



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

NEWSLETTER

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Browne wins 471,000 votes

*Vote is highest presidential total for
Libertarian Party since 1980 election*

Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne won almost half-a-million votes in the 1996 election — the second highest vote in party history, but an outcome that shows the urgent need to continue “building a larger Libertarian Party.”

With 99.9% of the vote counted, the Harry Browne/Jo Jorgensen ticket received 470,818 votes — just over .5% of the popular vote — which represents a 62% increase in votes over the party’s 1992 totals, when LP candidate Andre Marrou received 291,000 votes. Browne’s vote totals rank behind only 1980 presidential candidate Ed Clark, who won 921,000 votes.

The results show that “we have to start tomorrow, building a larger Libertarian Party,” said Browne in a speech at his Election Night party, covered live by C-SPAN. “We have to elevate the party to the next level. We’ve gone from the crawling stage to the walking stage — and we’re getting ready for the running stage.”

The results disappointed some supporters, who had hoped that Browne’s unprecedented onslaught of talk radio appearances and TV, radio, and newspaper ads — as well as his popular book, *Why Government Doesn’t Work* — would push the vote totals higher.

Overall, however, Browne said numerous positive things had been accomplished by his campaign.

“We have opened the door this year,” he said. “Finally this year, people are recognizing that there is a Libertarian alternative. We have doubled the party’s membership in just the past two years. And thanks to this campaign, everyone in politics and the media knows who we are and what we stand for. We simply need to have it heard by more people between now and the next election.

“We have to build a party that is so big that in 2000, they can’t keep us out of the debates. We can create the circumstances that will make it possible for us to be in the thick of things in 2000,” he said.

To accomplish that goal, Browne said he would “speak out for the party wherever possible — appearing on talk radio, television, and in print — letting people know there is hope for America.”

LP picks up seven election wins; earns ballot status in 22 states

The Libertarian Party emerged from the 1996 campaign with seven election or re-election victories, numerous candidates scoring in the double-digit range, and ballot status in a record number of states.

However, the party also suffered some high-profile disappointments in New Hampshire and Michigan.

On the plus side, four more Libertarians were elected:

■ **In Michigan**, Brett Cashman was elected as Superior Township Parks Commissioner (Washtenaw County), and Brian Wisneski won office as a Clinton Township Trustee (Lenawee County). Both offices are partisan.

■ **In Alabama**, two Libertarians were elected to the non-partisan positions of Constable: John O’Donnell Rosales and Steve Fischbach, both in Mobile.

Three Libertarians were also re-elected to office:

■ **In Oregon**, Maurice Aho was re-elected to a seat on the six-member, non-partisan Molalla City Council. Aho had already served one two-year term.

■ **In California**, Tom Tryon was re-elected as Calaveras County Supervisor with 54.5% of the vote. Tryon, currently the party’s longest-serving elected official, was returned to office for a fourth term. And Dennis Schlumpf was re-elected as a director of the Tahoe City Public Utilities District Board.

On a disappointing note, two high-profile Libertarians went down to defeat.

■ **In New Hampshire**, incumbent State Representative Don Gorman finished third in his 3-way race with 23.5% of the vote. Unlike previous wins, Gorman was not able to pick up the cross-nomination of another party.

■ **In Michigan**, Jon Coon came in third in his 3-way race with 15.4% of the vote. Coon was beaten by the popular Democratic incumbent (who won almost 70% of the vote in a heavily unionized, heavily Democratic district), and finished just behind the Republican.

On the ballot access front, the party emerged “in our strongest ever ballot-access position following a presidential election,” said National LP Chair Steve Dasbach.

The LP retained or gained ballot status in 22 states, compared to its previous best total of 18 states in 1992.

The party is on the ballot in Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Two parties makes politics too boring to take seriously

BY BEN CONRAD

My parents always told me that it was my right, as well as my duty as an American, to vote. They're absolutely right. I can and will vote in the November elections. But there's a problem. Why don't my peers see things my way? I'm 19 years old, and voter turnout among my generation is pathetic.


I don't condone the apathy of my generation. However, I pose the question to my elders: Why should my peers vote? I look at politics today and I chuckle because I see nothing but phoniness.

