

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

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www.LP.org February 2012

Libertarian Solutions: A New Focus for Candidates

By Carla Howell, LP Executive Director

What sets Libertarian candidates apart from their Democratic and Republican opponents? The answers are Libertarian Solutions: specific proposals to advance our libertarian agenda.

Libertarian Solutions appeal to *everyday voters* – a majority of whom *want less government* than we have today. Yet they are ones that the vast majority of Republicans and Democrats *would not dare support* because they actually *shrink* Big Government.

We will be featuring Libertarian Solutions on our website in video and text formats. We will be soliciting material from LP members. Here are the guidelines we will use to ensure that our solutions appeal to voters and are ones that our candidates can use on the campaign trail:

1. Is this a Libertarian Solution for state, federal or local government? If it involves more than one level, pick one and focus your proposal on action that can be taken at that level of government.

2. What is government currently doing wrong in this area that your Libertarian Solution will correct? For example, “Government run medical care causes draconian high prices and rationing of health services.” Quantify the damage when possible. For example, “Overpayment for government employee and government contractor benefits in our district is costing the average taxpayer \$2,500 every year.”

3. What could a candidate running for office at the level of government you specified do, if elected, to remove or reduce this problem? What specific actions could he or she take? For example,

sponsor a bill, co-sponsor a bill, work to pass, vote for, issue an executive order, sign into law. If you are proposing legislation, what specifically would that bill do? Use specific action words like repeal, reduce, remove, divest, dismantle, etc. Brainstorm different ideas.

4. For each of these ideas, estimate what percentage of the voters in a district would directly and immediately benefit if this measure were implemented. For example, a residential property tax cut may directly benefit 60% of the voters who are homeowners. (Another 20% who rent would benefit indirectly when those savings are passed down in the form of lower rent.) In contrast, a bill to restrict eminent domain may directly benefit less than .1% of voters in a district.

5. Which of these ideas is the simplest and easiest to explain, shrinks Big Government the most, and provides sizable benefits to the largest possible percentage of the voters in the district?

6. Spell out ways that these voters would directly benefit - from *their* perspective. How would their lives be better? Be as specific as possible. Quantify wherever possible.

Examples of Libertarian Solutions

Local Solution: Cut Property Taxes 25%

“Senior citizens on fixed incomes and low- and middle-income families in our town are being squeezed by high property taxes. They can’t afford to live here - and they can’t afford to sell their homes in this depressed housing market.”

“If elected, I will sponsor a bill to cut all residential property taxes by 25% my first year in office and cut \$4.9 million in waste and pork from the budget. Not a single needed government service will be affected.

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Libertarian Party in the News

From: Orlando Sentinel

February 11, 2012

By Stephen Hudak

'More freedom, less government': Libertarian candidates for president debate in Orlando



Libertarian candidates, from left: R.J. Harris, Gary Johnson, R. Lee Wrights, Leroy Saunders, Bill Still, and Carl Person are pictured during the Libertarian Party presidential candidate debate at the Embassy Suites in Orlando on Saturday, February 11, 2012. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel)

With little fanfare Saturday in Orlando, six candidates vying to be the presidential nominee of the Libertarian Party — a growing third party advocating "more freedom, less government" — championed ideas that would make most politicians quake.

Legalize drugs. Abolish the tax system. Slash the defense budget. Overhaul Medicaid.

The two-hour Libertarian Party presidential debate, staged in a meeting room of a hotel near Orlando International Airport and broadcast only on the Internet, capped the party's state convention, where attendees were asked to choose their preferred nominee in a straw poll.

In sharp contrast with the bickering wave of Republican presidential candidates who recently politicked through Florida, the Libertarian candidates on the dais ran no attack ads and linked arms on nearly all issues.

A modest audience of about 60 people applauded all of the candidates at least once.

The party's strategy seemed clear even in the hotel lobby, where guests could pick up a Libertarian National Committee door hanger that asked, "Have the Republicans and Democrats let you down?" It insisted, "Liberals tend to value personal freedom. Conservatives tend to value economic freedom. Libertarians value both."

