



THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONIST

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Message from Frank Fluckiger, National Chairman

A REPORTER SPEAKS FOR US

Below is a journalist's views on why third parties, like ours, are needed if election day is to be a free market of ideas. Dick Meyer, Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau makes the case clear. Here key excerpts from a recent column he wrote recently:

"We have no expectations that parties are anything but, well, political in the worst sense of word. Congress passes laws. Unfortunately, we assume the two-party system permanent and unalterable. The very phrase — "two-party system" — is a misnomer. Nothing in the Constitution sanctions a two-party system. The two-party duopoly is an accident of history, not the work of the framers.

[The ruling parties] have made it nearly impossible for a third party or an independent presidential candidate to have a fighting chance. They literally have committed a crime of anti-trust by conspiring to secure a two party monopoly on political power. This is their great and legal scandal. This duopoly creates a Catch-22: The rational way to attempt repairing public trust in government and hyper-partisan gridlock in Washington is with major changes in how elections are held. Only those who hold political power can do that, but that's against the self-interests of the parties.

The only hope for civic improvement can come from outside the duopoly. I believe the only vaguely plausible scenario for that is a well-funded, reform-based, "disruptive" third party. I hate the word but name a business that hasn't been disrupted in the past 50 years? I can think of one: the parties. Lusting after a third party is considered politically immature, totally unrealistic and goofy by the grizzled wise. That is a shame because the country needs something to stir the pot (besides legalizing pot.)

There have never been more voters who call themselves Independents. Flipping it, there have never been fewer Democrats and Republicans. The average favorability rating of the two parties combined has been declining on the same steep line as evening news ratings and typewriter sales. This may seem odd because the political arguments we eavesdrop on in social media, online comment boards, cable TV, blogs, political ads and congressional debates is so rabidly partisan, obnoxious and uncompromising. But true believers are a minority of a minority. They just yell the loudest, donate a lot and vote in primaries. So political hacks suck up to them.

Polls about trust in the institutions of government — Congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court, political parties — have been hitting new lows for years, essentially since 1968. A third party is the logical response."

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Do you agree? I would think so ... but we have the will and the way to success: more local candidates are elected, more state affiliates are becoming ballot-qualified, and we have new literature to help recruit fellow patriots to help recruit fellow patriots to the Constitution Party banner (see ad in the newsletter).

I urge you to invest in our party: \$25, \$50, or even \$500. The need for our role in preserving the Republic is proven every day by newspaper headlines. Please be generous when supporting the Constitution Party.

Frank Fluckiger



California and Washington are currently holding Constitution Day events, California on September 19th and Washington on September 17th. Details are available on the [national website](#).

If your state is planning an event,
please send information to:
commsdirector@constitutionparty.com.

Thank you!

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Frank Fluckiger, UT
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NEW BROCHURE FOR PARTY BUILDING

Below is one panel of a tri-fold six panel brochure. It is priced so Constitution Party affiliates and party activists have new and effective tools to recruit patriots to our banner.

We believe ...

SANCTITY OF LIFE

Life for all human beings: from conception to natural death.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM & PERSONAL LIBERTY

Freedom of conscience and actions for the self-governed individual.

FAMILY

One husband and one wife with their children, as divinely instituted.

PERSONAL & PRIVATE PROPERTY SECURITY

Each individual's right to own and steward personal property without government burden.

FOREIGN POLICY

An American government committed to the protection of the borders, trade, and common defense of Americans, with no entanglement in foreign alliances.

STATE SOVEREIGNTY

Everything not specifically delegated by the Constitution to the federal government, nor prohibited by the Constitution to the states, is reserved to the states or to the people.

More at: www.constitutionparty.com

PRICES for Brochure

40 @ \$15
100 @ \$25
500 @ \$100

PRICES for Illegal Immigration Insert

100 @ \$6
500 or more @ \$5 hundred

Prices are postage paid.

Call Brenda with your orders: 1-800-283- 8647.