In Kentucky, we have the McConnell vs. Beshear senatorial race. U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell airs commercials showing him in some dot-on-the-map town helping repair a portion of it that collapsed into a river. The end of the commercial shows him standing with his arm around an elderly woman telling her everything will be OK, and he'll see to it they get their piece of whatever it is put back on.

Democrat Steve Beshear was even more predictable. His commercial shows him talking with a group of laborers about special interest groups and their stranglehold on Capitol Hill and how he wants to make it all better and blah, blah, blah.

I don't buy it. You can't pass any legislation in Washington, D.C., without an interest group getting in its two cents (or two trillion cents in campaign contributions, if you're really special). After watching the conventions this summer, you couldn't brainwash me into believing that congressmen don't cater to special interests.

The presidential race isn't quite as lame, but I've managed to find several annoyances. First, as in the Senate race, the advertising is a lost cause. Clinton airs commercials showing Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich voting against health care, child care, prenatal care and money for the homeless, drugless, gunless, whatever. The Clinton campaign wants America to believe that if Dole is elected president, he and the House speaker will see to it that everybody *dies* so they can live in their beautiful, wealthy Cau-



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casian world. What they don't tell you is that all of these programs that Bob Dole voted against had one thing in common: They were all paid for by tax money — *your* money.

Dole's campaign wants you to believe a couple of tall tales about the incumbent. The Dole camp wants to paint Clinton as a liberal who wants to take all your money and spend it on lazy, poor people. They want you to think that Clinton will make the government bigger than Franklin D. Roosevelt could have ever fathomed so we can all live in a granola-eating, Marxist society, which would just be awful.

God forbid we have a government that shows compassion for the less fortunate. What's the matter with those Democrats? They want to keep a mother from having to give up her children because she can't find a job to feed and clothe them. So they give her money for a while. Can you believe it? There are people in our government who actually think that they should help provide health insurance for those who can't afford it. Those wicked people.

Dole's also attacking Clinton on his anti-drug policy and how much it has failed. Funny, isn't it? Dole blames Clinton because kids are doing drugs. He feels that these kids aren't being educated about the dangers of drugs. Sorry, Bob. But I was enrolled in the DARE program, as were many of my pot-smoking, hippie friends. Wasn't that program the brainchild of the Reagan administration? Face it,

kids are doing drugs at a rate not seen since the 1970s. But it isn't Clinton's, or Reagan's, or anyone else's fault. It just happened; it's still happening in the face of the DARE program, and Just Say No, and Just Don't Do It, or whatever else the nation's leading anti-drug program is called this week.

Our generation needs new ideas. You all have been debating about crime, drugs and welfare for 20 years now. We're bored. A possible solution to this problem would be for the media and the debate committees to give some time to third parties. Perhaps we can drag America out of its apathy by giving it someone else to listen to.

Libertarian presidential nominee Harry Browne appeared on the TV show "Politically Incorrect" to talk about his party platform. I'll grant you that the Libertarian Party is somewhat extreme, but it got the guests on the show talking about issues like stripping government to its constitutional outline, and legalizing drugs to reduce crime and prison overcrowding.

You don't have to want any of those things. However, listening to third-party candidates' ideas at least makes you think.

The debates between Democrats and Republicans are no-brainers. Everybody knows how each guy feels on each issue because their platforms have been jammed down our throats for 20 years. I find it incredibly hard to believe that we, as cognitive beings, can find only two ways to look at the purpose of government.

People should stop being afraid of the change that third parties offer. Just because they're not a Democrat or a Republican doesn't mean that they wouldn't do right by America.

I close with a question: If you Clinton's supporters woke up tomorrow and the president announced that he was leaving the Democratic Party to form his own, would you still vote for him? Same Bill Clinton, just not a Democrat.

■ **Ben Conrad**, 19, is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky. He works part-time at Movie Warehouse.

Troy Camplin

Why vote Libertarian?

