

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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The Robert Sarvis Libertarian for Governor of Virginia campaign has received unusually good press. This article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch also ran in the Huffington Post, ranked by the Observer as the most powerful blog in the world, with more than 70 million unique visitors per month.

Robert Sarvis for Virginia governor: Libertarian casts self as alternative for voters

By Markus Schmidt

From the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Published on August 5, 2013

While Republican Ken Cuccinelli and Democrat Terry McAuliffe wrestle with their own controversies, Libertarian nominee Robert C. Sarvis has cast himself as a viable alternative for voters frustrated with the two major party candidates for governor.

Sarvis, 36, who is campaigning full time, is a former software engineer, teacher, lawyer and new media entrepreneur from Northern Virginia. He is the first gubernatorial candidate for the Libertarian Party of Virginia since 2001.

"I'm trying to carve out my own message that is really attractive in an election where people don't like the extremism of the Democrats and Republicans," Sarvis said. "There are a lot of voters out there -- 40 percent -- that are saying they want a different candidate than the other two," he said.

Independent or third-party candidates traditionally stand little chance of winning statewide elections in Virginia. But Sarvis hopes this year is different.

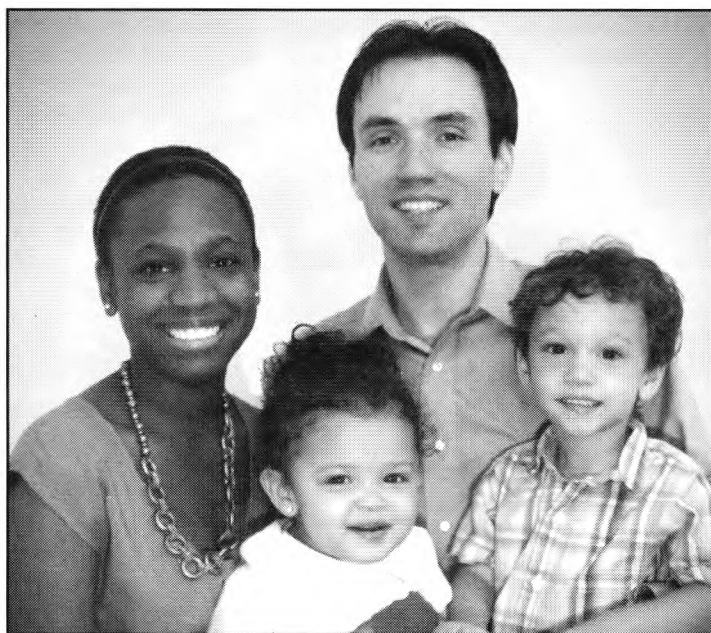
Democrats are hammering Cuccinelli for accepting \$18,000 in gifts from Star Scientific CEO Jonnie Williams, the figure at the center of the scandal that is engulfing the last year of Gov. Bob McDonnell's term, as well as the attorney general's stances on social issues.

Republicans are pummeling McAuliffe, founder of GreenTech Automotive. The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating how the Mississippi electric car company used an immigrant visa program in seeking investors.

"It's indisputable that this is a year when many thousands want an alternative to the two major-party candidates," said Larry Sabato, head of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. "Any analyst hears this constantly from Virginia voters who are dissatisfied with the choices."

Sarvis is a former Republican who first threw his hat into the political arena two years ago, as the GOP candidate against Richard L. Saslaw, Democratic leader in the Virginia Senate. Sarvis lost with 37 percent of the vote.

The Fairfax County native has since turned his back on the GOP and joined the Libertarian Party.



"I realized that the Republican Party, at least in Virginia, in the current era, is not a good vehicle for liberty candidates," Sarvis said. "Republicans are very strident on personal issues. When they talk about liberty, they don't mean any personal issues, there is very little respect for personal autonomy," he said.

"And on economic issues, it's almost like they don't believe in what they talk about. They talk about limited government, but they are just as bad as the other party at cronyism, raising taxes and growing government," Sarvis said.

Sarvis was exposed to politics at an early age. His mother, who is Chinese, was an English teacher and real estate agent turned stay-at-home mom to raise her kids. His father was an engineer.

"We were a fairly politically knowledgeable family, but we were not active campaigners. We all knew who our representatives and senators were," Sarvis said. "We leaned toward Republican, but we weren't invested in any of the social issues, which weren't really as big as they are now. We mostly cared about economic issues."

In college Sarvis first flirted with libertarianism. "I realized that the freedom of being on your own is also a responsibility; the two

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Libertarian Party in the News

Libertarian Jake Porter will run for Iowa secretary of state

By William Petroski

From the *Des Moines Register*

Published on July 29, 2013

Jake Porter, a Libertarian Party candidate from Council Bluffs, says he plans to run for Iowa Secretary of State in the 2014 election.

Porter, 25, was the 2010 Libertarian nominee for secretary of state. He received 33,854 votes in the general election, which he says covered the margin of Republican Matt Schultz's victory over Democrat Michael Mauro.