**LOCATION:**

[Double Tree by Hilton, Albuquerque](#)
201 Marquette Avenue Northwest
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-2246
Desk: 1-505-247-3344
Reservations: 1-505-247-7000

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mark Herr

**RESERVATION INFORMATION:**

- Rooms
 - Rates available Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.
 - 1 or 2 persons = \$109.00 per room
 - 3 persons = \$119.00 per room
 - 4 persons = \$129.00 per room
- **Deadline is October 15th! RESERVE EARLY!**
- Parking Fee is \$8.00 per day.
- Free Airport Shuttle available, reserve when making reservations.
- Remember to mention the "Constitution Party" when registering.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- **Early Bird Discount – \$175.00, from now until September 15th.**
- Regular Registration – \$185.00, between September 16th and October 15th.
- Late Registration – \$200.00, after October 15th and at the door.
- Student Registration – \$150.00
- Friday Banquet Only Registration – check on website, will be available soon.

MEETING INFORMATION:

- Friday Training Sessions (8:00 am until 5:00 pm) – Agenda Coming Soon!
- Friday Executive Committee Meeting (8:00 am until 4:00 pm)
- Saturday National Committee Meeting (8:00 am until 4:00 pm) – Agenda Coming Soon!

[REGISTRATION FORMS and INSTRUCTIONS ONLINE](#)



Jack McLain, RIP; Florida Patriot had long role in the Constitution Party

It is with regret that we announce the passing of long-time Constitution Party member from Florida, Jack McLain. Jack, and his wife Lois, were an inseparable duo, and faithfully worked to build the Constitution Party both in their state and at the national level, having served as National Committee members for many years. Jack was also the author of a book, "Which Way America?" and a newsletter entitled "Viewpoint", in which he examined the issues facing America from a biblical and constitutional point-of-view.

John "Jack" McLain, 88, of Jupiter, Florida, passed away Saturday, July 25, 2015. Jack was born in Stratford, New Jersey on August 21, 1926 to James and Dorothy McLain. He graduated from Haddon Heights High School, Rutgers College and Tennessee Temple Seminary. Jack loved his Lord and his Country. Jack served in the U.S. Army and ran for the U.S. Congress in 2002 and 2004. He is survived by his wife, Lois; daughters, Gail Johnson of Rochester, New York and Joanne Costello of Orlando, Florida; step-children, Karen Shade of Chesapeake, Virginia and John Pangaro of Prattville, Alabama; and seven grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents; brothers, James McLain and David McLain; and a grandson, Benjamin Johnson. Jack is interred in South Florida National Cemetery.

Constitution Party of Georgia State Chairman Ricardo Davis, in his role as Southern States Area Chairman for the national Constitution Party, was well-acquainted with Jack and wrote this wonderful tribute to a great Christian Patriot:

"Our fellow patriot Jack McLain, Florida State Party Vice-Chairman, stepped off the field of this life and stepped into eternity in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ on Saturday morning, July 25th. Jack's online obituary can be found at the Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home site. I would encourage all who have been touched by his life and work to sign the online

memory book. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would comfort his wife Lois and their family and fill their hearts with rejoicing that Jack is now with his Savior.

Jack's life had been changed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it was evident. He had a great heart for people, and he understood that this short life is preparation for eternity. I have been blessed to work with Jack in building the Constitution Party for almost 20 years, and "steadfast" would be the word to describe his life's efforts. Jack was faithful in the work of ministry at Beacon Baptist Church, and he was a stalwart activist whose faith compelled him to never give up.

Jack's "Viewpoint" newsletter for Thanksgiving 2013 is illustrative of his steadfast spirit. He noted, "Occupy till I come' does not mean just to occupy a pew in church once a week, or more. It means 'to do business' for the Lord while awaiting His return. Jude wrote, '[To] exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints' (Jude 3). Christians should expect contention and be ready always to defend their faith and freedoms." Men like Jack have inspired generations to faithful Christian service whether at home, church, or the public forum. A number of Jack's articles are available at the National Constitution Party's website in the Our Principles > CP Commentary section.

In the January 2014 "Viewpoint" newsletter Jack wrote:

We believe that America is worth saving! We hope and pray that Christians and patriots will agree and that a great number will become active participants in the cause for survival of our national heritage... We must realize that our voice does count. Our actions count. Our pen is mighty. Our talents and treasures are accountable to God. They are needed to be available by those in the front lines of the battle. There is a battle for the souls of men and there is a battle for the future of our country.

May his legacy inspire us to pray and work to restore the American Republic!





FACES OF THE CONSTITUTION PARTY

Jeff Becker
Constitution Party
of West Virginia

Jeff, tell us a bit about your background.