Do you think the federal government is too large and has too much power? Do you believe big government is the biggest threat to the country in the future? Do you believe government regulation of business usually does more harm than good? Do you favor a smaller government with fewer services? Do you trust government to do what is right most of the time? If you answered "yes" to the first four questions, and "no" to the last question, you agree with nearly two-thirds of Americans. But if two-thirds of Americans believe this, could someone please tell me why there is so much support for such big-government, pro-regulation candidates as Bill Clinton and Bob Dole?

What are our choices? Do we need to "reinvent government" as Al Gore wants? We have seen their version of reinvention. It looks remarkably like they were trying to reinvent it in the image of Karl Marx, with higher taxes, more regulations, an attempt to centralize the entire health care system in the hands of the federal government, and more attempts to tell us how to live our lives, including attacks on tobacco farmers.

Obviously, reinventing government is not going to do it. We need to, in the words of Harry Browne, "disinvent it." We tried to send this message two years ago when we gave the Republicans both houses of Congress. What have we gotten? Democrats had the budget growing at three times the rate of inflation. The Republicans came in and dared to "cut" the budget, making it grow at only twice the rate of inflation. Since when was making something grow a cut, even if it is at a slower growth rate than it was? So what we have is government still growing.

So what are our options? Anyone who favors a smaller, less intrusive government cannot be in favor of either Clinton or Dole. Both candidates want the government to have more power, which means, more power for either of them. And Perot is no better. It has become more and more clear that Perot is interested in a power trip for himself and nothing else.

At this point, I think you know what my answer is: Harry Browne. But many of you who may otherwise be inclined to vote for Harry Browne won't because you know he will not win. Which is true. The Libertarians will not win the Presidency this year. So why am I going to vote for Browne? My vote this year is not for President — either of the two men who will win is no better than the other. My vote this year is to try to help make the Libertarian Party an official political party in the state of Kentucky. If Harry Browne can receive enough votes in the state of Kentucky, the law says the Libertarian Party must be made an official party here. This means the Libertarian Party will be saved the literally thousands of dollars they must spend to get on the ballot. That money will then be able to be used to spread the word about libertarianism, and pay for commercials to help make electing Libertarians a greater possibility. This money will be freed up so the Libertarian Party can actually act more like what it is: the third largest political party in the U.S., and get more of its members elected.

So for those of you who think voting for a third party candidate like Harry Browne is a waste of a vote, here is your reason to vote for Harry Browne.

It will make little difference if either Clinton or Dole wins the Presidency this year — but it could make a big difference in the future if the people of Kentucky can register as Libertarians and the Libertarian Party does not have to spend all its money simply trying to get on the ballot.

Mr. Camplin is a contributing columnist.

▲ *The Lexington Herald-Leader*
 Lexington, Kentucky, October 16, 1996

► *The Messenger*
 Madisonville, Kentucky, October 20, 1996

Major political parties maintain irrevocable barriers to outsiders

By STEVEN YATES

The Republican and Democratic conventions served to validate this writer's decision to vote for the Libertarian, Harry Browne, in November.

With the one's rhetoric about "inclusion" and the other's about "family values," we had the spectacle of Republicans trying as hard as they could to sound like Democrats and Democrats trying equally hard to sound like Republicans.

Republicans typically promise smaller government but deliver larger government. Democrats promise everything to everybody and deliver larger government. At least with them we know what we're getting.

This is what happens when government establishes a monopoly — in this case, a duopoly. When some persons or institutions obtain special privileges at the expense of others, quality drops. Those with the privileges are spared the nuisance of having to compete in an open market, in this case the marketplace of political ideas and strategies. Hence the spectacle of Democratic mediocrities pitted against Republican mediocrities election after election.

Because of ballot access laws and federal funds available to Democrats and Republicans but not outsiders, Libertarians expend much of their resources just getting on the ballot in all 50 states. We cannot look forward to a repeal of these laws and a disman-

ting of the federal funding mechanism any time soon. Power and privilege are seldom relinquished voluntarily.

Yet there is a potential check on power. The 18th-century Scottish philosopher David Hume put his finger on it: however much the governed must answer to those in power, power still rests on opinion.

