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# The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

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## Libertarian Candidate Featured in Four Debates

Perhaps setting a record for Connecticut Libertarian Party races, Walter Gengarely has appeared in four debates in his Congressional District. Three of the debates were televised. Walter also appeared in the audience and made comments to the media after a fifth debate in New Britain.

Walter is the Libertarian Party Congressional Candidate in the Fifth District, running hard against Johnson and Maloney, and Concerned Citizens (CC) candidate Joe Zdoynczk. There were a total of seven debates in the Fifth District. Decisions by the media blocked him from one of the remaining debates, and League of Women Voters decisions blocked him from the other two.

Walter's first debate was on Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and was broadcast on three occasions on television, and at least once on radio. Walter calmly expounded Libertarian principles and policies, while Johnson and Maloney eagerly listed various monies they had brought "back" to Connecticut.

CC candidate Zdoynczk also participated. The debate was a clear success for Walter, as he raised above the bickering career politicians and talked about the real ideas.

On October 21st Walter participated in two debates. The first was held at the Southbury Hilton for the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce. A table-full of Libertarians attended, and some also demonstrated outside the hotel with campaign signs. The debate focused on business issues, but the tension level was definitely higher between Johnson and Maloney. The debate was filmed for Connecticut Television Network.

On the evening of October 21st Walter again participated, this time in Newtown at a "Pizza and Politics" dinner. The bickering over who passed which bills and to what effect reached another level between the two incumbent Congresspeople. Joe Zdoynczk complained angrily about not being included in all of the debates in his opening remarks. All of this contrasted sharply with Walter's light touch and warm smile.

In this debate Congressman Maloney referenced our candidate on a couple of occasions, with statements like "as the Libertarian gentleman said....". In both of the debates of

October 21st Johnson and Maloney at times responded defensively to points that Walter had made. This contrasted with the first debate, where they had virtually ignored him.

In Newtown another table-full of Libertarians were in attendance. It was encouraging, too, to see a large amount of literature picked up by members of the audience.

Finally, Walter participated in a debate in Litchfield, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of that area. There, from the start, he completely won over the partisan audience. His wit was very entertaining, and his exposition of Libertarian principles as they applied to current problems was outstanding. Again, most of the literature was picked up by the audience, and this time quite a few people walked forward to have a chance to talk with him.

Walter's performance in the debates improved the image of all Libertarians. He was referred to as a "breath of fresh air" by one League of Women Voters worker. At his last debate two different

workers thanked him for adding some much needed humor and interest to an otherwise dry and bitter debate. At one point during the debate, even Congressman Maloney stated that "Walter, you know, you have a lot of good ideas." Maloney then went on to state one that he disagreed with (cutting taxes to stimulate the economy).

Nancy Johnson frequently lists various bills that she has had passed that result in money that is spent in Connecticut. One of the bills brought many millions to repair secondary roads in Northwest Connecticut. When Walter's turn came, he observed that he now knows who to blame for all the construction work that slows him down as he travels through the area. The audience loved it. Walter promised that when he is elected to Congress, he will fix just one road at a time. The audience loved that one, too.

Coupled with this light touch, however, was an excellent exposition of Libertarian principles for each question. Walter handled issues from healthcare to Iraq with ease and clear explanations. As Johnson and Maloney battled over who was lying, the candidate for the Libertarian Party presented the real issues with eloquence.



*Candidate Walter Gengarely responds to a question as TV 30 Newsman Tom Monahan looks on from the podium at the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce debate.*

# Excitement Runs High in 5th Congressional Campaign

By Lenny Rasch, State Chair, Libertarian Party of Connecticut

Outreach activities, four debates, media coverage, a flying tour around the 5th district, and other events of this campaign season have enabled us to make contacts with many receptive people in the public in our focus of "Growing the Libertarian Party". We organized a lot of resources behind one campaign in particular, and we had a lot of fun doing it. The televised debates and print media coverage have given us the opportunity to reach thousands of people who knew nothing of the Libertarian Party before this fall. It has also demonstrated to those who have heard of us, that the LP is very much a presence in Connecticut.

