

Citizen's Courier

DOES YOUR VOTE COUNT?



Why a Third Party Vote is NOT a Wasted Vote!

*By Robert Peck
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During a recent conversation with a Constitution Party of Washington leader, the fact was brought up that many people will argue against voting for a third party saying, "You're wasting your vote," or "You're letting the liberal get elected," etc. He inquired what answers we, as a party, might be able to provide against such arguments.

The Constitution Party of Virginia website has some good information about this subject on a page titled [Fears of the Pragmatic Voter](#). There is also an article by our 2008 Presidential candidate, Chuck Baldwin, entitled, [A Wasted Vote](#). On our Constitution Party of Washington website, we have a flyer available for download titled [The Lessor of Two Evils is Always Wrong](#). Finally, I've also included below, the text off the back page of a Constitution Party brochure that touches on some related issues.

One argument is the idea that "at least the Republican is to the right of the Democrat." I've come to see this reasoning as a trap that leads one into the belief that anything considered to be to the right of that which is considered to be left, is automatically good. However, the argument can be made that Hitler was to the right of Stalin, therefore, one would be compelled to vote for Hitler lest we get the dreaded Stalin

The more meaningful question is one of direction of travel – is the candidate or party moving us toward the goal of liberty and constitutionally limited government, or away from it? The Republican Party and 99% of their candidates are not even shooting at a Constitutional target. Most of their policies and practices are socialistic and humanistic in nature, and are moving us farther and farther from the constitutional goal.

A few years back, I got a hold of a "Conservative Index" put out by an organization that I trust and respect. That index rated every member of Congress on "their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, to fiscal responsibility, to

national sovereignty, and to a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements."

This particular index rated the 109th Congress (Jan 3, 2005 to Jan 3, 2007). I harvested the data out of that index, put it into a spreadsheet, then filtered and sorted according to party designation, then averaged all the scores. Based on the index's scoring system of 0-100 (100 being fully Constitutional and conservative), Democrats voted constitutionally 31% of the time and Republicans voted constitutionally 42% of the time. Put another way, the Republicans in Congress were moving us away from the goal 58% of the time. Something tells me we would never put up with players on a football team that spent 58% of their time actively working to advance the ball in the wrong direction.

As I see it, if I vote for a Constitution Party candidate and a Democrat happens to get elected, then my hands are clean. Whatever damage the Democrat does while in office, I did not authorize it. However, if I vote for a Republican because his unconstitutional, socialistic, humanistic,

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big government policies are not quite as egregious as those of the Democrat, and if that Republican wins, then I am responsible for the damage that he does while in office because I authorized it with the empowering virtue of my own vote. And how can I even pray for God to change the situation, or deliver me from it, when I implemented it by my own hand. God would be unjust to change the situation unless I first repent, which would mean repenting of voting for a candidate who did not represent what I knew to be right.

Putting principle aside, some will pragmatically argue that at least with the Republicans in office, we are losing our liberty more slowly – we are slowing down the destruction of our republic (though they will couch the matter in more noble sounding terms). My friend Rick Jore refers to these people as “Slow Death Republicans” – they are simply opting to die a slower death. I say let’s stand and fight for what we believe to be right. Let’s either win or lose, but I’m not into simply dying a slower death.

I’m sure there are a lot more arguments that can be made and more answers to those arguments, but hopefully this information will give you a good leg up on the situation and help

prepare you for when people present such arguments.

SOURCE:

<http://bobpeck.wordpress.com/2010/01/11/why-a-third-party-vote-is-not-a-wasted-vote/>



A Wasted Vote

By Chuck Baldwin

When asked why they will not vote for a third party candidate, many people will respond by saying something like, "He cannot win." Or, "I don't want to waste my vote." It is true: America has not elected a third party candidate since 1860. Does that automatically mean, however, that every vote cast for one of the two major party candidates is not a wasted vote? I don't think so.

In the first place, a wasted vote is a vote for someone you know does not represent your own beliefs and principles. A wasted vote is a vote for someone you know will not lead the country in the way it should go. A wasted vote is a vote for the "lesser of two evils." Or, in the case of John

McCain and Barack Obama, what we have is a choice between the "evil of two lessers."

Albert Einstein is credited with saying that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting a different result. For years now, Republicans and Democrats have been leading the country in the same basic direction: toward bigger and bigger government; more and more socialism, globalism, corporatism, and foreign interventionism; and the dismantling of constitutional liberties. Yet, voters continue to think that they are voting for "change" when they vote for a Republican or Democrat. This is truly insane!.....So, why not (for once in your life, perhaps) cast a vote purely for principle! Vote for someone who is truly pro-life. Someone who would quickly secure our nation's borders, and end the invasion of our country by illegal aliens. Someone who would, on his first day in office, fire U.S. Attorney [Eric H. Holder, Jr.]. Someone who would immediately, upon assuming office, begin leading the charge to dismantle the Federal Reserve, overturn the 16th Amendment, expunge the IRS, and return America to sound money principles. Someone who would get the US out of the UN. Someone who would stop spending billions and trillions of dollars for foreign aid.

