

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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## Libertarians: ‘War on Drugs,’ ‘Law and Order’ Caused Firestorm

By John Gizzi

Excerpted from *Newsmax*  
Published on August 18, 2014

The federal “war on drugs” and “law and order” issues stressed by many politicians are major reasons for the clashes involving heavily armed police in Ferguson, Missouri, say leaders of America’s Libertarian Party.

In interviews with Newsmax last week, both Carla Howell, the party’s political director, and 2012 Libertarian presidential nominee Gary Johnson said their party has had a longtime history of opposing government programs that they feel have led to the “militarization” of local police in cities such as Ferguson.

“The ‘war on drugs,’ which we have opposed vigorously from the start, is one of the real root causes of the problem in Ferguson,” Howell told Newsmax. “Police ... use military-style weapons and tactics which are normally reserved for operations outside the capabilities of local law enforcement.”

Howell added that such tactics “have their roots in the federal ‘war on drugs,’ which Libertarians have opposed since 1971.”

Pointing to the television news reports last week in which Ferguson police in riot gear quell local looters, she said: “This is what you get when you have too much government. We should get rid of the ‘war on drugs.’”

“This is just crazy — local police in SWAT attire, with armor and dogs, dealing with a situation that if [violence] gets out of hand should require calling in the National Guard,” said former Republican presidential hopeful-turned-Libertarian nominee Johnson.

Johnson told Newsmax how Libertarians “led the charge from day one against the ‘war on drugs,’ which is directly responsible for the militarization of local police that we are seeing now in Ferguson.”

Beginning in 1971, when Nixon called drug abuse “Public Enemy No. 1,” federal programs devoted to the “prevention of new addicts and the rehabilitation of those who are addicted” have been commonly referred to in the press as “the war on drugs.”

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— Gary Johnson,  
2012 LP Presidential Candidate

With the Drug Alliance estimating that the United States now spends \$51 billion on the “war on drugs,” the overall programs have come to include federal assistance to local police departments for drug enforcement.

“And this is where you get the police in military gear bashing down front doors and inventing situations to make use of the military training they have,” Johnson told Newsmax.

The former two-term Republican governor of New Mexico said President Bill Clinton was “one of the worst transgressors in the drug war.” He recalled how it was alleged possession of drugs in the Waco, Texas, compound of the Branch Davidian movement in 1993 that resulted in the death of 82 Branch Davidians and four Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents.

Johnson said he “hopes to” make another run for president in 2016 as a Libertarian. He said the list of prospective Republican candidates “is not reflective of America” because “so many of them feel they have to take the same line as social conservatives” on issues such as same-sex marriage and abortion.

As for Sen. Rand Paul, the Kentucky Republican who has a strong following among “small-l” libertarians and has joined the criticism of police militarization of “large-l” Libertarians, Johnson said: “He has maybe half of what it takes to be a presidential candidate. He takes some non-libertarian stands on immigration and the right to choose, saying it should be left up to states. I say it’s a constitutional issue that is analogous to the civil rights movement of the 1960s.”

# This guy wants to be your senator

By Sam DeGrave

Excerpted from *IndyWeek* (Durham, NC)

Published on September 24, 2014

It can be hard to take Sean Haugh seriously. He is a Libertarian Party pizza deliveryman running for the U.S. Senate. To him, craft beer is not only an acceptable campaign donation; it is preferred. His campaign apparatus hardly extends beyond his YouTube channel—which has garnered views in the low thousands.

However, as long as the polls continue to show that Haugh (pronounced Haw) has the potential to win a greater percentage of votes than the margin that separates Sen. Kay Hagan from Speaker Thom Tillis, it is equally difficult not to imagine that the Democrats and Republicans don't see the 53-year-old pizza man from Durham as a threat.

