

The Purpose of a Libertarian Party

by Joe Cobb, Treasurer,
Arizona Libertarian Party

I am a supporter of the Libertarian Party, and an active officer of the Party, because I believe in our American constitutional system. Our constitution does not identify two parties. It allows for many parties, as well as independent candidates. The LP doesn't seem to win many elections, but that is not the real purpose of the LP. We are "running to win," but the bottom line is that we are running because it is important to run.

Why?

First, consider the "wasted vote" question, which we are always asked. If only the Democrats or Republicans are going to win, why challenge them? If you hate the Republican the most, you need to vote for the Democrat to

defeat him. Voting for a "third party" seems like a wasted vote.

But the issue is why anyone should vote from a motive of hate? Democracy is supposed to be about voting for the leadership you support. There must be something fundamentally wrong with a democratic system that is motivated mostly by hate or fear. I support the Libertarian Party because it represents what I do believe in, not merely the "lesser of two evils."

Second, I urge everyone who wants to drop out of the electoral process to think again. If you dislike both the Democrats and the Republicans (for good reason), please do not simply walk away and let other people choose your government. Your government will tax you and regulate you and arrest you, and it will not leave you alone. You have to stand up and fight it, in the constitutional way by voting.

Why Do You Support Any

nity activist," he's spent his life suing and protesting the very people who create the jobs and grow the economy. Quite a contrast.

As further background to the small businessman vs. big government-lover, let's examine where we have each chosen to live. Barack is an Illinois resident. Illinois has among the highest tax rates in the country. Income tax, business tax, sales tax and property taxes are so high, they are driving residents by the thousands out of state. Illinois is a prime example of the folly, fallacy and failure of big government and big taxes. Small business owners are overwhelmed by taxes in the state that Barack calls home. Those taxes are used to fund Big Brother- big government at its finest. Illinois is such a Nanny State that they've banned the serving of Foie Gras at Chicago restaurants on moral grounds! The result is a dramatic loss of freedom- as well as a loss of jobs, businesses and residents. It's a vicious cycle caused by Big Brother, big government tax and spenders.

The higher the taxes and entitlements, the more successful people (business owners, job creators, high income earners, retirees with nest eggs to protect) are forced to leave for lower tax states. The result is of course a loss of tax revenues. And who is left behind in these high tax states like Illinois- the less productive citizens who can't afford to move (and who often depend on handouts from government). So taxes must be raised again to compensate for the loss of producers- the very residents who create the jobs and pay the taxes. Illinois is a dying state because of the ultra-liberal tax and spend policies of politicians like Barack Obama.

On the other hand, I have chosen to live, work and raise my family in Nevada. Nevada has been the fastest growing state in America for 20 of the past 21 years. Las Vegas is perennially America's fastest growing city. It is a dynamic epicenter of American

Politician?

When political pollsters and talk show hosts ask people whether they support the Democratic or the Republican party, most people will tell them they do not support either one. If that is true, why do the Democrats or the Republicans always win our elections? Something is wrong here.

Sometimes a complete outsider seems to do a better job than an "insider." Look at what happened under Reagan or Clinton, contrasted with either Bush administration.

The Libertarian Party may not win an election very often, but it is important the LP should always be there as an alternative. I can say the same for the Green Party. When the opinion pollsters ask, "are you a Republican or a Democrat?" you need to be able to answer, "I am not either one."

You need to be able to say, "I am a Libertarian" or "I am a Green."

Threaten to Take Over the Government

If you say, "I am a liberal" or "I am a conservative," this is only a sentiment, or point of view. A statement of sentiment is different from declaring you are a member of a political party, which can attempt to take over the government and write new laws. There are liberal Republicans and conservative Democrats. They have no influence. Unless you are a supporter of a political party that represents your views, which you can vote for, your statement has no significance.

It is important your statement should have significance. If the Libertarian Party or the Green Party were not on the ballot, or if they are wiped out in a primary election (as the proposed "open primary" proposals that only allow the top two candidates after a catchall primary), then none of the small parties would have a

Cobb Continued on Page 21

Obama vs. Root

Root Continued from Page 18

ees. Like most entrepreneurs, I've also failed a few times. Perhaps that's the problem with politicians- they've never risked or lost their own money. Many Venture Capitalists actually invest only in businesspersons who have failed before (and learned valuable lessons). Perhaps that should also be a litmus test for politicians who want to run the most powerful economy in the world.