Gary Johnson, 59, who withdrew from the GOP race last month, said he found common ground with tea party conservatives — "Let's slash spending" — and with those in the "Occupy Wall Street" movement who were outraged over corporate bailouts.

He expressed optimism that, although the nation is floundering, "We can fix it."

Johnson's participation in the debates may serve to boost the party's profile.

"Naturally someone who already has a certain amount of media appeal is going to be appealing to the delegates," said **Lee Wrights**, 53, a lifelong member of the Libertarian Party and a rival presidential candidate who has made ending "all war" a key plank of his platform. "Gary Johnson is doing a good thing. But we still need to be Libertarians, stay on message, stay on point ... because people are sick and tired of what they've been getting."

The other candidates are **Bill Still**, 64, an author and filmmaker; **Carl Person**, 75, a New York attorney who previously ran for Attorney General in New York; and **R.J. Harris**, 39, a native American from Oklahoma and a career Army National Guard officer.

Johnson was named as the preferred nominee on 42 of the 60 ballots cast in the straw poll. Still was named as the top candidate on seven ballots to finish second.

The party will select its presidential nominee in May at a national convention in Las Vegas.

Candidates listed at LP.org as of 2/15/12:

Jim Burns
Roger Gary
R. J. Harris
Gary Johnson

Carl Person
Bill Still
Lee Wrights

The above candidates have met the following criteria as presidential candidates for the Libertarian Party nomination:

- Seeking the nomination of the Libertarian Party exclusively
- Dues-paying member of the National Libertarian Party
- Campaign website is current with contact information
- Obtained the approval of at least five members of the 18-member Libertarian National Committee.

Disclaimer: The Libertarian Party does not necessarily endorse or agree with the candidates or the contents of their web pages listed above.

Libertarian Solutions

Local Solution: Cut Property Taxes 25%

(continued from page 1)

...Over 4,500 families in our town will see their property tax go down an average of \$1,225 every year. This saves families on the brink of foreclosure from losing their homes and will put more money back into family budgets that you can use to pay your bills, make repairs to your home, or save for your retirement.”

State Solution: Repeal Prohibition on Treating Cancer, AIDS and other Disease with Marijuana

“More than 9,000 people in our state are currently suffering from the painful and debilitating effects of cancer, AIDS, glaucoma, migraines and other diseases which can be effectively and safely treated with marijuana.

“We must immediately end this unnecessary and inhumane suffering. As governor, I will immediately propose, work to advance, and sign into law a bill to end the prohibition on medical marijuana. If any federal regulators subsequently try to violate our 10th Amendment right and arrest non-violent users of medical marijuana in our state, I will tell them they are not welcome to do business here and deny them use of our jails and prisons. They will get no cooperation from us.”

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Adam Almog | John B. Jones |
| Luke Q. Anderson | Matthew E. Jones |
| Luba Angel | Kyle B. Jordan |
| Thomas P. Auerbach | Miles Joseph |
| Robby Aultman | John R. Kuhn |
| Arthur C. Barker | Timothy J. Kummer |
| Charles B. Bell | Jacques R. Lachance |
| Eugene C. Bell | Fred E. Landerman |
| Robert C. Benedict | Daniel J. Law |
| Ryan Bilikam | Toni Lincoln |
| Rick Bond | John Madden |
| George T. Braun | Robert J. McDonell |
| David E. Burch | Randy McGee |
| Bryant Callaghan | Stephen C. Molnar |
| Michael P. Casey | Andre Myrick |
| Alicia G. Clark | Richard K. Nongard |
| James A. Clements | Ronnie O'Dell |
| Michael C. Colley | William Overstreet |
| Ryan C. Conley | Austin Page |
| Roger J. Cooper | Chuck K. Patel |
| Michael R. Corliss | Harold B. Peterson |
| Rhoda Crawford | Pamela P. Potter |
| J.D. Crownover | Chris Presti |
| Steven J. Damerell | Ed Rankin |
| Michael De Mello | Dante Salazar |
| Glen A. DeShaw | Guy Schwartz |
| Ken D. Eggleston | Robban A. Sica |
| Jeremy Fay | Todd R. Singer |
| Ruth E. Ferris | Julie K. Smith |
| Joseph N. File | Tamisha Smith |
| Perry Forstrom | William J. Smith |
| Stephanie H. Gatewood | Christopher P. Stonebraker |
| Randall Grant | Clifford Thompson |
| William F. Greene | Jeremy Thompson |
| Bruce M. Guthrie | Kristina L. Webb |
| Susan J. Hartman | Aaron Welsh |
| Donald C. Hildebrandt | Anthony N. Werley |
| Ed Hiserodt | David Wheeler |
| John A. Holmes | Aaron L. Wieland |
| Barbara J. Howe | David A. Wiester |
| Larry D. Hutchison | Brandon Wirick |
| Linda J. Janca-Braatz | Robert Yarbrough |

