

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

## NEWSLETTER

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## Gary Johnson could make debates, be major factor in race

by Dick Morris

Excerpted from *Newsmax*

Published on Aug. 3, 2016

To qualify for inclusion in the fall presidential debates, a candidate needs at least 15 percent in the national polls.

Libertarian Gary Johnson is now at 7.4 percent in the *RealClearPolitics.com* average of recent polls, up from 4.5 percent June 13.

As popular discontent with both of the major party candidates spreads, the chances that Johnson will reach the threshold obviously increase.

Johnson can raise money. To date, he has amassed \$1.4 million and has just under half a million on hand. His biggest donor is GTCR LLC, a private equity and venture capital fund that has donated \$10,000. Its principals are David A. Donnini and Philip A. Canfield.

But because the intensity of support for Trump is higher

than it is for Clinton, Johnson—over time—would likely draw more from the Democrats than from the Republicans.

Johnson's Libertarian platform would seem to coincide with Hillary's on social issues. He calls himself "fiscally conservative and socially liberal" and says "we don't care what you are socially as long as you don't force it on others." But he moves into Trump territory when he condemns "military interventions" that he says "have led to things being made worse, not better."

But issues will have little to do with his impact. The more personal the attacks on Trump and Hillary become, the more attractive Johnson will loom as an alternative. And, as a blank slate, he may escape major negatives himself.

It's too early to predict what the Johnson effect might be, but it is not too soon to notice his rise in the polls and to speculate that he might make it into the debates and become a key factor in the race. •

## For conservative millennials, Libertarian candidate offers alternative to Trump

by Nathaniel Haas

Excerpted from the *Sacramento Bee*

Published on July 28, 2016

Many of my closest 20-something friends back home in Reno view Hillary Clinton about as favorably as a retired couple views a youngster traipsing through their backyard trying to catch Pokémon on an iPhone.

Reno has been represented by a Republican congressman ever since Nevada's 2nd Congressional District was carved out in 1983. The state has had a Republican governor since 1999. Suffice it to say, many of my friends make up a solidly red district.

A small island in a sea of red, I'm a 22-year-old liberal millennial who has supported Clinton from the beginning of her campaign. While my friends and I disagree on our views of Clinton, there is one candidate on whom we share common ground: Republican Donald Trump must be denied the presidency of the United States.

Trump is a bigoted, impulsive, conspiratorial demagogue

who has turned off my most conservative peers. And while I never thought I'd agree with anything Sen. Ted Cruz said, I was struck by his bold pronouncement at the Republican National Convention when he told the crowd: "Vote your conscience."

Instead of trying to persuade disaffected conservative millennials to vote for the former secretary of state—an exercise in futility—maybe there's a way to channel their dislike of Clinton with the #NeverTrump movement. Enter Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate for president.

Johnson is the former Republican governor of New Mexico, where he served two terms. His running mate, Bill Weld, is a former Republican two-term governor of Massachusetts. Johnson is pro-choice, sharply critical of Trump's harsh tone on immigration, supports marijuana legalization and gay marriage, and has decried "crony capitalism." But he's sharply conservative when it comes to the government's role in the economy, which is where he loses me but lines up nicely with my conservative counterparts.

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## Oklahoma Libertarians prepare for first general election as a recognized party

by Brian Hardzinski

Excerpted from KGOU (an affiliate of NPR)

Published on August 1, 2016

Fifteen Libertarian candidates for state legislative and congressional races will join the party's presidential nominee, Gary Johnson, on the November ballot.

Oklahoma officially recognized the Libertarian Party in March, which allowed members and candidates to register as members and candidates for the first time, *The Oklahoman's* Nuria Martinez-Keel reports:

*Ron Phillips, the state party treasurer, said having Libertarians on the ballot has spurred phenomenal growth in the party. The progress is "night and day" compared to when he first got involved in the party two years ago, he said.*

"It was just a handful of people that shared the same ideals and had a vision of growing, and within a matter of one year with ballot access, the number of Libertarians (who) supported so many views that we've had has grown tremendously," Phillips said.

In order for the party to keep its status, Johnson will have to receive at least 2.5 percent of the popular vote in Oklahoma on November 8.

Party spokesman Dax Ewbank says it's hard to tell how many past candidates identified as Libertarians because they couldn't run as that party's nominee:

*After the state gave official recognition, party leaders contacted as many members as possible to encourage Libertarians to run for office. He said more Libertarian candidates decided to run because of the opportunity of ballot access.*

*Now, the party is focused on helping Libertarian campaigns and supporting Johnson in the presidential race.*

"It really has been able to give us something to rally around and something to work towards with the presidential campaigns and all the different races that we now have to work with," Ewbank said. "It's given us just a clearer focus as a party, and doing so, of course, that helps other people recognize us as something that's legitimate and serious and a group that will have a real impact on the elections in November."

