

## What Would A Libertarian Candidate Say?

By Barry Hess



A run to become the candidate who will define Libertarians as a political party is not something that should be considered lightly. I don't.

I was there when the Ron Paul Revolution began, and proud to appear in the very first video, hanging the signs we made. I share Ron's philosophy, not his political affiliation.

The Republican/Democrat management team are too corrupt to let an honest candidate be one of their nominees. They seek only to divide us up into groups, pit us against each other and then offer to referee. Those people in whom Ron revived the American spirit of individual freedom will not just disappear. They need a place to park their vote where it will be heard. I will carry our message of individual freedom and self-reliance without excuse, apology or compromise.

Dr. Paul is a fellow messenger—he is not the freedom movement. WE are the movement. WE are the revolution. Returning America to the home of the Free is bigger than all of us!

Americans are at the lowest point of political confidence in history. They're coming to us because we are reliably different. The difference between "them" and "us", as our collective ship of state sinks, is that "we" want to save the People—"they" want

to save the boat.

My record as an effective and serious candidate has garnered national attention as well as bankable public support. Besides, I'm the only candidate with actual presidential experience...well okay, high school and college. So how far back should I go?

Seriously though, the last thing I would want on my resume is political experience. To say that I could thrive in a corrupt system could only say one thing of my own character.

Our Nominee may not 'win' the election, but if we choose right, they cannot lose the campaign. We need a Nominee who doesn't just give lip service or simple letters of endorsement. We need to revive America as an 'activist' nation, and remain focused on equal rights and freedom, not devising schemes to give each child \$5,000.00 of stolen tax money for their education. We need a principled and effective communicator who knows the only solution to our third world literacy rate is to get government out of the education business altogether.

Republican/Democrats toss out empty rhetoric like, "Hope is on the way"—I suggest that 'hope' without 'help' is just a thought. My message is that 'help' is on the way.

Our Nominee should represent our Libertarian philosophy. They should understand our most basic concept. Freedom is a state of being completely unbound and unfettered. It's an absolute, not a relative term subject to percentages and degrees. Saying we can be "a little freer", is like saying we're "completely honest"...some of the time.

We can't allow government to behave in a criminal manner and not expect the public to do the same.

Libertarians do NOT support the immoral, illegal and unconstitutional on-going attack on the Iraqi People. Our legitimate concern is limited to what they actually did with their weapons, or we should have already attacked China, North Korea, France, Iran or any of half the known world.

Pre-emptively attacking any nation based solely on what politicians think the other guy is thinking is absurd. Nations do not declare unprovoked war on other nations—such is the sole province of Madmen and Fools. Just because some piss-ant dictator exposed another piss-ant dictator's daddy as an incompetent paper tiger is no reason for war.

Some seek to justify military action in Iraq by the extent of the carnage we have wrought. Some pervert our most fundamental principle—that of non-aggression—to include 'being frightened into a pre-emptive war'. Still, doing a bad thing well, doesn't make it good. Even the Best Knee-Breaker in the Mob—is just a knee-breaker.

War is easy, requiring only brutish thought, a dis-concern for human life and endless ammunition. But just as you can't "stomp out violence", war cannot lead to peace—only conquest.

As president I will order our military professionals to plan and execute a safe and immediate withdrawal. I will pursue a foreign policy of peaceful co-existence and trade, void of entangling alliances.

We can lessen crime and the perceived need for legions of police by respecting the right of each Citizen to defend themselves by any means and in any manner they see fit. In an armed and civil society, either by discouragement or demise—the bad guys go away.

Inflation is NOT about price in-

creases—it's about dollar value decreases. It represents the theft of money you've already earned.

I advocate the un-replaced repeal of the income tax because theft is still theft...even by government.

I support unregulated, competitive trade and commerce, and a sound currency.

People who wager their vote to match the olde media's presumptive winner in a limited contest of two evils artificially under-represents those who just want to be free. The ONLY wasted vote is the vote not cast in good conscience.

