

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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Va. Libertarian Sarvis joins Senate ballot

By Ileana Najarro
From the *Washington Post*
Published on June 26, 2014

Robert Sarvis, the Libertarian candidate for Virginia governor last fall whose surprising support was seen as a sign of discontent with both major-party candidates, has qualified for the ballot for the U.S. Senate.

Sarvis will appear on the ballot with Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), the first-term incumbent, and Ed Gillespie, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

With 19,000 valid signatures on his nominating petitions, the Libertarian far exceeded the minimum of 10,000 needed from registered voters in the state to get on the ballot, according to his campaign.

Less clear is whether Warner, the most popular politician in the state, or Gillespie, still largely unknown among Virginia voters, will prompt the same desire among voters for a third choice that characterized last year's matchup between Terry McAuliffe (D) and Ken Cuccinelli II (R).

Bob Holsworth, a Richmond-based political scientist, said that Warner and Gillespie should be concerned about Sarvis's entry into the race. But Holsworth said he expected the two to focus more on "issue distinctions" and less on the "incredibly personal and negative" attacks that characterized the McAuliffe-Cuccinelli race and that voters found so distasteful.

"To the extent that he has an impact, Sarvis's candidacy may be a bit more worrisome to Gillespie inasmuch as he received 10 percent of the vote in Republican-leaning Chesterfield County in 2013," Holsworth said. "At the same time, Sarvis does draw young, libertarian-oriented voters as well, and he could take votes from Warner, especially on college campuses and among young professionals."

Although Libertarians have a record of not making big waves in Virginia politics, Sarvis attracted nearly



7 percent of the vote in November in a race that McAuliffe won with a margin of less than three percentage points.

It's not clear, however, that Sarvis — a 37-year-old software developer and lawyer with master's degrees in math and economics — was a spoiler for McAuliffe or Cuccinelli. He performed well in a number of heavily Republican counties scattered across the state, but he also outperformed his statewide number in the Democratic enclaves of Roanoke and Charlottesville — and in the purple suburbs of Richmond.

A Washington Post/Abt-SRBI poll published the week before last fall's election showed Sarvis winning 8 percent of the vote, but when asked whom they would support if Sarvis were not in the race, those voters split roughly evenly between McAuliffe and Cuccinelli, 53 percent vs. 42 percent.

Why has Sarvis returned to the campaign trail? Because "all of the themes from my campaign last year are still relevant, even more so with respect to the federal government's overreach and failings," he wrote in a statement to the media.

Sarvis also called out directly to Gillespie and Warner with a demand to be included in debates. Sarvis was shut out of debates last fall in part because of his low performance in public polls.

"It's the right thing to do for Virginia voters. I am willing to debate either or both of them at any time, at any location, under any conditions," Sarvis wrote.

Lawsuit victory: Libertarian Party secures ballot access for all third parties

Walters did more than just secure his own fate, he also helped all other South Carolina third parties to have equal ballot access.

By Joshua Cook
From BenSwann.com
Published on May 3, 2014

Like a master chess player, the South Carolina Libertarian Party out maneuvered the Republican-controlled legislature and the state Supreme Court, forcing them to not only give the libertarians ballot access but to ensure that all third parties have ballot access as well.

According to the new South Carolina election law, Act 61, political parties must get permission from other parties in order to nominate their candidates by convention. The problem was the S.C. Elections Commission denied the Libertarian Party a primary because “they couldn’t afford it.” As reported by Joshua Cook, third parties like the Libertarian Party were denied access to a primary, forcing the party to sue and take the case to the state Supreme Court.

Libertarian Jeremy Walters, who is running for a state house seat, wanted to make sure that he would not be thrown off the ballot because [of] this new law requirement.

In 2012, over 200 candidates were thrown off the ballot for not filing correctly.

Jeremy Walters explained to Cook why he challenged the law:

“I’m about to put my name on the ballot and go for a rematch, but I know I’m going into this breaking the law, and there is nothing I can do about this, because the election commission denied me a primary,” he explained. “So where does that leave me when I win on November 4, 2014? It leaves me with the Republican Party filing a lawsuit against me personally for not following the new election law.”

Walters lost by only 500 votes in 2012. He’s more than ready for a rematch, and he went all the way to the state Supreme Court to make sure there won’t be any post-election funny business.

“We asked the court to please give us a primary so



we can abide by the law.” Walters said that you’ll never believe how the Supreme Court ruled.

“The ruling ended up being that the Libertarian Party can nominate by convention, because that’s what they’ve always done,” he said.

“If you look back and think about this for one second, you’ll understand that the Supreme Court of the state of South Carolina told the Libertarian Party and all third parties that it’s OK to go ahead and break the law,” he added.

Justice Jean Toal called the Libertarian’s lawsuit “the South Carolina thorn in their side of 2014.”

He called the state Supreme Court ruling his “Get Out Of Jail Free” card for when the republicans challenge the election outcome.

Walters did more than just secure his own fate, but he also helped all other South Carolina third parties to have equal ballot access.

