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LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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Libertarian candidates weigh in on Rand Paul ending his 2016 presidential bid

By Karl Dickey

Excerpted from *Examiner.com*

Published on Feb. 3, 2016

Earlier today, February 3, 2016, Republican Rand Paul announced he was suspending his campaign to be the next president of the United States so he could focus on maintaining his position as one of Kentucky's two U.S. senators. Although Paul is a Republican, the mainstream media marketed him as a Libertarian, which has brought him much support that would otherwise go to Libertarian Party presidential candidates. Now that Paul is leaving the presidential election stage, it opens the door for his supporters to come over, or in many cases come back, to the Libertarian Party and support Libertarian candidates in the 2016 presidential election.

Libertarian Party national chairman, Nicholas Sarwark said today, "We applaud Rand Paul for his principled

stance on the Fourth Amendment and criminal justice reforms. We hope he will continue to fight for these and other liberty causes in the Senate. We welcome all Americans who fear for the nation's high debt, reckless spending, and heavy-handed and dangerous Big Government policies, domestic and abroad. We invite them to join the Libertarian Party and support our 2016 candidates in giving voters a choice for much less government and more freedom."

One of the top candidates is former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson who stated today, "Rand Paul is to be commended for waging the good fight, and I look forward to his continued work for small government and greater freedom in the U.S. Senate." Johnson experienced what Paul has recently experienced in 2012 as a presidential candidate. Johnson also said today, "Rand Paul is the latest to find that there is no room for the Liberty Movement in

today's Republican nominating process. I've been there. With his departure from the presidential race, there is no voice remaining to challenge failed military interventions, mass surveillance of Americans by their government, or real cuts in the size and cost of government."

Another presidential candidate seeking the Libertarian Party's nomination is Austin Petersen, who said today, "Thank you very much, Senator Paul, for doing the due diligence to fight the good fight for Libertarian principles in the Republican Party." Petersen was speaking from New York City, where he was taping a segment for John Stossel's show on Fox Business, which will air on Friday. Petersen also suggested for Rand Paul to leave the Republican Party for the Libertarian Party, saying, "If you join me and the Libertarian Party, I will gladly welcome you and I am also ask-

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5 things to know about the Libertarian Party of Arkansas

by Gary DiGiuseppe

Excerpted from *Arkansas Money & Politics (AMP)*

Published on Jan. 21, 2016

Libertarian Party of Arkansas [LPAR] officials say it's the fastest-growing party in the state.

AMP reached out to LPAR Secretary William Brackeen, an Arkansas State University graduate who was the party's 2014 candidate for justice of the peace in Pulaski County, to find out more about how the party is faring in the 2016 election.

1. LPAR is actually running two fewer candidates for statewide, congressional, & state legislative positions in 2016.

The Libertarian Party of Arkansas has 17 candidates this year versus 19 in 2014. But, that's because there were races for governor, attorney general and other statewide offices in 2014, and the party ran candidates for all seven of those offices.

"We have more congressional candidates than the Democratic Party does," Brackeen said. "We have candidates running for state Senate; we have candidates running for the state House of Representatives; and, we have at least one

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5 things to know about the LP of Arkansas

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candidate running for sheriff. We have several candidates running for justice of the peace, and we've also got at least one constable."

2. The LPAR has won two offices in Arkansas.

Both were for constable. One candidate, Jacob Faught in Benton County, still holds that position; the other was Frank Gilbert in Grant County, who was the party's candidate for governor in 2014 and is running for the U.S. Senate this year.

Brackeen said Gilbert "is the only person in the history of Arkansas who has been elected as a Republican, an Independent, and a Libertarian."

LPAR candidates running for U.S. House include Mark West (district 1), Chris Hayes (district 2), and Kerry Hicks (district 4). Nathan LaFrance had to withdraw from his candidacy for district 3. On January 23, LPAR is holding a special nominating convention to choose another candidate for the race.

"In our view, the only legitimate actions of the state are to protect people's lives, rights, and property. Taxing people to build a new swimming center is not really under that purview."

—William Brackeen,
LP Arkansas Secretary and 2014 LP candidate

3. LPAR policies focus on individual rights and personal responsibility.

"The Libertarian Party has two primary focuses that drive all of our policies," Brackeen said.

"We believe in individual rights and personal responsibility. We believe that all rights come with responsibilities, and those two things go hand in hand. The second thing is called the Non-Aggression Principle, and, in a nutshell, the Non-Aggression Principle states that we believe that the initiation of force by one party against another is never justified, except in the case of self-defense. And that doesn't matter if the initiating entity is an individual or the government, or a corporation."