The most recent polls by both the left-leaning Public Policy Polling and the conservative Civitas Institute indicate that Haugh may be able to secure enough votes to swing the election. Though the numbers are slightly different in each, the polls show that Haugh has the potential to win 6 or 7 percent of the vote. Compare these results with the polls' respective 5 and 2 percent margins between Hagan and Tillis, and it's clear that Haugh could be a problem for either candidate.

"He started out in a very good position for a Libertarian, getting 11 percent," said Tom Jensen, director of Public Policy Polling, based in Raleigh. "As summer has progressed, we've seen his support cut in half to 5 percent. That's not unusual for a third-party candidate, as it gets closer to the election and voters want to get behind someone who can actually win."

He is faring far better than he did when he ran for the same seat in 2002 and only managed to win 1.45 percent of the vote, according to the Federal Elections Commission. Despite his previous loss, the large percentage point deficit and the small amount of time to overcome it before the election, Haugh remains defiant.

"A lot has changed since the last time I ran," Haugh said. "It's been 12 years, and everybody knows what a Libertarian is now. We haven't changed at all, but we've become more mainstream."

Haugh is running on a platform of "ending all war and corporate welfare."

When the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters organized its first senatorial debate earlier this month, he was not invited. In one of his videos, Haugh jokingly said he wasn't going to watch the debate, calling it a "snoozefest." He said that being snubbed was not surprising.

"They're totally afraid to face me," Haugh said. "Both of

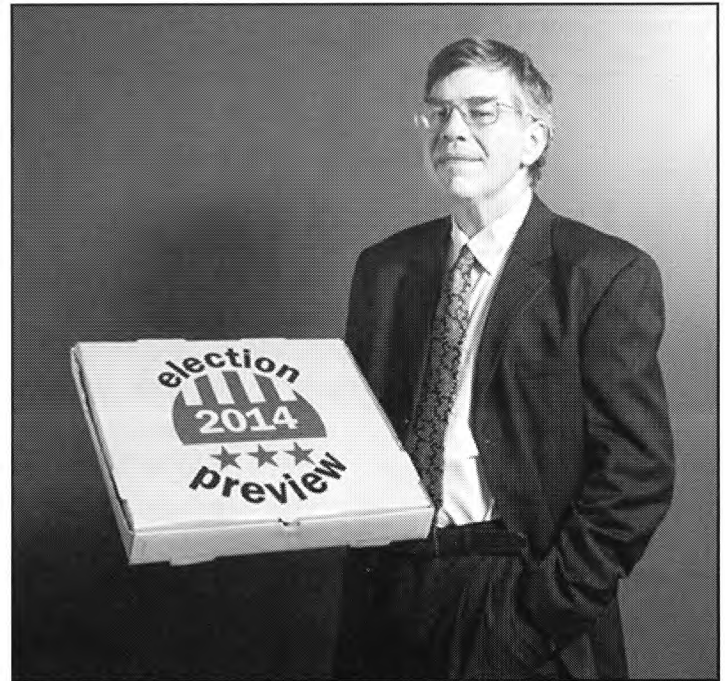


Photo illustration by Justin Cook and JP Trostle, *Indy Week*.

them are pretending I don't exist and hoping that I'll just go away."

He could be right about that. At press time, neither Hagan nor Tillis' campaigns had responded to repeated emails and calls requesting comment on Haugh.

Haugh is slated to participate in two upcoming debates. The first, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, is set for Oct. 9 in Wilmington. The second is scheduled to take place on Oct. 17 in Charlotte. Neither Tillis nor Hagan have confirmed whether they will be attending either debate as of yet.

Originally from Tucson, Arizona, Haugh is the grandson of Republican politician and former Arizona Speaker of the House John Haugh. His parents' political idols were Republican Barry Goldwater and Martin Luther King Jr. Haugh sees himself as a "natural-born Libertarian," but he didn't pursue politics until later in life.

Haugh has been delivering pizza in his 2005 Kia Spectra for a little more than a year now. He said he doesn't believe that the federal government should raise the minimum wage—although he makes slightly above the minimum wage. In fact, he said doesn't believe the government should set a minimum wage at all.