Porter said in a statement that he has own political positions, but he questions the heavy ties to partisan politics of Republican and Democratic candidates for the office.

"As secretary of state, I would not endorse any political candidate like Matt Schultz did when he supported Rick Santorum for president. Additionally, I do not have ties to one of the two major political parties like Brad Anderson does. Unlike Anderson, I have never advised or worked for John Edwards or President Obama. We need someone who is independent of the two major political parties to act as a referee and that is the type



Jake Porter
LP Iowa candidate
for secretary of state

of candidate I am." Porter said.

Porter earned a bachelors degree in business administration from AIB College of Business in Des Moines. After college, he moved to Nebraska and worked as a retail store manager. He now lives in Council Bluffs and handles customer care issues for a large Internet corporation in Omaha. He has also managed and advised several political campaigns.

Porter said his experience makes his a perfect fit for the secretary of state's job.

"The secretary of state primarily deals with business and elections which are two areas I know first-hand. Additionally, my management experience allows me to effectively and efficiently manage the secretary of state's office," he said.

Porter said he wants to keep the office independent and transparent, and to make starting a business in Iowa easier. His said his highest priority is maintaining safe and secure elections without disenfranchising the voters of Iowa.

Porter said he has already assembled a campaign organization and he plans to use radio, television, newspaper, and Internet advertising to gain name recognition among Iowa voters.

Tresa McAlhaney, Libertarian, declares candidacy for governor

By Nick Sloan

From the *Gardner EDGE*

Published on July 31, 2013

A Bonner Springs, Kan., woman will be running for the Libertarian Party's nomination for governor in the 2014 election.

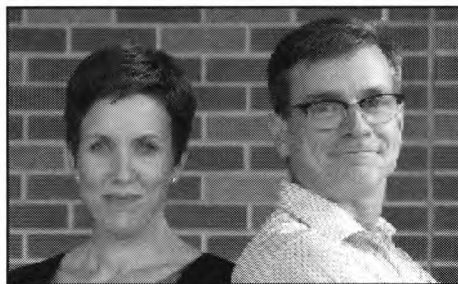
Tresa McAlhaney declared her intent to run yesterday and has filed to run in next year's governor's race.

"I am running to give the people of Kansas a choice of ideas and not to just vote for the lesser of two evils," McAlhaney said in an interview with *The Gardner Edge*.

Born in Topeka, Kan., McAlhaney doesn't have too much political experience, but has worked in numerous fields, including management, retail sales, substitute teacher and restaurant manager. She's currently the Wyandotte County Chair for the Libertarian Party of Kansas.

Two common themes of her campaign: Spreading the message of liberty and simplifying government.

On education, McAlhaney believes the discussion needs to include as many



Tresa McAlhaney and Grant Nelson
LP Kansas candidates for governor
and lieutenant governor

people as possible.

"The current education policy in Kansas is too restrictive," she said. "We want to go straight to the teachers. We're not getting a return on investment and we'll cut out some red-tape."

On current Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's tax plan, McAlhaney said lower taxes are needed — but also added that too many restrictions are still placed on small businesses.

She said her administration would make it easier to start a business in Kansas.

"There's too much paperwork in starting a business in Kansas," she said. "If it takes a lawyer to start a business, it's too hard."

While a Libertarian, she believes her campaign of "fiscal responsibility and social tolerance" can appeal to moderate Republicans and moderate Democrats.

"We are declaring our candidacy to call for other moderates to join with us," she said.

And while she may not have elected experience, she believes that serves her as an advantage.

"We've been living in the real world," she said. "And everyone in Topeka is a career politician."

Grant Nelson is seeking the nomination for lieutenant governor. He currently serves as Chairman of the Johnson County Libertarian Party.

Here is more about McAlhaney's background:

Tresa McAlhaney is a lifelong Kansan, born in Topeka, currently living in Bonner Springs. She is the mother of four young children and got into politics while on the path of "being the change" she wanted to see in the world. She is passionate about preserving Kansas farming lands and heritage, keeping farmers in secure and profitable business. She is confident

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Open carry supporters celebrate in Lenexa

By Lisa Benson

From *KSHB 41 TV Action News*

Published on July 12, 2013

Supporters of open carry in Kansas held a picnic Sunday celebrating their ability to openly carry guns in parts of Johnson County.

“This is a celebration picnic,” said Michael Kerner, of the Libertarian Party of Kansas. “We can now open carry in Lenexa.”

The Libertarian Party of Kansas threatened to sue Kansas cities for the right to open carry. Both Lenexa and Overland Park have changed their laws. Now, the organization is focused on Prairie Village, Kansas City, Kan., and Leawood.

“Either they’re going to change their mind, or a judge is going to change it for them,” Kerner said. “The law is on our side. It doesn’t give them a choice.”