I was born in Lexington, Kentucky but raised as a Yankee — lived all over historic New England as a kid. I worked in the automotive and machine tool industry for fifteen years as a tool, welding, and quality engineer — I'm a Registered Professional Engineer and have a number of other industry certifications. For 13 years, I served in USAF Ohio and West Virginia National Guards (weapons mechanic and aircraft electro-environmental technician), and have been in the life and health insurance sales since 2003.

Why did you come to the CP for a political home?

I didn't know anything about politics until the '92 Clinton/Perot/Bush fiasco — and I first started listening to Rush Limbaugh at that time. An influential book I read then was "Back to the Republic" by Harry F. Atwood which is basically Madison's "Federalist Letter X" in layman's terms. I became a hard-core Republican and was involved in several campaigns for federal office, but felt more and more disappointed with the GOP establishment. The final straw was being kicked off of the "Freerepublic.com," a RINO website because I was posting about the Constitution and Constitution Party candidates. I was invited to a West Virginia Constitution Party organizational meeting in July 2004 and been involved ever since. I put up our initial Yahoo group page, served on the bylaws writing committee, and was elected an At-Large officer. I'm proud to say I elected Chairman 2008-2011, Secretary 2011-present, and serve as National Committee member.

The Constitution Party of West Virginia was on the ballot in 2014 — has it been done before? How are you progressing on 2016?

We were able to get Chuck Baldwin on the ballot in 2008, but not our gubernatorial candidate because, at that time, the filing deadline for governor was in May,

much earlier than the current requirement of August 1st — which is now the deadline for all non-establishment candidates. Also, back then, signature totals equivalent to two percent previous statewide election vote total were required to be ballot qualified. That has since been reduced back to the original pre-1999 level of one percent. I petitioned to get in the ballot for U.S. Senate in 2010 using the reduced signature requirement from the sudden special election (Robert C. Byrd's seat). Phil Hudok was on the ballot then for U.S. House. We also got Phil on the statewide ballot for U.S. Senate in 2014 by petitioning, and are close (within 500 signatures) to being complete with 2016 requirements for U.S. President and Governor even though that deadline, August 1st 2016, is eleven months away.

I understand you ran for office — how did you fare? Were there other CP candidates that did well?

I secured ballot access by petition for County Surveyor in 2008, U.S. Senate in the special election for Robert C. Byrd's seat in 2010, and for state legislature last year when the incumbent Republican played the hare and got primaried by the 17-year old state senator's daughter. Our candidates scored as much as four and even nine percent of the vote.

Are you recruiting more CP members?

Absolutely! We use social media, our newsletter, and voter registration. We have been using another tool, the new brochure that the national party just published. Information on how to register with the CPWVa can be found at: <http://cpwv.org/elections/voter-registration/>. We are also on Facebook, and LinkedIn.

How is your ballot access drive going?

People are eager to sign petitions and tell us what they think, if approached in a positive manner, and the voter is asked to help. We find that seven out of ten voters will, if eligible, sign our petition. We pre-qualify them several times by asking: 1. Are you a registered voter? 2. Are you a West Virginia voter? 3. Are you registered in this county or another one? (and then get the appropriate county form), and

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4. Are you sure you have voted within the past three general elections? (West Virginia voters are purged after three election cycles).

We petition at public fairs and festivals, parades, as well as in front of our regional Department of Motor Vehicle locations, which are all on public state property and they cannot use the corporate-owned land/sidewalk excuse against us. Just about everyone has to visit their DMV once per year, so we get a constant stream of different people to talk to.

The West Virginia Constitution Party needs one percent of the 2016 gubernatorial vote to qualify our party — that allows us to nominate by convention rather than taking on the time-consuming and manpower heavy process of petitioning, and with no current ability to qualify the party by registered voters. However, we are lobbying for proposed legislation that we have written to expand party qualification to any statewide party nominee who receives one percent of the vote or 1.1 percent voter registration. The Libertarians and Greens are interested in helping since they are both already over the voter registration threshold with 2,326 and 1,625 registered voters and they would be exempt by not having to run candidates for any particular office to keep their parties qualified.

What are the most important Constitution Party principles for you?