"Politicians are not economists," Haugh said. "We absolutely have to reduce the size of government, so it stops being such a large part of the economy."

"Haugh still has a pretty good chance to break the all-time record for the most support a Libertarian candidate receives in North Carolina," Jensen said.



A national **FOX NEWS** television broadcast covered Libertarian U.S. Senate candidates Nathan LaFrance (AR), Mark Fish (AK), Scot Kohlhaus (AK), Brannon McMorris (LA), Sean Haugh (NC), John Buckley (WV), and Robert Sarvis (VA) in August 2014:

"In just about every hot U.S. Senate race with the potential to determine majority control next year, Libertarian candidates are on the ballot and threatening to skim votes from the GOP." — **Carl Cameron, Fox News Chief Political Correspondent**

"If Republicans fail to take the Senate, one hidden reason is going to be the prevalence of Libertarian and third-party candidates on the ballot." — **Larry Sabato, UVA Center for Politics**

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# Meet Adrian Wyllie, the outlaw Libertarian in Florida's governor's race

The Libertarian Party candidate for governor, Adrian Wyllie, is running in a year when polls show voters are starved for an alternative to Republican Gov. Rick Scott and Charlie Crist, the likely Democratic nominee.

By Steve Bousquet  
Excerpted from the *Miami Herald*  
Published on August 17, 2014

The relaxed crowd of happy hour craft beer drinkers Thursday night seemed totally turned off by politics as usual in Florida — the ideal audience for Adrian Wyllie.

The Libertarian Party candidate for governor, Adrian Wyllie is running in a year when polls show voters are starved for an alternative to Republican Gov. Rick Scott and Charlie Crist, the likely Democratic nominee.

“It’s refreshing to hear that there’s an option out there,” said Alan Wegner, 56, a building engineer and registered independent.

[Wyllie] could earn a spot in upcoming statewide TV debates, which would spread his message to the masses for the first time.

“Something is changing,” Wyllie, 44, told the crowd. “We’re still an underdog, but we have a legitimate shot to win this election.”

In a statewide poll of 1,251 voters by Quinnipiac University last month, Wyllie won support from 9 percent of voters with Crist getting 39 percent and Scott 37 percent, and about half of all voters said they considered neither Crist nor Scott honest and trustworthy. The poll said 92 percent of voters had not heard of Wyllie.

A Palm Harbor resident, Wyllie rejects the notion that he’s just a spoiler, none-of-the-above candidate.

“If you actually want to change government, people have to change the way they vote,” he said. “No vote of conscience is a wasted vote, ever.”

Wyllie (pronounced WY-lee) wants change, all right. He opposes all property taxes for homeowners, in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants, red-light cameras, the federal healthcare law and random drug tests.

Operating a shoestring campaign with about \$50,000 in contributions so far, Wyllie is in the midst of a month-long statewide campaign tour.

“I love him,” said Chris Pack, 35, a Clearwater graphic designer who chatted with Wyllie over their shared interests in playing guitar. “I think he has a better chance than other third-party candidates.”

Wyllie hopes to attract votes from both sides of the



Adrian Wyllie, LP Florida candidate for governor.

spectrum, from liberals who like personal freedom and conservatives who favor less government. He would free in-state businesses from all federal regulations, including occupational safety rules and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

His timing may be good for another reason: Wyllie is running as a champion of personal freedom in the same election when Florida voters will decide whether to legalize medical use of marijuana, a November question that has the potential to attract single-issue voters tired of traditional two-party politics.

Wyllie said ... state spending has grown so much in the past four years. In May, Scott signed a \$77 billion budget, the largest in state history.

If elected, Wyllie says he’ll push for a 100 percent homestead exemption, which means most homeowners would pay no property taxes.

He would cut the state budget by 30 percent — public schools included — and claims there is that much waste in government.

“One of the big disconnects with people is that spending equals quality,” Wyllie said. “It doesn’t.”