Those in power must control the flow of information and public opinion. Lose or relinquish either, and sooner or later they are finished. When Gorbachev adopted glasnost ("openness"), the Kremlin effectively abandoned the system of thought control that had kept Communist ideology in place in Soviet society. Its days were then numbered. Totalitarianism is not possible without thought control.

Without saying we have thought control in American society — though we are closer than is generally recognized — disinformation abounds which has one aim, to maintain public trust in the Democratic duopoly. The most current example was the justification given for excluding Ross Perot from the upcoming Presidential debates: he has no "realistic" chance of being elected. I don't suppose the idea of including Harry Browne was ever taken seriously.

The most fitting question is: *What are you guys afraid of?*

It isn't that the major parties have utterly no redeeming value. Republicans are rightly worried about the country's moral condition. Democrats are reasonably concerned with the plight of society's have-nots. Both, though, simply take for granted that government has the solution to these problems, as does an all-too-large segment of the public.

But you can't force virtue out of

people. Nor can you force them to be charitable; coerced charity is a contradiction in terms. The poor and those unable to care for themselves would actually be better off in a libertarian society. People are more likely to be charitable and caring when they are not being taxed to the hilt to support government programs that don't work. There was once a strong "independent sector" of mediating institutions in America. There could be, again.

This line of thought is a threat to inside-the-Beltway types, which is why they don't want Libertarians or any other outsiders at the table. They want to maintain the view that third-party candidates are "not serious."

Libertarians in particular are good at asking questions, such as, Has the U.S. Department of Education, for example, really improved education? Some might raise really awkward queries like, Where does the U.S. Constitution authorize federal involvement in education?

The insiders have so far been successful at keeping the outsiders out. In 1992, however, 19 million people voted for Ross Perot, despite his eccentric behavior. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to get the message.

I continue to meet people who have never even heard of Libertarianism. So far, there is no Libertarian Ross Perot with millions of dollars of his own money to spend on national television making Libertarian ideas available to the public on a large scale.

It's just a matter of time.

Steven Yates is an adjunct research fellow with the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty. A full-time writer, he lives in Columbia and is at work on his next book.



Yates

Dasbach dedicated to major reforms

OUR VIEW: Libertarian candidate would do more to shift school control to local level.

Hoosiers who really want to change the educational bureaucracy in Indiana have only one real choice: Libertarian Steve Dasbach.

Of the three people seeking the office of superintendent of public instruction, Dasbach clearly is most dedicated to reform. And how: If he had his way, government would get out of the school business entirely.

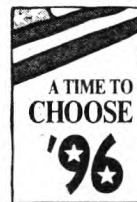
An end to public education in Indiana is neither wise nor permissible under Indiana's Constitution, meaning Dasbach would have to administer his office (barring legislative changes) within more or less traditional boundaries. Those boundaries would limit Dasbach's revolutionary zeal, but would nevertheless offer him the chance to shift more school control to the local level — where it belongs.

Like most Libertarians, Dasbach not only talks about making government smaller and more responsive, he actually believes in it. A teacher for 21 years at Whitko High School now teaching chemistry and mathematics at Fort Wayne's Lutheran College of Health Professions, Dasbach knows that local officials are better-equipped to know local educational needs.

For that reason, he would liberally grant waivers to local schools wishing to teach in innovative ways — confident that officials abusing that freedom would be punished by local voters. (Some state requirements, such as the length of the school year and day and teacher certification, are matters of law and cannot be waived.)

Reducing the amount of control coming from Indianapolis, Dasbach said, would reduce the amount of staff needed in the superintendent's office. He would downsize the office accordingly.

Dasbach, has some administrative experience, serving as chairman of the national Libertarian Party. He does not support tax-subsidized vouchers that would allow parents to send children to public, private or parochial schools, fearing that such a program might allow the state to influence schools receiving the funds. He does, however, support tax credits for people who choose non-public schools.



▲ *LEFT: The State, Columbia, South Carolina*
Sept. 25, 1996

▲ *RIGHT: Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*
Ft. Wayne, IN
October 16, 1996

► *Columbia Missourian*
Columbia, MO
October 30, 1996

A Libertarian vote won't be wasted

LLEWELLYN H. ROCKWELL JR.