As this is written, ten days before Election Day, it is not possible to know how this activity will translate into numbers. Particularly in the Fifth District, there are several unknown factors. Many people have told us that they support Johnson as the lesser of two evils, and they're afraid to take the chance of voting for the Libertarian. We are also up against a well-known "perennial" Concerned Citizens candidate. Nevertheless, many people were pleased to meet Walter and hear his fresh new (Libertarian) ideas.

Regardless of the vote count, this effort created an exciting and productive outreach in a District that was very politically alert due to the dual incumbent race. There are quite a number of quality contacts to follow up on, and an enormous amount of experience that will benefit us in future races.

Walter's performance was outstanding in the Litchfield debate! He owned, and captivated the entire audience. I stated that if we had two more months and four more debates, he could win the seat.

The struggle in elections is to

change the content of the election forum. During a typical debate, the major party candidates spend most of their time fighting over exactly who is able to spend the most money for the widest variety of recipients in their district. This is not the language of Libertarianism, and it can be difficult to get the career politicians to engage us in discussion of reduced government intervention and spending.

Over the course of the four debates, Johnson and Maloney moved from the traditional "ignore the man behind the curtain" treatment of the Libertarian, to frequent engagement. With or without mentioning our candidate, they frequently responded to points he had made. At other times they adopted his positions (really). By the fourth, and most successful debate, Walter had changed the content of the forum. (Incidentally, Carla Howell has also demonstrated this capability).

Learning how to do this, may be the first step on the road to getting elected. Before our opinions will be heard, our issues must be recognized as being fundamental and important. We must motivate the public to stop accepting the status quo, and, instead, to challenge the way the system is put together.

We have learned many lessons from this campaign season. Remember, regardless of where the numbers fall, we accomplished reaching potentially 1000's of people with the Libertarian message of limited government. We are on a long-term plan, an eight-year course, of which this is only the first political season. It has been fabulously successful in outreach and in sheer enjoyment for our volunteers. But it's only the beginning. Please be sure to join us as we storm the state to change current public policy with Libertarian positions.

# Candidates Are Active Across the State

At press time not all of the details of candidate activity are not available, however, here are some of the events:

Walter Gengarelly, Arline Dunlop, and Lenny Rasch attended Anthem's candidate fair in North Haven.

Ken Mosher and Lenny Rasch responded to Courant questions, and were profiled on the Op-Ed page.

Walter Gengarelly has been covered in a number of newspapers, including front-page coverage in the New Britain Herald.

Lenny Rasch was interviewed and aired in part by Connecticut Public Radio, on ballot access.

Lenny Rasch also attended the Candidate's Fair at the Senior Center in Southington.

Arline Dunlop, at press time, was planning to participate in a candidates' forum in Meriden.

The Meriden Journal-Record featured front-page coverage of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut.

Darlene Nicholas and Lenny Rasch, at press time, are planning to attend the Candidate Forum at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich.

Various candidates are appearing in League of Women Voters guides across the state, and on some of the informational web sites, like Dnet.

Abe Arias held a fundraiser on October 26th for his State Rep campaign in south Hamden.

## Absentee Ballots

If you are going to be unable to make it to the voting booth on November 5th, please check with your town elections office about obtaining an absentee ballot. Our Libertarian candidates need your vote!

## MEETINGS

The monthly Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Wethersfield on November 19th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to members and to the public. The agenda is:  
Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Political Director's Report  
Membership Report

Communications Report  
Chairman's Report  
**Old Business:**  
County Coordinators  
**New Business:**  
Formation of new By-Laws Committee  
Convention Committee  
BCRA Requirements  
Outreach Director/ Reorganization  
Ballot Access

**Remember to  
Vote Libertarian  
on November 5th!**