

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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Which is Driving the Debate: More Big Government or Less?

By Carla Howell

In games like soccer, basketball or field hockey, the team that gets the most points is often the one that most often *controls the ball*.

In politics, the one who wins the battle in any given moment is the one who can *control the debate*.

Which debate – A or B – puts liberty in control?

Debate A

“I propose a new tax to raise needed revenue for the government that will fill gaps in health care coverage for the poor.”

“I disagree. I’m against a new tax. It’s not needed and taxpayers can’t afford it.”

“I hate raising taxes too, but everyone must sacrifice to avoid making draconian cuts to needed programs or leaving low-income families without critically-needed medical care.”

“Raising taxes will hurt small businesses. We must not raise taxes in this weak economy with so many people out of work.”

Debate B

“I’m for ending the income tax. Getting rid of it will save taxpayers an average of over \$13,000 per family – every year.”

“I’m against ending the income tax. The government needs the revenue. Ending the income tax would force draconian cuts.”

“Ending the income tax requires no cuts in essential services whatsoever. Everyone knows that the state government is riddled with billions of dollars in waste we can cut – immediately.”

“Your numbers are wrong. Sure, there’s always a little bit of waste – just as there is in most businesses. But to cut any more than a few million dollars would be draconian.”

The first debate (A) is about *more* Big Government. *Higher* taxes than what we have today. Making Big Government bigger.

The second debate (B) is about *less* Big Government. *Lower* taxes than what we have today. *Smaller* government. More freedom.

Which of these two proposals advances liberty – rather than defends against more Big Government?

Proposal A

One that proposes sanctions against Iran – and arguments against those sanctions?

Proposal B

Or one that proposes bringing our troops home from Japan, Germany and over 100 other countries where they’re not needed – and arguments against bringing them home?

Proposal A is about *more* Big Government. Proposal B is about *less* Big Government. *Shrinking* government. More freedom.

Which of these two proposals would you rather have as the basis of a political debate?

Proposal A

One that proposes hiring more DEA officers to combat Mexican drug cartels?

Proposal B

Or one that proposes to end the Prohibition on Medical Marijuana?

All of the above (A) choices are about *more* Big Government. All of the above (B) choices are about *less* Big Government. *Shrinking* government. *More freedom*.

(Driving the Debate, continued on page 3)

Election 2012 Coverage

Governor Gary Johnson Appears on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*

Libertarian presidential candidate Gov. Gary Johnson appeared on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show* on Tuesday, June 5th. Below are excerpts of some of his remarks.

On Ballot Access

I'm the libertarian nominee. I'm going to be one of 3 candidates on the ballot in all fifty states. Obama and Romney being the other two.

On Why He Chose to Run as the Libertarian Presidential Candidate

It's kind of a mutual thing. They asked me if I would consider running. For the most part, I think I'm delivering a message of liberty and freedom very much along the same lines of Ron Paul. I hate to say it, but I don't think Ron Paul will be successful in getting the nomination. That message goes away when his candidacy comes to an end. Ron Paul asked for my endorsement in 2008. I readily gave that endorsement. When I dropped out of the Republican Party, I asked everyone who voted for me to vote Ron Paul.

On the American People

I agree with the notion that most people in this country are fiscally responsible and socially tolerant. I'm in that group. I think most Americans are in that group.

On the "Libertarian Candidate"

The libertarian candidate is going to come at Obama from the left and Romney from the right...

There are more Libertarians, people that declare themselves Libertarians than vote Libertarian. Right now you have an unprecedented amount of people in this country saying that they would consider voting for a third party candidate...

Let's end the war in Afghanistan. Let's bring the troops home. Let's not bomb Iran. Let's end the drug war. Let's balance the federal budget.

These are important issues that half embraced by the Democrats and half embraced by Republicans.

Governor Johnson and Jon Stewart



Governor Johnson and Jon Stewart

Have the two parties gotten so out of touch? If we elect a Republican or a Democrat, is there really going to be a difference four years from now? I don't know if there is really going to be a difference.

Historically, people have embraced the Democratic Party because they are good on civil liberties. I'm going to make the case that I'm better on civil liberties than Obama.

Historically, Republicans are about dollars and cents, the checkbook. Republicans are traditionally good in that category. I'm going to make that case that I'm better than Romney when it comes to dollars and cents.

On His Goals for His Presidential Campaign

The notion is actually to win the race. That's the pie in the sky notion. I have to poll at 15 percent to get on the national debate stage. Right now I'm polling at 8 percent. The Presidential Debate Commission established that as the result of Ross Perot.

Anyway, there is lots of opportunity to change the world a little bit.

Libertarians embrace all kinds of people. It's one thing to be philosophically in tune with the Libertarian Party. It's another thing to actually point out the problems facing the country. You have to have a resume to actually do this. I'm posing myself as having that resume.

I've taken on the important issues and politics be damned!

