

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072
www.LP.org December 2013

NBC/WSJ poll: 60 percent say fire every member of Congress

By Domenico Montanaro
Excerpted from NBC News
Published on October 10, 2013

Throw the bums out.

That's the message 60 percent of Americans are sending to Washington in a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, saying if they had the chance to vote to defeat and replace every single member of Congress, including their own representative, they would. Just 35 percent say they would not.

The 60 percent figure is the highest-ever in that question recorded in the poll, registered in the wake of the government shutdown and threat of the U.S. defaulting on its debt for the first time in history.

The numbers reflect a broader trend over the last few years. Americans have traditionally said that while they might not like Congress, they usually like their own representatives. But that sentiment appears to have shifted.

The throw-them-all-out attitude has slowly taken hold over the last three years, coinciding with two things — the rise of the Tea Party caucus in the House and the debt ceiling fight of 2011.

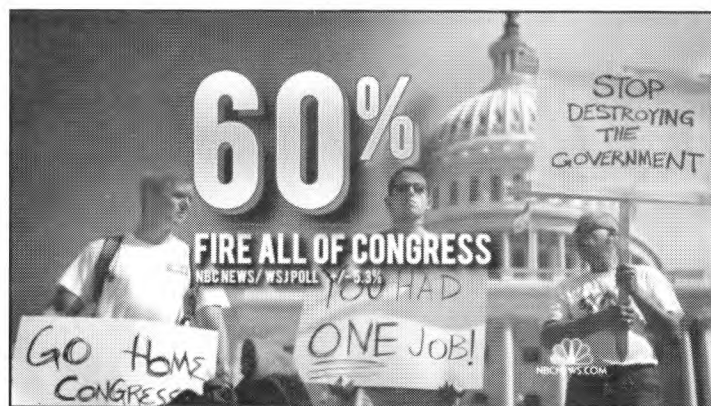
In October 2010, a majority of Americans — 50 percent to 47 percent — said they would not fire all congressional members. But by August 2011, 54 percent said they would toss every lawmaker from office; in January 2012, 56 percent said that; and just three months ago, in July, it was 57 percent.

Frustration was evident among poll respondents across the ideological spectrum.

[Pollster Peter] Hart points out that the seeds are there to give rise to independent or third-party candidates.

According to Hart, "Somewhere, someone's going to pick up and run with the 'throw them all out' banner.

The number of Americans who say they want to fire everyone is fairly consistent among most groups — at around 60 percent — but it spikes among rural



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voters (70 percent), white independents (70 percent) and those in Republican-held congressional districts (67 percent). Just 52 percent of respondents in Democratic-held districts would vote to fire every lawmaker on Capitol Hill.

In another sign of dissatisfaction with the state of politics, 47 percent of Americans said they do not strongly identify with either party.

The numbers in this poll also reflect a broader anger and pessimism among Americans, especially when it comes to the economy.

A record-low 14 percent think the country is headed in the right direction, down from 30 percent last month. That's the biggest single-month drop in the poll since the shutdown of 1990. And a whopping 78 percent think the country is on the wrong track. Just 17 percent think the economy will improve in the next year, while 42 percent think it will worsen.

Libertarian Party in the News

Voters cannot continue to support two-party system

By Matthew Boyer

From *The Daily Targum*, Rutgers University

Published on December 4, 2013

Fast forward just three short years: It is 2016 and you either recently graduated college, or you will soon. The bills are starting to pile up, your student debt looms over your head as much as your parents' bickering about your job prospects, and you can't seem to obtain a reasonable health insurance plan under Obamacare. Then bam: These cheesy-smiling, celebrity candidates with hairdos to envy emerge onto the national stage. You guessed it, election season has arrived.

As a frequent Thursday through Saturday night bar-hopper with a car that needs fixing and an unemployment or underemployment issue that needs to be resolved, you find yourself genuinely interested in the 2016 presidential election. Debates regarding tax increases, entitlement spending cuts and foreign relations escalate, although you feel your voice isn't being represented. Reminiscing on the only two presidential elections you truly remember in 2008 and 2012, you try to decipher what is different about this one. ... You cannot seem to overcome a sense of abandonment from both [main parties].

[Politicians promised young voters] to support fiscal responsibility, end prohibition of cannabis, legalize same-sex marriage and bring our troops home. These issues are pertinent to the lives of young people, yet little change has occurred regarding them. Today, the United States still has troops in about 150 countries, our youth are among the poorest our nation has ever seen and no one in the world has privacy on the Internet. Additionally, the federal government is still raiding legal marijuana dispensaries in the state of Colorado. Today, we are living in an environment that is a result of the two parties that we have continually elected to office, but there is an emerging face on the block.

