

# 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 October 2012

### 2012 Vote Totals That Can Give LP Ballot Access

A lot is at stake this November for the LP. Election results will determine future Libertarian ballot access in 18 states.

Rules vary greatly from state to state when it comes to recognizing third parties.

In Virginia, the party's presidential candidate must receive 10% of the vote in the previous election – a very high threshold that few presidential candidates in the history of the United States have ever achieved. But in New Mexico, only half of one percent of the vote is needed.

Rules vary for different races as well.

Connecticut treats ballot access on an office-by-office basis. If LP Presidential candidate Governor Gary Johnson and Vice-Presidential candidate Judge Jim Gray get 1% of the vote in Connecticut, it will give the 2016 Libertarian presidential nominee ballot access in 2016; likewise for other offices in Connecticut.

In DC, if Governor Johnson or the candidate for Delegate to the US House gets 7,500 votes, then ballot access is attained in DC for the first time in the party's history.

In Georgia, if Governor Gary Johnson or any statewide candidate gets 1%, then statewide candidates can run without petitioning in 2014.

In Illinois, if Governor Johnson or any statewide candidate gets 5%, then statewide candidates there can run in 2014 without petitioning.

In Michigan, if Governor Johnson or any other candidate gets 16,083 votes, which is 1% of the votes cast for the successful 2010 Secretary of State, they retain ballot access.

For Nevada, Governor Johnson or any other candidate must get 1% of the votes cast for all of the 2012 Nevada US House candidates to retain ballot access.

If the New Hampshire gubernatorial candidates get 4%, then ballot access is attained through 2014.

In North Carolina, either the presidential or gubernatorial candidates must receive 2% of the vote to retain Libertarian ballot access through 2016.

In Utah, Governor Johnson or any other candidate must get 2% of the total votes cast for all of the 2012 Utah US House candidates to retain ballot access.

In West Virginia, if the gubernatorial candidate gets 1%, then the LP retains ballot access through 2016.

In Wyoming, if the US House candidate gets 2%, then ballot access is retained through 2014.

In addition, the table shows how the LP can attain or retain full ballot access for the 2014 elections (unless otherwise noted) depending on vote totals for Governor Johnson.

If Gov. Gary Johnson or any Libertarian candidate running in a race that affects ballot access can meet a state's requirement for ballot access, it can potentially save the LP hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2014 and 2016 and countless volunteer hours.

Libertarians can help by spreading the word to friends and relatives in these key states and asking them to vote Libertarian.

| State LP Ballot Access Through 2014 |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Presidential Votes Needed           | State |
| 0.5%                                | NM    |
| 1%                                  | WI    |
| 2%                                  | KY    |
| 2%                                  | IA    |
| 2%                                  | NC    |
| 3%                                  | AR    |
| 3%                                  | MA    |
| 5%                                  | ME    |
| 5%                                  | ND    |
| 5%                                  | RI    |
| 10%                                 | VA    |

Richard Winger, Publisher of *Ballot Access News*, and Staff members Robert Johnson and Molly Schwoppe contributed to this article.

# Libertarian Party in the News

## **Spoiler Alert! G.O.P. Fighting Libertarian's Spot on the Ballot**

From *The New York Times*

When he was running for the Republican presidential nomination last year, Gary Johnson, the former two-term Republican governor of New Mexico, drew ridicule from mainstream party members as he advocated legalized marijuana and a 43 percent cut in military spending.

Mr. Johnson's once-fellow Republicans are no longer laughing.

Now campaigning as the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee, Mr. Johnson is on the ballot in every state except Michigan and Oklahoma, enjoys the support of a few small "super PACs" and is trying to tap into the same grass-roots enthusiasm that helped build Representative Ron Paul a big following.

Polls show the race between President Obama and Mitt Romney to be tight.

Both sides agree that Mr. Johnson, whose pro-marijuana legalization and antiwar stances may appeal to the youth vote and whose antigovernment, anti-spending proposals may appeal to conservative fiscal hawks — and to supporters of Mr. Paul — has the potential to draw from both Mr. Romney and Mr. Obama.

Mr. Johnson said he had no problem being labeled a potential spoiler in an election that he views as "a debate between Coke and Pepsi."

Democrats say Mr. Johnson could have the biggest effect on Mr. Romney in Nevada, where a Wall Street Journal/NBC News/Marist poll in September showed Mr. Obama and Mr. Romney effectively tied.

[Johnson campaign adviser Roger] Stone said the campaign believed it had the potential to cut into support for Mr. Romney in three of his must-win states, Florida, Ohio and Virginia — where challenges to the Libertarian candidate quickly failed — as well as in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

## **Let Gary Johnson Debate**

From Judge Andrew Napolitano's *Fox News Column*

Why does the federal government now spend half a trillion a year in debt service? Because every president, Republicans as well as Democrats, from FDR to Obama has borrowed money in order to spend more than he collected and has let future generations deal with repaying the debt. Because the feds do not repay (they merely roll over) their debt, the cost of interest payments has skyrocketed.

In the realm of foreign affairs, the president has unleashed a torrent of violence in the Middle East by supporting some of the people his predecessor was fighting a few years ago. Those folks now run the government in Libya and Egypt, and those places are now unsafe for Americans.