On the Campaign Trail

The campaign trail is about getting the message out. I've seen nothing but increased crowds, increased appetites for what I have to say. I wouldn't be doing this if that weren't the case.

Which debates and proposals do you think do more to advance our Libertarian goals?

The A's are on the defense and fight against proposals for more Big Government. The B's go on the offense and propose to *shrink* Big Government – and advance liberty.

“If we can get people to ask the right questions, we won't have to worry about the answers.” (Michael Cloud, Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion)

Here's a corollary to Michael Cloud's principle:

“If you get them talking about the right proposals, they'll have the right debate. The one that advances liberty.”

When Libertarians get sucked into debates about proposals for more Big Government, the *most* we can hope for is to defeat them. But even when we “win,” Big Government remains at its current size. There is no possibility of shrinking Big Government. No new freedom. The guaranteed outcome is either the same Big Government we already have – or even bigger government.

But when Libertarians propose to *shrink* Big Government, the very *worst* that can happen is government stays the same. The *best* that can happen is that we make Big Government *smaller*. Less Big Government. More freedom.

Which do you want? More Big Government – guaranteed ?

Or the possibility of *less* Big Government – and more freedom?

When it comes to advancing liberty, always go with Plan B.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
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Libertarian Party in the News

Is Libertarian Gary Johnson the Wildcard in the Fall Election?

From *Real Clear Politics*, June 15, 2012

By Erin McPike Reprinted with permission

A surprise may be lurking in the presidential campaign that could cause a stir in the coming months, but it has nothing to do with Mitt Romney or Barack Obama.

Gary Johnson, the former two-term Republican governor of New Mexico who ran briefly in this cycle's GOP presidential primary, is the Libertarian Party's standard-bearer, and he is finally getting some attention. In the past few weeks he's appeared on NBC's "The Daily Rundown" with Chuck Todd, as well as "The Colbert Report" and "The Daily Show." Where the president and the presumptive Republican nominee won't go, Gary Johnson will.

He doesn't have a vast campaign account, as the two major-party candidates do, but he does have Roger Stone, a veteran of Republican presidential campaigns who says he's sick of the party and is now consulting for Johnson. Stone believes that with the rise of social media, there are ways to break through the campaign din, and he's cooking up some "provocative" stunts that will get Johnson attention in the months ahead.

To Stone, the effort has nothing to do with being a spoiler in the election. Rather, he says, the Johnson campaign is all about waking up the electorate to the Libertarian movement.

"I'm not concerned about Gary Johnson becoming president in the 2012 election," he says, adding that winning electoral votes is not what the campaign is plotting. Stone is trying to help Johnson get enough attention that he registers at least 15 percent in three national polls, thus becoming eligible to participate in the presidential debates this fall. He's also working to get Johnson on the ballot in all 50 states and says that will likely happen, barring a possible hiccup in Oklahoma.

It's all tied to getting matching funds from the Federal Election Commission to compete in future elections, because the Johnson team is certain once more voters are informed of Libertarian positions, large swaths of the electorate will swing their way.

The premise rests on the belief that younger Americans are at a crossroads: They may be socially liberal, but they are fiscally conservative, and they don't know whether to choose the Democratic Party in order to satisfy the former sentiments or the GOP to sate the latter. But in joining the Libertarian Party, they wouldn't have to choose.

In order to meet their goals, the small and volunteer-laden Johnson operation intends to lean heavily on the legions of Ron Paul supporters scattered throughout the country, a following amassed during his most recent presidential runs. Stone says that through the power of social media, disappointed Paul devotees will discover that they don't have to abandon their policy positions; instead, they can find them in Johnson, an anti-war, pro-legalized marijuana former Republican. Stone clarified that one area of difference between Paul and Johnson is abortion: Paul opposes abortion rights, Johnson supports them.

To make a splash and win votes along the way, Stone says Johnson plans to run to the right in some policy areas and pull from Romney, and run to the left in others. He thinks the Libertarian candidate can scare up votes in Oregon specifically on the marijuana issue, whereas in North Carolina he would emphasize his right flank. The team insists it's not in the race to spoil the election for Romney or Obama, even though that possibility exists.

Some Public Policy Polling (D) surveys show Johnson getting a small chunk of support in several states. Because most of the polls are dated, however, his real effect is hard to measure. Still, an Arizona survey in late May showed him taking 9 percent of the vote.

And former Florida congressman Joe Scarborough, who hosts MSNBC's "Morning Joe," penned a column explaining why he cast a "protest vote" in this year's primary for Ron Paul. In such a negative election, where enthusiasm has been dampened on both sides, more protest votes may not be so unlikely come November. And that could give Libertarians the chance to be competitive in the future.

At this juncture, neither the Romney campaign nor the Obama campaign has been willing to comment on Johnson and how he might impact the election. But underestimating that impact on what has proved to be a volatile electorate over the past two years could be a mistake.