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Raymond F. Agnew | Travis Johnson |
| Justin Ash | Arthur Klaeson |
| Jacob Ashmore | T. M. Kluz |
| Ron Bailey | Sean Lundy |
| Deanna Bell | Libby Madar |
| Robert C. Benedict | John Madden |
| Joschua Beres | Donald Maliniak |
| Jeff Berg | Shea H. Mastison |
| Thomas Birrer | Franchesica Middleton |
| Mark J. Blackwelder | David W. Moore |
| Mick Blankenship | Dan Myers |
| Paul Boeschoten | Andrew Peterson |
| Benjamin Breece | John Poitras |
| Curtis R. Bridges | Mario G. Pruccoli |
| Patric R. Brock | Joshua Resendez |
| Linda C. Cain | Brian Schnack |
| Michael J. Carey | Jerry T. Searcy |
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| Joan Crishal | Leon C. Sperry |
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| Bart J. Geraci | Sandy Weir |
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Robert Sarvis for Virginia governor

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go hand in hand,” he said. “And you can’t really understand how the world works without an understanding of economics. You see how a lot of government action has unintended consequences and makes a lot of social ills worse.”

Sarvis earned degrees in mathematics from Harvard University and the University of Cambridge. He also has a law degree from New York University, and a master’s in economics from George Mason University.

In the following years, he briefly ran a small business in San Francisco developing mobile applications, worked as a lawyer, software engineer and math teacher.

“He’s one of the smartest guys I’ve ever known, he’s certainly very talented,” said Michael Park, a New York attorney and close friend who has known Sarvis since elementary school.

“I’m more a traditional conservative and back in school, we tended to be more on the same page politically. I guess with his Senate run he was testing out waters, but I didn’t know he’d aim this high,” Park said.

Sarvis said that it wasn’t until late March that he decided to run for Virginia’s highest office as a Libertarian.

“I saw the way the race was shaping up between Cuccinelli and McAuliffe and how that was just a very bad choice for Virginia voters. In the back of my mind, I thought it would be really nice to have another candidate,” he said.

Sarvis secured his party’s nomination April 21 at a state convention in Waynesboro.

“Like many voters, we didn’t like either of the mainstream candidates,” said Chuck Moulton, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. “So we saw the opportunity to give voters a different choice.”

Moulton said that his party did not run a candidate in 2005 and 2009 because of the “very complex and expensive” ballot access requirements for third parties.

Sarvis impressed the party leadership because of his background as a lawyer and entrepreneur, Moulton said. “For Libertarians, economics is a big part of our governing philosophy,” he said.

In two months of campaigning, Sarvis has focused consistently on reducing government, with proposals to end the income tax, implement school choice, legalize marijuana, reform asset forfeiture laws and fight for marriage equality.

His marriage to his wife, Astrid -- who is black and with whom he has two small children -- has helped him sympathize with the gay community’s struggle for marriage equality, Sarvis said.

“It personalizes the issue to think that my marriage was once illegal in this state,” Sarvis said, referring to Virginia law before the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Loving v. Virginia*, which made it legal for couples of different races to marry.

Sarvis’ wife is a pediatrician from Mississippi.

Same-sex marriage is illegal in the commonwealth, and in

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2006, voters backed an amendment to the state constitution that defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

“I have a lot of gay friends, some of them were married in other states, and some of them have children together. Why wouldn’t you make marriage stronger by including more people who are a credit to the institution?” he said.

His vow to end Virginia’s constitutional ban of gay marriage is just one message that Sarvis takes with him as he travels through the commonwealth.

“When I talk to people, and I tell them I’m running for governor and they ask if I’m a Republican or Democrat, and I tell them neither. As soon as I say that, their eyes light up,” he said of his travels.

A July poll by left-leaning Public Policy Polling had Sarvis at 7 percent, trailing Cuccinelli (37 percent) and McAuliffe (41 percent.)

Cuccinelli has raised nearly \$7 million; McAuliffe more than \$12 million. Sarvis has raised \$39,000, all from private donors, since his campaign launch.

“We have been able to raise what we have needed so far,” Sarvis said. “It’s very organic and it kind of builds on itself. I think we are gaining a lot of momentum.”

Moulton has few illusions.

“If we don’t win this year, it’s not the end of the world, even though we are fairly confident that Robert will do much better than the 2001 candidate,” he said. “It’s about having a more visible presence and moving the football down the field.”

Sarvis said that a defeat on Nov. 5 wouldn’t end his political ambitions.

“My main goal is to continue serving the people of Virginia, regardless of the outcome,” he said. “I’ve always been interested in making sure that we have good public policy and I am focusing on issues that Virginians want to see changes in. That’s where my passion is.”

McAlheny for KS governor

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that there is interest and support for fresh political representation and hopes to lead a revolution toward fairness and sustainability.

Here is more about Nelson’s:

Grant is fifty-two years old and has been actively involved in third-party politics for many years. His final college paper was a treatise on third parties and their efficacy in a traditional two-party system. Since then, Grant has consistently voted Libertarian and believes that the

Libertarian platform is the most common sense approach to government since the writing of the United States Constitution. For the past year, he has worked as the Chairman for the Libertarian Party of Johnson County and is an active participant and observer at Prairie Village City Council meetings.