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Someone who would prosecute the Wall Street bankers who defrauded the American people out of billions of dollars. Someone who would work to repeal NAFTA, CAFTA, GATT, the WTO, and stop the NAFTA superhighway. Someone who would say a resounding "No" to the New World Order. Someone who would stop using our brave men and women in uniform as global cops for the United Nations. Someone who would stop America's global adventurism and interventionism. Someone who would steadfastly support and defend the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

As John Quincy Adams said, "Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

SOURCE:

<http://chuckbaldwinlive.com/Articles/tabid/109/ID/426/A-Wasted-Vote.aspx>



The Duopoly Mindset

By Don Shrader

We as a "third party" do have a tremendous education hill to climb. As much as we might like to say that we are not a third party but "the new second party," the fact is that by both statute in the state legislatures and the voters' mindsets, we are a "third party," along with the Libertarians, Green Party, and the like.

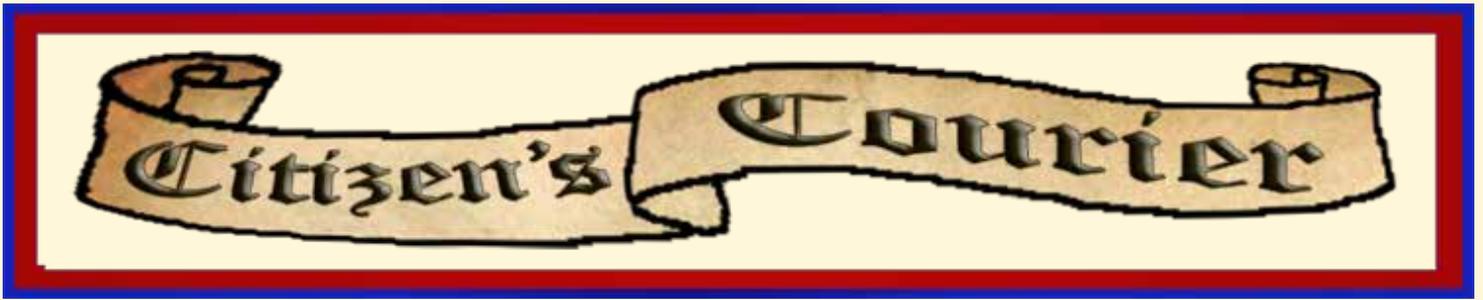
The voting public and politicians have bought into a false mantra that voting for a third party candidate is the essence of "splitting" the vote between the only two "real choices," thus allowing the "worst" of the two major party candidates to win. This ploy flies in both directions - "conservative" and "liberal." Al Gore lost because Jerry Brown stole the ultra-left vote, much less Ross Perot causing Bill Clinton to be elected. Of course, that was the mantra used to convince voters against voting for Goode or Johnson in the 2012 election - it would pull votes from Romney; it is also the reason that the "TEA Party Republicans" like Michelle Bachmann, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, et. al. (plus supposedly conservative talk show hosts like Herman Cain) ultimately fell in line and supported Mitt Romney rather than having the guts to say,

"No, I will not support this candidate!!!"

The voting public, sold a bill of goods by the duopoly - the Republicans and Democrats (or as I like to call them the "Republocrats and Demicans" because it is hard to tell them apart these days) - fails to understand that the best form of government would be derived by having choices in voting that most closely aligns with one's political and other life choices (i.e. one's world view it is now called), such that one does not choose the "lesser of the two evils between the two duopoly candidates" but his vote becomes a positive statement supporting his personal philosophies.



Yes, sometimes that may cause the "worst" candidate to win an election. How did that other side of the argument work out in the last election!? The worst candidate



(arguably) won the Presidential election, while all those "TEA Party conservatives" got nothing in terms of political positions within the Party or the political arena (Congress, Legislatures, etc.). Worst, they gave up a golden opportunity to stand for principle over politics but in the end they all caved and became of none effect.

Unfortunately, because of this false philosophy implying that all elections are only about two candidates, the general voting public has fallen into the trap, set by the duopoly, of only being willing to support one of two major party candidates. We must get the attention of the voting public and educate them to embrace the real truth and that is that choice is as valuable to good government as it is to the marketplace for goods and services. According to most people's political way of thinking, the way to insure we would have the best cars on the road would be to consolidate all car companies into two major competing car companies, each with a single car line as dictated by the company executives and officials, with both companies operating through laws passed by the owners of the two major car companies. Of course, if this were to ever come to pass, we would have terrible cars that would operate poorly and be maintenance

nightmares, and be anything but what we really wanted in our own personal automobile while the company executives would live lives of luxury. Why can't we see this is what has happened in politics by allowing our political choices to be constrained by law to basically only two choices controlled by those in charge of each party!

SOURCE:

<http://www.cpofohio.org/PDF/comments/Chair/ShraderTheDuopolyMindset.pdf>

Editor's Note:

Articles are from older dates but are still very on target for the upcoming election!