We only get one candidate while they get two so we have to work harder to get into the public debate. We need someone who represents us, not another ego. I understand that there is no such thing as a 'group' of individuals. Each individual inherently possesses an absolute right to be left absolutely alone.

I am proud to be an American, and to oppose the Cult of the omnipotent state, so why am I the only Libertarian candidate who hasn't scurried to beg government FEC "permission" to be considered a candidate for our private party's nomination?

Americans will find that Barak's empty (but well-spoken) rhetoric, Hillary's faulty memory and McCain's emotional instability are NOT their only choices.

If we keep electing our representatives from the same old inbred political genepool—we'll have to change our national anthem to "Dueling Banjos".

We are the choice for change seeking to leave the next generation the only legacy of any value—that of their birthright, individual freedom and liberty.

## Why Go On?

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communal lives, but our personal lives. In a sense, I am working for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. I want them to know that one of their ancestors stood up to the monster, that he didn't back down when con-

fronted with an overpowering evil, and that he didn't take the easy way out into a cushy retirement of golf, television and leisure in a country that was, in fact, oppressing most people. Look into the history books: the German Nation, in their darkest days still had heroes like Wilhelm Canaris, Franz Stock and Henning von Treskow – ordinary people who did what they could

to oppose the predatory, lying, statist, fascist, leviathon warfare state. Google these names. Maybe someday, our descendants will Google ours.

I have a scary website - [www.shoenforcongress.com](http://www.shoenforcongress.com) - scary only because it lays out the truth in an undeniable and digestible manner, complete with lovely illustrations. We are living in a time of problems but also

of opportunities. We all have the opportunity to do something. I don't know what you can do, but you know. We can make our lives better. We can go on.

*Michael L. Shoen is a Libertarian Candidate for U.S. Congress in Arizona's District Three.*

## Real Change

By Senator Mike Gravel

Over the past year I tried educating Democrats to embrace libertarian policies that will secure REAL change.

During the debates I proposed eliminating the IRS, which stifles incentive and investment, and ending the War on Drugs that turns millions of citizens into criminals. On national television I upbraided my Democratic opponents for opposing gay marriage and accused them of keeping gays and lesbians in second-class citizenship.

I demanded that congressional Democrats prove they really are

against the Iraq War by cutting off the funding. And after Hillary voted to give Bush a green light to attack Iran, I told her I was ashamed of her.

My refusal to parrot the party line upset establishment Democrats including George Stephanopoulos who called me "the skunk at the party." Well I was proud to be a skunk at a party hosted by Washington insiders, militarists, and corporate elites. And now I have decided to dump the Democratic Party and seek the Libertarian Party's nomination for the Presidency.

I have long advocated libertarian positions on the IRS, the War on Drugs, and the need to bust the Military Industrial Complex. For two decades I have advocated a detailed

plan to take legislative power away from governmental elites and give it to the people through the National Initiative.

Over the next two months I will travel the country speaking to Libertarian audiences to share my ideas on how to secure REAL change. Along the way I hope to meet many of you and I look forward to our conversations about how to defend our freedoms. And I promise that as your presidential nominee, I will use my national media platform to continue educating Americans about our libertarian ideals. I humbly ask for your support in my enduring fight to empower the people.

*Mike Gravel, former US Senator from Alaska, is running for president under the Libertarian Party. In 1971, he waged a successful one-man filibuster for five months that forced the Nixon administration to cut a deal, effectively ending the draft in the United States. He is most prominently known for his release of the Pentagon Papers, the secret official study that revealed the lies and manipulations of successive U.S. administrations that misled the country into the Vietnam War. Gravel is author of the forthcoming "Kingmakers: How the Media Threatens Our Security and Our Democracy" (Phoenix Books) due out this June. Find him online at: [www.Gravel2008.us](http://www.Gravel2008.us)*