After the March 21 recognition, voters only had ten days to change their registration to Libertarian, if they wanted to vote in this summer's statewide primary. State law prohibits voters from changing their affiliation between April 1 and August 31 during even-numbered years, which is when both the presidential election and Oklahoma's gubernatorial contest are held:

*Ewbank said 806 people changed their registration in time to vote in the June primary elections.*

The Libertarian Party conducted an analysis of the votes compared to the locations of party registrants. It estimates that about 799 of those who registered voted in the primary for the U.S. senate.

The total voter turnout for the primary election was 2,616, according to state election board results.

The Libertarian election was open to independent voters, as well. •

### New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

David Altenderfer	Tom J. Laurent
Jacob Ashmore	Sally Lawes
Stephanie Auditore	Andrew LeCureaux
Robby Aultman	Wendy Leibel
John Bamberger	Wayne Michael Loffin
Scott Barton	Eden Lovejoy
Andrew Basney	Libby Madar
Robert Beauchea	Michael McFalls
John Beck	Kelly Mead
Scott P. Berk	Jonathan Miller
George Berry	Matthew Moreau
Charles Bickenheuser	Lawrence Moss
Stuart R. Block	Chris Nease
Diane Bostow	Howard Nenno
Robert Bridges	Elizabeth Notaro
Edward Caro-Lopez	Mark Oldenburg
Leon Carson	Michael Orta
Tyler Choate	Justin Parmley
Charles Coleman	Scott Patterson
Jason Condon	Travis Pearson
Chris Cramer	Pablo Pereira
Christopher Delgado	Jeffrey Pittel
Mike DelPonte	Zachary Powell
D. Allen Donahue	Patrick Prebo
David Dube	Jeffrey Puffenberger
Jed Dupree	Matthew Pyhtila
Erik Duthie	Cristian Radaneata
Holly Feagin	William Redpath
Mary Fickes	James Rollins
Melanie Folstad	Jeffrey Schachter
Rodney Ford	Charles Schaeffer
Matthew Frisch	Bennett Seacrist
Michael Frost	Mark W. Seamans
Alfred Garcia	Charles Senrick
Adam C. Glass	Allen Smith
Randall Gleason	Mary Ellen Smith
Bernard Gracy	Stuart Smith
Randall Grant	William Spears
William Grisham	Cody Strickland
Henry Hahn	Derek Struss
Travis Halvorson	David Sturgeon
Gordon Harrod	Edward Sudduth
Rusty Hart	Thomas Testi
Brian Helfrich	Casey Thomaston
David Issa	Shawn Thornton
Jordan Jelinek	Matthew H. Trent
Joseph Jensen	Martin Vasquez
Dane Jenson	Sheila Vinson
Erich Johnson	Jennifer Ward
J. Shayne Jones	Thomas Watts
John B. Jones	Dan Waylonis
Michael Jones	John D. Williams
John Kepner	Maclain Wiltzer
Joshua King	David Wold
Kaden Kirtley	Beth J. Woodell
Jon Kueny	Lynn Worley
Rebecca Kurk	Dylan Yeager
Casey Lang	Aaron Yeargan

# Jeb Bush replies to teen's appeal to endorse Johnson

Libertarian Aryanna Islam of West Virginia shared with *Liberty Pledge* her latest correspondence with former governor Jeb Bush of Florida. In her handwritten letter, the high-school junior entreated Gov. Bush—who had endorsed Sen. Ted Cruz for the 2016 Republican nomination following his own withdrawal from that race—to endorse Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson for president. Her letter elicited a response from the former presidential candidate. Here is their exchange.

## Aryanna's letter

7-15-16

*The Honorable Jeb Bush:*

*My name is Aryanna Islam. I have wrote to you before, but this time my goal is to convince you to endorse Gov. Gary Johnson for President. Both Mr. Johnson and his running mate Gov. William Weld have a proven record of conservative fiscal policy. Mr. Johnson cut taxes fourteen times while Governor of New Mexico. Mr. Weld cut taxes twenty-one times in his first term. The Libertarian Party is all about peace, prosperity, and freedom. Freedom is something conservatives value along with small government. Libertarians are fiscally conservative and socially liberal. They just want government to be small and not interfere with daily life, which is a value I know you hold. They like freedom for the individual so long as you don't bother anyone else. I think that you could get on board with that. I know that neither Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton has your vote (I can't blame you) so your voice carries a lot of weight. Mr. Johnson needs to get to fifteen percent in the poll to debate and you could help. Considering the Johnson/Weld ticket is on the ballot in all fifty states, getting to debate could seal the deal. Seeing an Independent in a Presidential debate would restore a lot of faith in our political system. Seeing more than two options would revitalize what America is about. In my sixteen years of living I have ever seen a chance like this. Please consider the endorsement. Thank you!*

*Sincerely,  
Aryanna Islam*

## Gov. Jeb Bush's response

7-24-16  
JEB BUSH  
*Dear Aryanna:  
Thank you for your letter in support of Gary Johnson. He is a good man. I'll watch his campaign play out over the next few months.*

*Thanks for writing!  
Sincerely,  
Jeb Bush*

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

- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

I would like to increase my monthly pledge to this level:

- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$30
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (minimum \$10)

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party**.)

Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx  Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax-deductible.*

# Libertarian VP nominee Weld: Trump is a showman

by Cristiano Lima

Excerpted from *Politico*

Published on Aug. 3, 2016

Donald Trump is a “huckster,” according to Libertarian Party vice-presidential nominee William Weld.

Making the case for their third-party candidacy at a CNN town hall Wednesday night [Aug. 3], Gary Johnson and Weld, [the] Libertarian presidential and vice-presidential nominees, respectively, panned the polarization they say has consumed the 2016 campaign, saying either major party’s nominee would only result in continued political stagnation.

“If either Trump or [Hillary] Clinton are elected, things will be more polarized than ever,” said Johnson, a former New Mexico governor and [former] member of the Republican Party.

“I think it might be refreshing to have a party that was not terribly partisan holding the White House. And we would hire the best people from the Democratic Party that we could find. The smartest people from the Republican Party that we could find. The best people of the Libertarian Party,” Weld said.

Weld, a former Massachusetts governor who previously took particularly sharp aim at Trump by labeling him a “huckster,” took the critique a step further Wednesday.

“I think he is a showman, a piper, the ‘music man,’” he said, mocking the former reality star’s style. “More recently, it has gotten more serious....”

Johnson, who has been polling around ten percent when pitted in a general-election matchup against Clinton and Trump, also addressed concerns among Republicans and

Democrats, alike, that a vote for [an alternative-party] candidate is a “wasted vote.”

“A wasted vote is voting for someone you don’t believe in,” Johnson said.

“We have no problem with people casting a wasted vote. If we get in the debates, we’ll win this whole thing,” Weld said. “If you want to waste your vote on Trump or Clinton, be our guest.”

Asked about how they intended to appeal to wayward Republicans who have opted to back Clinton over Trump, the two Libertarian candidates boasted about their conservative credentials.

“[We’re] two former Republican governors that got elected in heavily Democrat states; I think that speaks volumes,” said Johnson, citing their fiscal conservatism as their selling point to Republicans.

“We were two of the most fiscally responsible, *i.e.*, conservative, governors in the United States,” Weld added.

The [candidates] also unveiled a “unique” proposal for their ticket: a presidential “partnership” if elected, including joint staffs. Pressed on how such an approach would work, by CNN host Anderson Cooper, the duo listed the ways in which a truly joint ticket would benefit the presidency, while touting their longstanding relationship.

“How does it work: Not having separate staffs, not being divided? But really two heads for the price of one,” Johnson said.

“It helps that we’ve known each for 20 years and sort of chose each other a long time ago to be friends, and then again more recently,” said Weld. •

## Libertarian an alternative for millennials

*continued from page 1*

The case for pitching Johnson to conservative young people seems clear: Millennials are much more liberal on social issues than [are] others in the Republican Party. In that respect, Johnson is a vastly more attractive candidate than Trump, who floated the idea of punishing women who have abortions, as the Republican Party adopted what Log Cabin Republicans have called “the most anti-LGBT platform in the party’s 162-year history.”

Trump and the Republican platform on social issues are out of touch, especially with millennials who are more libertarian than they are conservative, even if they don’t always identify that way. The #NeverTrump movement should not end with the GOP’s nomination of the New York billionaire, because the reasons to keep him out of the White House are felt by many conservative millennials who are the future of the Republican Party.

Most resistance to voting for Johnson among young conservatives is born out of a feeling that he is largely irrelevant. In the 2012 presidential election, he captured less than one

percent of the vote. But even in that grim outcome, one can begin to build the case that a vote for Johnson matters. He received the most votes by a third candidate in a presidential election since 2000. He also received more votes than any candidate in the history of the Libertarian Party.

Johnson now polls between 5 and 12 percent. If he achieves 15 percent, he’ll be eligible to participate in [the Commission on Presidential Debates’] presidential debates. Like most [alternative] candidates, his biggest challenge is name recognition.

Voting for Johnson wouldn’t be an exercise in feel-good politics. It could really matter, especially for young Republicans horrified by the direction Trump has taken their party.

A vote for Johnson is a vote for conservative values, more in tune with young folks. Johnson’s vision of the conservative movement could easily go toe-to-toe with Trump’s vision, especially in a presidential debate.

Johnson also offers millennial conservatives a way to vote their conscience without supporting Trump. And it’s an opportunity for young Republicans to shape the party they would like to grow up with. •