What would Romney do? He'd insert the U.S. military to extend American dominance and build a new world order.

What has Obama done? He's bombed and killed innocents with drones. Neither has learned the lessons of 9/11: You cannot kill people or occupy foreign lands without moral and legal justification, lest you suffer deadly consequences.

I wish the cabal of former leaders of the two major political parties that runs the debates would permit former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson to participate. He is the only current national candidate who if elected would shrink the government and keep it within the confines of the Constitution.

Don't hold your breath.

*(continued on next page)*

The debates are crafted by the folks who run the Romney and Obama campaigns. Romney is afraid of Johnson because he might take the votes of those who are tired of unconstitutional government and deficits and war.

Obama is afraid of Johnson because he might take the votes of those who are appalled at the government's murderous drug wars and its assaults on personal freedom and who also are tired of war. Both sides fear Johnson because he is essentially fearless when it comes to his belief that the Constitution means what it says — meaning if it does not authorize the feds to regulate health care, fight undeclared wars or mortgage the future, then they simply cannot do it.

But the powers that run the means by which we elect presidents have decided that they can ill-afford a frontal assault on the big government they have created, on national television much less, and four weeks before a presidential election.

If you want a real debate — one that will explore the proper constitutional role of the federal government in our lives before it gets so big that we cannot safely challenge it — you will be disappointed, unless Gary Johnson is let in.

**New and renewing Liberty Pledgers**

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30  |
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# Libertarian Party in the News

## Libertarians could be spoilers in key Senate races

*From Politico 10/15/12, leading political website*

Democratic hopes of maintaining a razor-thin Senate majority may hinge on an unexpected outside force: Libertarians.

In the battlegrounds of Montana, Arizona and Missouri, polls show the Libertarian nominee poised to siphon potentially enough to tip the outcome.

“Ralph Nader in reverse” is how Arizona GOP strategist Jason Rose characterized the 2012 dynamic. Senior Republican officials dismiss the impact of Libertarians, particularly in Montana, arguing that the third-party candidates pull about equally from both parties.

Libertarian candidates in these three Senate races — as well as in Indiana — have enormous handicaps: a lack of money, party infrastructure and name ID, to name a few. So they’re clamoring to share the debate stage with their better-known rivals — and Democrats are all too happy to oblige.

In Missouri, Sen. Claire McCaskill has no problem letting Libertarian Jonathan Dine participate in the final debate Thursday; GOP Rep. Todd Akin scoffs at the idea. In an Arizona debate last week, Libertarian nominee Marc Victor went after Republican Rep. Jeff Flake on his signature issue of killing earmarks, aiding Democrat Richard Carmona in the process.

And in Montana, Libertarian candidate Dan Cox joined in a debate with the two main candidates, using the forum to attack both men for “nibbling around the edges” and failing to uphold their constitutional oaths of office.

Democrats hold a 53 percent to 47 percent advantage in the chamber, so Republicans need to net four seats if Mitt Romney doesn’t win the presidency. But that’s become a tougher feat for the GOP as several key races — such as in Florida, Ohio and New Mexico — have favored Democrats, making states like Montana and Arizona must-wins for the GOP.

Every vote could matter given Montana’s small electorate. In 2006, when Tester beat GOP incumbent

Sen. Conrad Burns by just 3,562 votes, Libertarian Stan Jones won nearly 3 percent of the vote. In the three-way race against Rehberg for his statewide House seat in 2010, Libertarian Mike Fellows won nearly 6 percent of the vote.

In the Sunday night debate, the Libertarian used every opportunity to paint both [Rehberg and Tester] as big-government enablers infringing on the rights of ordinary Montanans.

There’s reason to believe that the Libertarian candidates could draw support from the left, too. Some of their views — such as legalizing marijuana — often appeal to younger, college-age voters. Indeed, the 32-year-old Dine — the Missouri Senate contender who’s a personal trainer from Kansas City — said he has “never met a college kid who I couldn’t convince to vote for me.”

Still, Dine believes he’ll pull support from Akin after the GOP candidate’s infamous comments on rape and abortion. In 2010, Dine won 3 percent of the vote in Republican Roy Blunt’s blowout Senate victory. Given the unpopularity of both McCaskill and Akin, Dine could see that support grow this year. An Oct. 3 poll by PPP found McCaskill up by 6 percentage points, with Dine pulling 9 percent of the vote. Akin’s team isn’t keen on Dine participating in the debate Thursday. Victor, the Libertarian nominee in Arizona, is doing Flake no favors in his dead-heat race against In Victor’s eyes, there’s little difference between Flake and his Democratic challenger, Carmona, the former U.S. surgeon general.

“[Flake] is a guy who has repeatedly voted to raise the debt ceiling. He voted for wars, which are very expensive economically and in terms of human lives, and he voted for the Patriot Act, an expansion of government that allows snooping on citizens,” said Victor, who called himself part of the Ron Paul Revolution.

“I don’t think Carmona pretends to be a small-government guy. I think Flake pretends to be a small-government guy.”

One GOP poll that included Victor showed him with 4 percent of the vote — enough to make a difference if the race goes down to the wire.