4. LPAR opposes most taxes.

"Because if you don't pay them," he said, "they come and they lock you in a cage or [impose] some other punishment. In our view, the only legitimate actions of the state are to protect people's lives, rights, and property. Taxing people to build a new swimming center is not really under that purview."

At the same time, LPAR's position on rights and responsibilities means they oppose regulation of so-called "victimless" crimes like drugs and gambling.

"If you want to go across the river and go gamble until you're deeply in debt, that's your problem," Brackeen said. He calls the prosecution of these offenses "just moneymakers for the state and for various municipalities."

5. This is the third straight election cycle LPAR has been on the statewide ballot as a party.

They've had to get the signatures of 10,000 registered Arkansas

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Brandon Allen	Laurence Knight
Arlen Ambler	Charles Knisley
Damian Baker	George Lamb
Gordon Bakken	James Lark
Jonathan Bartels	Mario Ledesma
Stuart Block	Jonelle Lewis
Dwayne Borgstrand	Christopher Maden
John Boston	Shawn Mahaney
Brian Brewer	Thomas Mathers
Sean Campbell	Jessica Mitchell
Robert Chester	Kevin O'Dell
Timothy Cook	Norman Olsen
Damon Dillon	Eric Owens
Douglas Drybrough	Timothy Reeves
Perry Forstrom	Rudy Seferovich
Nick Frollini	John Shuey
Matthew Gunter	Daniel Soraoka
Forrest Guptill	Wendel Stoltz
David Hoesly	Jason Thomas
David Hunt	William Tomasek
Stephen Hutchens	Cade Ullerich
Kevin Hutchinson	Robert Vance
Kenneth Ikeda	Alejandro Velez
Jeffrey Jones	Rex Wade
John Kelley	Krista White
Russell Kelley	Terrill Young
Vicki Kirkland	

voters each time to do so.

They would gain permanent ballot access if either their presidential or gubernatorial candidate were to get three percent of the vote, and Brackeen feels they're getting closer—in 2014, Gilbert received 1.92 percent of the vote. This was despite being denied a spot on the podium at some of the more widely watched debates.

"We run candidates, and we appear in debates, to drive the conversation in a more libertarian direction," Brackeen said. "There are issues where we agree with the Republicans; there are issues where we agree with the Democrats. Our presence gets those ideas out in the public's mind, and they also are going to require the two big parties to respond to us."•

Hope Floats: Santa Fe weighs in on top presidential contenders, while Gary Johnson bolsters hope in repeat attempt for White House

By Thomas Ragan

Excerpted from *Santa Fe Reporter*

Published on Feb. 2, 2016

With the Iowa caucuses behind us and New Hampshire next up with the country’s first presidential primary of 2016, the race is on to determine the top-of-the-ticket nominees for the Republican and Democratic parties, with Ted Cruz as an early victor and Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders in a virtual tie that can’t help but evoke images of hanging chads.

Unless the races are as close [as] they were on Monday night in the Hawkeye state, New Mexico, with only five electoral votes, rarely plays a pivotal role in the presidential primaries—mostly because it’s late in the game and one of the last six states in the country to hold primaries in June.

But in November’s presidential election, the Land of Enchantment is a politically viable border state that’s not to be discounted with its high concentration of Hispanics, a voting block that always proves persuasive on the national scene.

And if there were ever a politician who consistently puts New Mexico on the national political radar, it’s our former Gov.

Gary Johnson, who announced another bid to run for president on the Libertarian Party ticket in early January, with the party’s convention set for Orlando, Fla., over Memorial Day weekend.

Earlier this week, in what’s turning into a four-year refrain, Johnson criticized the country’s presidential nomination process for beginning in a pair of tiny states like Iowa and New Hampshire, both of which have historically set the stage for the first rounds in Nevada and South Carolina before rushing headlong into Super Tuesday primaries on March 1, when hundreds of thousands of residents in 14 states will cast their votes.

“The candidates from both parties? They woo the far right or the far left, and before you know it, we’ve got these extremes that aren’t reflective of the American people,” the 63-year-old Johnson tells *SFR* from his home in Taos. “I just can’t believe that the American people are going to elect someone who wants to build a fence and deport 11 million immigrants, or that they’re seriously going to vote for a self-avowed socialist.”

He was talking, of course, about Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, although

any number of GOP candidates, with repeated promises to tighten border security by building a massive wall, could easily qualify, something Johnson says “is one of the wackiest things I’ve ever heard.”

“Having been there in Iowa and New Hampshire, running as a Republican, there are about 30 percent of Republicans in those states who believe that the scourge of the earth has to do with Mexican immigration,” he says. “It’s just a made-up issue, that they’re coming up here and they’re siphoning off the welfare system, that there’s a reason that America is not as great as it used to be, and I was the one saying it wasn’t true, and that’s what the primary system perpetuates. It’s not grounded in reality, but it sets the pace.”

