| Alan Dowd | John Robinson |
| Paul D. Eccles | Bernardo Rodriguez |
| Michael Fein | Barry C. Ross |
| Dustin Figueroa | Robert E. Roten |
| Laura Freuden | Dale Sackrider |
| David N. Fries | Matthew Sayer |
| Ivan Frimmel | Brian L. Schmidt |
| Trevin R. Fullmer | Lawrence Schmidt |
| Roger F. Garcia | Richard J. Secula |
| Jonathan F. Gentsch | Shawn Shafai |
| Homer Greer | Bob Smither |
| Alec Griego | John C. Stadler |
| James A. Grigg | Tami L. Stoddard |
| Rostislav Grigoriev | Edward W. Sudduth |
| Philp A. Guerrant | Joe S. Swick |
| Bruce Harris | Dayl C. Thomas |
| David Havard | Sean Tice |
| Ethan Herrell | Kempes Trager |
| Jason Hills | Samuel Turco |
| John W. Holcombe | Susan L. Waddell |
| Stanley G. Howard | Scott A. Waite |
| Richard K. Jones | Daniel S. Warnock |
| Thomas J. Kern | Thomas E. Wendoll |
| Jeffrey Kiefer | Charles W. West |
| Diane E. Kortsch | Rebecca L. Wheeler |
| Edward W. Laigle | Alex P. Williams |
| Solon J. Lane | Matthew P. Williams |
| Drake Laurie | Craig A. Yope |
| Jonathan J. Lee | Dan V. Ziemecki |

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP:

- \$5,000 \$100
 \$1,000 \$50
 \$500 \$25
 \$250

_____ Other

I would like to increase my monthly pledge to this level:

- \$2,500** **\$100**
 \$1,000 **\$50**
 \$500 **\$30**
 \$250

_____ **Other**
(minimum \$10)

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Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Occupation*: _____

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Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

LP Candidate Dan Fishman on the Howie Carr Radio Show

Libertarian Dan Fishman for U.S. House in the Massachusetts Sixth District won 16,668 votes, over four times more than the 3,650-vote margin of victory between the Republican Richard Tisei (175,953 votes) and Democrat incumbent John Tierney (179,603 votes). Fishman's votes are widely believed to have caused the Republican to lose.

Here's a partial transcript of his interview after the election on a leading Boston radio program hosted by staunch Republican supporter, Howie Carr, WRKO AM:

Carr: *Dan, do you feel bad that you may have drained off just enough votes to stop Tisei from eliminating this blister on the body politic, Tierney?*

Fishman: *I absolutely do not feel bad about that. I was not in the race to weaken either candidate. I was in the race to restore power to the people. I feel like the people's voice at this point in time is no longer being represented in Congress by professional politicians. However much I've liked getting to know Richard Tisei personally, he is a professional politician. He has been in the state house for a long time and I feel like professional politicians have a different agenda than the common person.*

Carr: *But, you know, people who live in the 6th District are now faced with being represented by the greater of two evils.*

Fishman: *Politically John Tierney and I are very different. I certainly disagree with the way he has voted, but I disagree very strongly with Republicans as well. I don't believe the Republicans have any interest at all in cutting the deficit. I believe that John Boehner cannot wait to make a deal so that they can raise the debt ceiling and they talked about it immediately after the election! "Oh, Mr. President I just wanted to let you know that we are going to work with you so we can do what we have to do!"*

For me, the number one threat to the country right now is the national debt and I was the only candidate who committed that I would never vote to raise the national debt.

Carr: *Who would have done better for the middle class, Tisei or Tierney?*

Fishman: *That's like asking would you rather start bailing out the Titanic with a teaspoon or a paper cup? The Titanic is going to sink no matter what unless someone says, "Listen, we have to plug the hole" and that's what I want to do. I want to plug the hole in our spending right now.*

Carr: *Dan, I'm glad you listen to the show and you had every right to run and all, it just seems to me that you might be having second thoughts about this.*

Fishman: *I definitely have no second thoughts about this. If my views aren't out there, if I'm not representing them, people are going to think that nobody cares about actually cutting the deficit, nobody thinks that the deficit is that big of a deal.*

And there's other things, the suspension of habeas corpus. When they passed the NDAA and said, you know [if,] we suspect terrorism we can lock you up without a warrant, we can hold you without a right to a trial, that is a huge issue and nobody is talking about it.

One of my favorite quotes is Frederic Bastiat, "The worst thing that can happen to a cause is not to be skillfully attacked, but to be poorly defended" and the biggest thing that's happening in the United States right now is that the GOP is the defender of fiscal conservatism but they're doing a terrible job. And they're marrying it to social conservatism.