Browne is no fly-by-night protest candidate. With his deep understanding of history, economics and legal theory, he makes the other guys look frivolous, not to mention dishonest.

Bored with the two main candidates? Their positions on the "issues" are nearly identical. Their "debates" aren't on principles, but on personalities and policy quibbles. They are two peas in the same government pod.

That's why, if you vote for Bill Clinton or Bob Dole, you're wasting your vote.

In the usual political racket, the power elite pretend to give us a choice. The winner then amasses power, expands government and pays off special interests. Our role is to pay up, shut up and think good thoughts about democracy.

The truth is that no matter which of the approved candidates wins, nothing will change. Neither intends to curb, much less end, the power and privileges of the leviathan state, which is the central evil of our time. Right now, the U.S. government controls more resources, territory and weapons of mass destruction than any other government in the history of the world.

This is a disgrace, but you can do something about it. You can pull the lever for Harry Browne, presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party, who is on the ballot in all 50 states.

The party may be a mixed bag, but its nominee is a star. As a best-selling

author and investment writer, Browne has defended individual liberty with passion, good sense and moral courage. His issues are federalism, free markets and foreign policy isolationism, the core concerns of the framers of the Constitution.

He argues that almost every problem in American life is traceable to an increasingly oppressive central government. The feds dominate our lives, whether they're taxing us, running our schools, bailing out Mexico or bombing Iraq.

The trouble is this: Every president since the end of World War I has promised to cut the government as an election tactic. Yet year after year, the beast gets bigger and meaner. At the turn of the century, all levels of government combined to take about 8 percent of the national income. Today, they grab nearly 50 percent, with no end in sight.

Browne is different because he would

end oppression by the federal government, in George Washington's words, "a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

In domestic policy, Browne wants huge tax cuts, huge spending cuts, the return of real states' rights (not the phony version offered by the Clinton-Dole welfare bill), a restoration of the civil and economic liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

The other candidates don't question the idea that government should grow by 3 percent per year (to keep pace with inflation and the GDP). But Browne proposes a freedom budget, as detailed in his book, *Why Government Doesn't Work* (St. Martin's Press, 1996).

The federal budget is \$1.6 trillion; Browne would cut it to \$100 billion. That's still more than double the federal budget of 1950. Browne would end income and inheritance taxes as dangerous interventions in the free market. He would

stop domestic welfare and foreign meddling; the Housing and Urban Development Department and the Pentagon would be slashed to the bone. He would restore sound money and eliminate the power of the Federal Reserve. He would privatize Social Security, slash regulations, repeal gun controls, end the subsidies that are driving up health costs and return education and drug programs to the states.

On the environment, he would give federal lands to the states and private parties. On race relations, he would repeal all laws restricting the freedom of association. On abortion, he would end federal funding, repeal Roe vs. Wade and let the states decide — just what the Constitution requires.

Browne is no fly-by-night protest candidate. With his deep understanding of history, economics and legal theory, he makes the other guys look frivolous, not to mention dishonest.

Can he win? Probably not. But by voting for him, you will give good ideas a higher public profile. It's a necessary first step in taking back our country.

Rockwell Jr. is editor of the Rothbard-Rockwell Report, published by the Center for Libertarian Studies in Burlingame, Calif.

My view

Don't throw away your vote

Who's going to win the Presidential election? Sounds like a timely question, for sure, but I'm not sure it's the most important question we could ask in this election season. How about this question: How am I going to protect myself against whoever is going to win?

If Dole wins, government will probably continue to grow just as it has grown through all the years he's been in the Senate. If Clinton wins, government will grow even faster. What a choice. A vote for Dole is a vote for the slow but steady erosion of my freedoms, and a vote for Clinton is a vote for even quicker erosion.

Sounds to me like we need a "none of the above" option on the ballot. We'll never get such an option, of course, because it would interfere with the cozy game of musical chairs Democrats and Republicans now play with the White House and Congress. They just swap jobs every few years and do their best to prevent reform-minded parties from gaining a foothold on political power.