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

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

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Home Phone: _____

Name on card: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

Signature: _____

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.

2012 Libertarian Party Nominating Convention Speakers

Sharon Harris

Sharon Harris is President of Advocates for Self-Government, a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1985 which specializes in libertarian communication and outreach.



She was one of the three finalists for the National LP's 2000 Thomas Paine Award for Outstanding Libertarian Communicator.

In 1994, Sharon Harris was the Georgia LP's candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, receiving 23% statewide and 34% in 3 metro-Atlanta counties -- a total of over 300,000 votes in a two-way race against Georgia's most entrenched incumbent. This was the most votes ever received by a Libertarian candidate in Georgia, the most votes received by any third-party candidate in the state last century, and among the best results ever for any state-wide LP candidate nationwide.

Ms. Harris has been active in the libertarian movement since the early 70s. In 1972, she was a founding member of the Libertarian Party of Georgia (LPGA) and cast one of a handful of Georgia write-in votes for 1972 Libertarian Party presidential candidate John Hospers. She served the LPGA in many capacities, including being a member of the Executive Committee, editor of the Georgia Libertarian, meetings chair, convention coordinator, Cobb County LP co-founder and chair, and delegate to national conventions.

In 1988, Ms. Harris was Campaign Manager for the LPGA's three Public Service Commission candidates -- an historic campaign that won state-wide ballot status for the party. In 1990, she served as an aide and consultant for the party's gubernatorial campaign.

In 1994, Sharon Harris was one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the state of Georgia which challenged the Constitutionality of Georgia's law which required candidates for office to take a drug test. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Georgia libertarian attorney Walker Chandler won the case, thus overthrowing the law.

As Advocates President, Ms. Harris is publisher of The Libertarian Communicator magazine and of the world's largest libertarian email newsletter, The Liberator Online, with over 40,000 readers in 100+ countries.

Michael Cloud will deliver Keynote Speech

Michael Cloud is President and Co-founder of the Center For Small Government. He also co-founded the Massachusetts End the Income Tax ballot initiatives with Carla Howell, serving as spokesperson, primary fund-raiser and Communications Director.



In 2002, Michael Cloud ran for US Senate against 2004 Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, winning 19% of the vote — the highest vote for a Libertarian US Senate candidate ever.

Michael Cloud was C.E.O. of the 2000 Carla Howell for U.S. Senate campaign. In 1996 he organized the Harry Browne for President campaign, and was fund-raiser and key adviser to Browne for both his 1996 and 2000 campaigns.

Michael Cloud has been politically active since 1976 and has raised over \$8 million for small government candidates, projects, and initiatives.

Michael Cloud is a speechwriter and the Master of libertarian communication. He writes the Persuasion Power Points column for over 40,000 readers of the Advocates for Self-Government Liberator Online and is author of the book Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion.

Register Today for the 2012 National Libertarian Convention!

**May 2-6, 2012
Red Rock Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada**

Visit www.LP.org to take advantage of
Early Bird specials on
Convention Registration packages and to
qualify for hotel room discounts.