Johnson predicts that Clinton and Trump will eventually prevail as the party nominees, saying: “I just don’t see Bernie Sanders going all the way.”

“But who knows?” he adds. “I could be wrong. I certainly never thought that Trump would be the Republican front-runner, either.”

As voters wait for Trump’s next move, and as Cruz quotes the Bible, owing his victory to God first and Iowan

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

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- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- _____ Other

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Card number: _____ Exp.: _____

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Address: _____

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E-mail: _____

* 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.

IVN Presidential Poll:

73% of respondents say 'no' to Clinton and Trump

By Shawn M. Griffiths

Excerpted from *IVN*, a publication of the Independent Voter Project
Published on Jan. 18, 2016

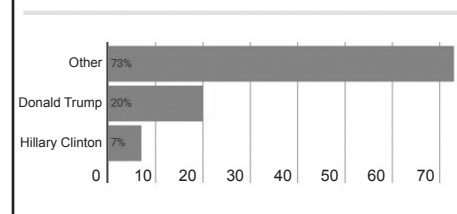
Many voters are not satisfied with the two major-party candidates deemed as the front-runners in the 2016 presidential election. That is the finding of a poll conducted by *IVN News*, in which 73 percent of respondents said that when given the option of choosing Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, or Other, they want an alternative option over Clinton and Trump.

The results reflect what seems to be the general attitude of the public: many voters feel disenfranchised in the current electoral system, are tired of the media deciding for them who are the most viable candidates, and are not represented by traditional horse-race polling, which doesn't account for broad

frustrations with the two-party system.

If the election were held today, nearly three-quarters of respondents said they would want to vote for someone other than the current front-runners for the Republican and Democratic parties. Trump came in second at 20 percent, while only 7 percent of respondents said they would vote for Clinton.

If the presidential election were held today, for whom would you vote?



An overwhelming 81 percent of respondents who replied "Other" said they would vote for Bernie Sanders. Rand Paul came in second at 6 percent, Gary Johnson garnered 4 percent, and 2 percent said Ted Cruz.

When asked which party best represents their views, 33 percent said the Democratic Party, 27 percent said none of the parties represent their views, and 13 percent said the Republican Party. Further, 10 percent said they believe the Libertarian Party best represents their views, while 9 percent said Other, and 8 percent said Green.

The poll, which ran from January 9 to January 15, amassed over 16,600 responses. In full disclosure, the poll specifically targeted the *IVN* audience and is not a proportional sampling of the U.S. population. •

Hope floats

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voters second, and as Florida's Marco Rubio sees his third place finish as a win for the traditional GOP establishment set, this much is certain: neither state is a notable predictor of future presidents, but that doesn't stop politicians from saying what they think Iowans want to hear, adjusting their positions slightly as the primaries go on and candidates face a different set of populaces.

"It's hypocritical," says Johnson.

Which is where the Libertarian Party comes into play, with Johnson just one among dozens of contenders now vying for the nation's top job, its symbol of the porcupine, its needles poking out, reminding voters that there is an alternative to the donkey and the elephant, its key principle that government should stop interfering in the lives of everyday people and quit regulating and taxing them.

"People say that I'm tilting at windmills, but I could go from tilting windmills to center stage if I become the Lib-

Libertarians on Rand Paul

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ing that all of your supporters, Senator Paul, join me in the Libertarian Party."

Another Libertarian presidential candidate, Steve Kerbel, stated in a Twitter posting earlier today, "Rand Paul has quit the race. Too bad for the GOP but hopefully Libertarian party contributions will stop going to the Republican party now."

Libertarian presidential candidate Darryl Perry stated today, "If you were supporting the Rand Paul campaign and are now looking for a libertarian candidate to support, then I invite you

to look into my platform, and make a donation to help me run the most libertarian presidential campaign in history, to promote the ideas of liberty as boldly and as often as possible, and to give as many people as possible the chance to vote for an actual libertarian in November 2016!"

No other statements from other Libertarian Party presidential candidates regarding Paul's campaign suspension could be found as of publishing time. The Libertarian Party will elect its presidential nominee during its national convention in May, 2016, in Orlando, Florida. •

ertarian nominee," says Johnson, who served as New Mexico's governor as a Republican between 1995 and 2003 and ran for president on the Libertarian ticket in 2012, garnering 1.2 million votes, the most in the history of any Libertarian candidate in terms of raw numbers.

In New Mexico during his tenure as

governor, he was instrumental in bringing casinos and medical marijuana to the state, but he was mostly known for his anti-tax policies and his unusual combination of fiscal conservatism and social liberalism, not to mention the hundreds of times he brought out his veto pen. •