Small businessmen and women (27 million strong) are the economic engine and quintessential heroes of the U.S. economy. In a modern world where small business now creates the majority of non-government jobs, I believe it is clearly time for a small business owner to fight for the small business constituency and ultimately occupy the White House.

Contrast my 25 years since graduation with my classmate Barack Obama- the big government-loving, ultra-liberal, George McGovern-like tax and spender who favors redistribution of wealth from those that earn it...to those that desire handouts and government entitlements. Barack has never met a tax he didn't support- and it's no wonder. He has spent his quarter century since graduation from Columbia as a law student, law professor, lawyer, community activist and career politician. He's never started a business; never funded a business; never run a business; never risked a dime of his own money on a business; never created a job; and never paid anyone else's health insurance or payroll taxes. And he's never had to face the endless stream of government regulations and interference in the running of a business either.

To the contrary, Barack has lived off a safe weekly paycheck provided by the taxpayers for more than a decade now. And as a United States Senator, he'll live off a taxpayer-funded pension for the rest of his life. As an attorney and self-proclaimed "commu-

culture and the U.S. economy- leading the way in small business creation. USA Today recently called Las Vegas, "the economic engine of Wall Street." Nevada has been among the leaders in virtually every economic category for 20 years- including jobs created. A remarkable 6000 to 7000 new residents a month move to Las Vegas to take advantage of boundless opportunity. But it's the type of people that move to Nevada that matters for the 2008 election. They tend to be rugged individualists, modern-day pioneers uprooting and moving West to escape high taxes, big government and Big Brother (in states like Illinois). It is no coincidence that Nevada happens to be the most Libertarian state in America.

Want proof of the fiscally conservative, socially tolerant (and quirky) nature of Nevadans? How about zero state income taxes, zero business income tax, zero inheritance tax, and far lower property taxes than liberal tax and spend states like California, New York and of course Barack Obama's Illinois. It's no wonder that Nevada is the small business capital of the country. Mix that with legalized gambling, and legalized prostitution (the only state in USA) and you start to notice the distinct Libertarian streak. People want to move to Nevada to be left alone by government. They want to keep more of the money they've earned (afterall, government forgets- it is our money in the first place)...and they want the freedom to do what they want in their private lives without interference from Big Brother.

Want more proof of the Libertarian credentials of Nevada? Ron Paul came in second in Nevada's Republican caucus- tied for his strongest showing in the country. Nevada is truly "Libertarian country." As a Nevadan myself, I will build my entire LP Presidential campaign around Nevada (and a few other Libertarian states in the West where Ron Paul did well- Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Washington).

My Nevadan roots (excuse the pun) offer an opportunity for the best showing in Libertarian political history- by winning a state or certainly tipping the balance of the electoral count in a few states. If not this November, then certainly in November of 2012, Nevada could become the first Libertarian electoral state.

The story of Root vs. Obama presents a terrific opportunity to gain non-stop national media exposure. And an even bigger opportunity to contrast the stark differences in our political philosophies, choices and visions. I hope Libertarian voters will allow me to lead the way and present our Libertarian case. Barack Obama liberally uses the word "hope." Yet our contrasting personal stories and choices prove that only our Libertarian vision offers true hope.

Americans have already voted for our Libertarian vision- they've voted with their feet- out of Illinois in record numbers, and into Nevada in record numbers. They've already chosen the right path- now Libertarians just need a candidate to communicate why voters now need to make the right choice for President. I have been honing my communication skills my entire life for this one special moment in time. In the past few months, I have managed to spread the Libertarian message on more national media (TV and radio) appearances than all the other LP candidates combined- including Glenn Beck, Michael Medved, Mancow Muller, Fox News, Fox Business, CNBC Europe, Bloomberg TV, BBC, and hundreds of radio talk shows from coast to coast.

I would be honored to become your LP Presidential nominee. I ask for your vote in Denver.

In Liberty,

Wayne Allyn Root

Wayne Allyn Root is a Libertarian Presidential candidate. For more about Wayne, go to:

www.ROOTforAmerica.com