“It wasn’t about having a primary. It was about telling the state of South Carolina that you don’t have any right to tell me whether I can have a convention or a primary,” he concluded.

Turf war brewing: Libertarian Party proclaims they're the only 'real deal'

By Jennifer Harper
From the *Washington Times*
Published on June 26, 2014

Many Americans say they're Libertarians, including tea partiers. But there's only one official Libertarian Party - founded in 1971 and throwing themselves a big convention in Columbus, Ohio beginning Thursday. The organization claims to be the only "real deal" in a very crowded field. So don't go using their name in vain.

"Today, people commonly call themselves libertarian," says Carla Howell, political director of the Libertarian National Committee, "but only the Libertarian Party is the real deal."

Media heavyweights such as Glenn Beck, Juan Williams and Sean Hannity bandy the designation about, while "hundreds" of radio hosts use the word libertarian to describe their views, she notes.

"The Libertarian Party walks the talk," explains Ms. Howell. "We run candidates for the express purpose of actually creating a libertarian society by ending our involvement in unnecessary wars, repealing laws that violate the Bill of Rights, removing government from the many areas where it doesn't belong and dramatically cutting today's high government spending and taxation."

The candidates who support that will be out in force, she adds, "stumping for much less government, low taxes, peace and freedom."

The Party says that Libertarian voter registration is up by 11 percent in the last year, meanwhile. And among those out in force at the convention this weekend: former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson, the Libertarian presidential hopeful who ran in 2012.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
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Libertarian candidate puts GOP on edge

By Jim Siegel
Excerpted from the *Columbus Dispatch*
Published on July 5, 2014

The fact that Chad Monnin is chatting in his second-story campaign office in Gahanna is a sign that the 19th Ohio House District race will be anything but typical this year.

For most legislative candidates, including incumbents, a campaign office is often little more than a cluttered dining room or basement. For Monnin, his multiroom suite on Granville Street is just his Gahanna office. He has another one in Westerville. He also has five paid staffers — four or five more than most legislative campaigns.

“I’m in it to win it,” said Monnin, a businessman from New Albany who has already put more than \$100,000 of his own money into his campaign and plans to spend \$250,000 before it’s over.

“I believe anything worth doing is worth overdoing.”

Perhaps never before has an Ohio legislative incumbent faced such a well-funded challenge from a Libertarian. Monnin said he has resisted pressure from GOP leaders to drop out of the race, including, he said, an offer of close access to the man who could be Ohio’s next House speaker.

The race for the 19th District, which covers Westerville, New Albany and Gahanna, includes Monnin, a former Republican running as a Libertarian, and Michael Johnston, a former Libertarian running as a Democrat. Both are challenging two-term Rep. Anne Gonzales, a Republican from Westerville.

Monnin, a member of the U.S. Special Forces in the Army until he was injured during a 2002 parachute jump, is a first-time candidate but has plenty of political experience.

On paper, Republicans should have little to worry about in the 19th District. Gonzales, an energetic campaigner, won re-election in 2012 by nearly 13 points. House Democrats don’t have the money to make an unexpected push.

But a well-financed Libertarian clearly has the GOP



Chad Monnin

worried. The prevailing wisdom is that a Libertarian candidate has a more negative impact on a Republican in the race than a Democrat.

Monnin said he started out just hoping to raise some issues. But his attitude turned toward winning, he said, after Republicans pushed to get him out of the race.

First, Republicans unsuccessfully challenged Monnin’s petition signatures in an effort to disqualify him from the ballot.

Not long after, Monnin said he met with Doug Preisse, chairman of the Franklin County Republican Party and a key backer of Rep. Cliff Rosenberger’s effort to be the next House speaker.

Monnin described the meeting: “(Preisse) says: ‘Hey, maybe there are other ways you could be more beneficial and serve your interests. Maybe you could be a part of the kitchen cabinet to the new speaker of the House. Can I arrange that for you? Why don’t you talk to him?’”

Kitchen cabinet is political parlance for an elected leader’s unofficial group of advisers.

Monnin then played a voice mail he got a few days later from Rosenberger, who asked if they could get together to talk. He said they have not met face to face.

“So now I think maybe there’s more to this,” Monnin said. “Why do they want me out so bad?”

Preisse called Monnin’s description a mischaracterization of the conversation. As the party chairman, he said, his job is to meet with candidates.

“My job is not to promise him anything, and I didn’t,” he said. “There are lots of ways to become involved politically in addition to running for office, and we did talk about some of those. He was not invited to be a senior adviser to anybody.”

Monnin said he’s also been pressured by “prominent people” who tell him he’s going to spend a lot of money only to lose and burn bridges. Or, he’s been told he might win and hate the job because no one will talk to him.

“The 19th District is a big ATM machine for the Republican Party,” he said, referring to donations, in particular, that come from New Albany.

Monnin isn’t dropping out.

Yesterday, he sponsored the New Albany Independence Day 5K run.

“There should be a party out there that represents individual liberty, lower taxes and smaller government,” he said.