Well, I'm not going to play in their game anymore. I refuse to throw away my vote on the lesser of two evils, and I'll vote instead for Harry Brown, Presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party, which is the only political party that stands for true limited government.

In a nutshell, the Libertarian Party believes in strict adherence to the Constitution. Not the way the courts have perverted it through bizarre interpretations to accomplish various forms of social engineering, but the way it is written: all power not specifically delegated to the government belong to the people, etc. Forget social engineering, gun confiscation, victimless crimes, and excessive taxation, etc. because the Constitution doesn't call for any of that stuff. Dump the IRS and half the other worthless and counterproductive government agencies that the Democrats and Republicans have dumped on us.

The two-party system has failed America. It has given us an entrenched political aristocracy that has perverted our Constitution and stolen our freedoms. It has given us bureaucracy on top of bureaucracy whose main purpose is to keep us citizens in line and paying through the nose so they can perpetuate their power. It has even stolen the future of our children by heaping an enormous debt on them. And it has given us the likes of Dole and Clinton so that we must go into the voting booth with a barf bag.

This election I'm going to make a difference. I'm going to take that first crucial step in healing what ails my country by voting for a sensible alternative. I'm voting Libertarian.

▲ *Backwoods Home Magazine*, Ashland, Oregon, December, 1996

▶ *The World (TOP)*, Coos Bay, Oregon, October 17, 1996

▶ *Duluth News-Tribune (BOTTOM)*, Duluth, Minnesota, October 4, 1996

IN OTHER VOICES

Third party can energize elections

From Libertarian Party headquarters, supporting Harry Browne for President:

"What if they gave a presidential election and nobody cared? That's what's happening in 1996 — and it's going to get worse as long as provocative third-party candidates are locked out of the presidential debates and blacklisted from major media coverage, warned Libertarian candidate Harry Browne.

"Forget the sleaze factor — the biggest political issue this year is the snooze factor," said Browne, considered to be the leading non-billionaire third-party contender for the presidency.

"Politics in 1996 is generating an epidemic of yawns. Listening to Bob Dole and Bill Clinton quibble about how much bigger government should grow is the political equivalent of taking Somnux," he said. "If we don't want even more viewers to ignore the next presidential debate, it's time to stop excluding third-party candidates like Harry Browne and Ross Perot."

"The evidence is overwhelming that the policies and personalities of Clinton and Dole are causing voters to tune out in record numbers, said Browne:

"— Only 24 percent of Americans say they are following the 1996 election closely, compared to 42 percent in 1992 — and 73 percent of Americans say they find the presidential campaign dull.

"— The first presidential debate garnered the lowest television rating in 36 years, with fewer than one out of three Americans watching, and the TV audience for the Kemp/Gore debate dropped by almost 50 percent compared to the 1992 vice presidential debate.

"— An estimated 88 million eligible Americans won't vote this year.

"This election's slogan could be "Tune out, turn off, and drop out,"" said Browne. "Voters are tuning out of politics, turning off their televisions, and dropping out of the political system.

"Where are the provocative new ideas? The fresh personalities? The innovative policy proposals? The clash of sharply opposing ideologies that could enliven this campaign? They've been locked out, so the American public retaliates by tuning out."

"There is a solution, said Browne. "We can reverse this epidemic of political narcolepsy, boost TV ratings for the last presidential debate, and get millions of Americans to start paying attention to politics again," he said. "Just open up the political system to more qualified, interesting candidates — before this nap that American voters are taking becomes a coma."

Libertarians hoping their 'hipness' will win races

News-Tribune

Do slackers favor government that governs least? The Libertarian Party hopes so.

The minor political party, by its savvy use of talk shows and the Internet, has drawn above-average attention to its government-doesn't-work message this election year. The party is also wooing the Generation X vote.

Presidential candidate Harry Browne told a Harvard University audience on Tuesday that the major parties intend a Social Se-

curity ripoff for the younger generation.

"For decades, politicians have been promising 'free' benefits to almost every group they could identify. They made no provision to pay for these promises. Now the bills are coming due," Browne said. "Today's politicians have found someone to pick up the check — you."

Browne, who wouldn't have created Social Security in the first place, advocates complete and immediate privatization of the program.