The re-energized yet early Libertarian Party, founded in the 1970s, is the third largest and fastest growing political party in the nation. Home to figures such as former Republican New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, who you may see frequently on Reddit, the party is known for its social liberalism and fiscal

“Libertarians seek the utmost freedom achieved through minimal government intervention on social and fiscal issues.”

conservatism. Libertarianism as an ideology is supported by figures such as former Congressman Ron Paul, his son Senator Rand Paul, Barry Goldwater, Grover Cleveland, actors Vince Vaughn and Drew Carey and NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. The party brings a fresh voice to the table. Libertarians seek the utmost freedom achieved through minimal government intervention on social and fiscal issues.

Since most young people are socially liberal, the Republican Party is struggling to keep them under the so-called tent that is the GOP. The party is now facing an internal dilemma regarding the different viewpoints held by the more conservative versus the libertarian wing. But can Americans afford to be dragged through more political battles in hope that Republicans end up like libertarians? When you consider our government's inability to follow through on their promises, I don't believe so.

Allowing more political parties than just the Democrats and Republicans to exist should be a goal all Americans strive to achieve. It is because of the rules regarding campaigning and elections created by Democrats and Republicans that parties such as the Libertarians are prevented from obtaining power in America.

Come 2016, I hope that our political environment has changed. Unfortunately America will have endured eight years of a Clinton, 12 years of Bushes, and 8 years of Obama. The next election is not the time our country needs to elect a relative or friend of the status quo that has been plaguing us and therefore the future of our nation. When you go to the voting booth in the primary and the general election, remember these realities and vote for a third party regardless of their chances of winning. Although you may not want to defend yourself against accusations of “wasting” your vote and “handing” the election over to the opposition party, you will have [the] right to say you never supported those in power. Demand more from our government and refuse to vote for the lesser of two evils.

Poof: Public says America's world leadership has tumbled to 40-year low

By Paul Bedard

Excerpted from *Washington Examiner*

Published on December 4, 2013

For the first time in nearly 40 years, a majority of Americans believe the United States is less important around the world and that it should mind its own business, a stunning rejection of President Obama's foreign policy just four years after he received the Nobel Prize.

A new Pew Research Center poll found that 53 percent of people believe that the U.S. is playing a less important role as a world leader than a decade ago, the highest figure since 1974.

Worse: 70 percent said that the U.S. is respected less than in the past, almost matching the high reached under former President George W. Bush, whose foreign policy Obama pledged to reverse.

Other key highlights from Pew's release:

- By a 56 percent to 34 percent margin, more disapprove than approve of Obama's handling of foreign policy. The public also disapproves of Obama's handling of Syria, Iran, China and Afghanistan by wide margins.
- For the first time, 52 percent believe the U.S. should "mind its own business internationally."
- 77 percent say that growing trade and business ties between the U.S. and other countries is good.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Stephen P. Allen | Richard Hussey |
| Chuck Anderson | Caleb Jones |
| Stephen T. Anderson | Edward T. Jurgens |
| Adam N. Armstrong | William J. Kaiser |
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| Arthur C. Barker | Leigh Kelly |
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- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
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I would like to increase my monthly pledge to this level:

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 - \$500
 - \$250
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 - \$50
 - \$30
 - _____ Other
- (minimum \$10)

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* Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Party in the News

Libertarians come out against hypocrisy of elected officials

By Karl Dickey

Excerpted from Examiner.com

Published on November 20, 2013

[After] U.S. Representative Trey Radel [was arrested] on a charge of possession of cocaine ... [the Libertarian Party of Collier County (LP Collier)] pointed out the hypocrisy of elected officials who engage in the illegal drug trade while federal and state governments incarcerate Americans for such victimless crimes. Thousands of young Americans are sent to jail daily under the same drug laws that elected officials continue to put in place and fund with our tax dollars.

Representative Trey Radel came out against the legalization of medical marijuana [and] voted in favor of drug testing of food stamp recipients ... while struggling with his own alcoholism and drug abuse. Voters continue to allow a different set of standards for our elected officials compared to the rest of the American people.

A press release put out today by LP Collier states:

“The War on Drugs is an abysmal big government failure. It is a Republican and Democrat failure. Our country has spent roughly one and a half trillion dollars on the drug war since 1970 while our drug addiction rate has remained unchanged. In addition, 48% of those in U.S. prisons are there for drug crimes (and an overwhelming number of those are in prison for ‘crimes’ of a non-violent nature). Even more alarming, drug policy is nowhere to be found in our U.S. Constitution.

“If you’re a limited government constitutionalist, you know the power to wage the war on drugs is not an enumerated power of the federal government. If you’re a liberal, you know the war on drugs is a violation of our civil liberties. If you’re a pragmatist, you know the



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war on drugs simply is not working. We must accept this reality rather than continuing to throw money at a problem that cannot be fixed through government force while having our elected officials engage in completely hypocritical actions without consequence.

“The best way to reduce the usage of drugs in our country is not through a bloated, inefficient, failed government program. It’s through common sense, treatment and education through the marketplace of ideas.

“We are a free people and as a free people we must learn to accept that others may do things we don’t agree with. As a free people, we must also accept personal responsibility for our own actions.

“As Libertarians, we call for an immediate end to the War on Drugs and a pardoning of all non-violent drug offenders in the United States.”