Recognizing the original intent definitions and goals of the Constitution's Framers. Government schools, political correctness, and the controlled and designed-to-distract media and entertainment industry have put America on a path heading away from her heritage and we need to reverse that. Following our founding documents as they were originally understood holds the key to righting most of our problems from a technical perspective. It is the "how."

What do we believe in that resonates in West Virginia — what's your best recruiting tool?

Recognizing and upholding our Christian heritage and principles is the issue that resonates with most Mountain State voters. They don't call this "West-By-God-Virginia" for nothing. West Virginia is one of only

two states that deny religious exemptions for vaccinations. Folks here are fit to be tied with the Common Core agenda (home schooling is growing fast here), and reject the idea that government is God. Children are the responsibility of their parents and not the state. Our state constitution is one of only a few, perhaps the only, to specifically prohibit incorporation (that's the IRS 501(c)3 law) of churches — which means government regulations of any kind. The good people here want their religious freedom and that includes being able to follow scripture with regard to marriage. We are in a spiritual battle. This is the "why."

What lessons have you learned — good and bad — that you would pass along to states currently getting on the ballot?

Pick one county and focus on getting one local organization going. Then, have that county adopt a neighboring county as a sister county and work together to bring that one up to speed. Then keep branching off. We have spent far too much money and wasted too much time travelling all over the state since the few of us who are active are so spread out around our state. Yet, we still do not have a single formally established county CPWVa organization with elected local officers! Use a bottom up, rather than a top-down approach.

In your opinion, where is the Constitution Party headed nationally as well as in West Virginia?

In West Virginia, we plan to grow our local county organizations. Nationally, we need to plant seeds to grow our state affiliates. This is going to take involvement from our active folks outside of those states. Nationally, we should make a clear presentation of how the Republicans, Democrats, Greens, and Libertarians fail on the key issues, but we must emphasize how the Constitution Party and our candidates hold real solutions. We need to keep this simple, such as in a visual comparison spreadsheet. First one would be to compare and contrast the current crop of GOP presidential candidates to show what a mixed inconsistent bag

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FIGHT FOR A FAIR AND FREE ELECTION PROCESS

Richard Winger, Ballot Access News

In many states around the country, there are attempts to change the election law and impose a "top-two primary". Louisiana used this system from 1975 until 1998, and even today uses a variant of it. Washington State started using it in 2008, and California started using it in 2011.

A top-two system means that all candidates for Congress and state office run on the same ballot in the primary. Then, only the two candidates who came in first or second can run in November.

There have been 119 instances when a member of a party other than the Republican and Democratic Parties ran for federal or state office in a top-two system, and in which there were at least two major party members running. In all 119 instances, the minor party candidate did not place first or second and thus could not run in the general election.

The Louisiana variant isn't bad, because Louisiana abolished the primary and just has a general election in November. But the California and Washington systems result in general election ballots with just Republicans and Democrats on the ballot, except in the rare cases when only one major party members filed, so the minor party candidate can't fail to place second.

Experience teaches that voters won't pay attention to candidates from parties other than the Democratic and Republican Parties until after the voters know who the two big parties nominated. And in a top-two system, by then, it is too late for the Constitution Party member to get on the ballot.

Big business interests like top-two and have funded it lavishly in initiative campaigns, especially in Oregon last year. Michael Bloomberg contributed \$2,000,000 to the top-two initiative, as did John Arnold, a Houston billionaire. But top-two still lost in Oregon 2-1. It also lost in Oregon in 2008, also by 2-1. It lost in Arizona in 2012 by 2-1. But it won in California in June 2010

and in Washington in November 2004. The reason it passed in California was that for years, the legislature had taken months past the deadline to pass a state budget. That was because the budget had to pass by two-thirds in each house of the legislature, and Republicans, although in the minority, always blocked the budget. The voters were sick of gridlock and thought top-two would fix the problem.

More on this important issue can be found at www.ballotaccess.com.

Richard Winger is founder of Ballot Access News, the authoritative resource for independent and third party candidates, and those concerned with a free and fair elections.

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they really are. To their credit, the Greens and Libertarians have documented positions on the issues that are clearly anathema to ours. The Trump and Sanders campaigns are really illustrating how fed-up people are with establishment politics. Sixty percent of eligible voters aren't turning out. We must tap into that constituency. The Constitution Party needs to be careful not to be all doom and gloom. We must run candidates with positive messages, and steer clear of complex issues/explanations. The CPWVa intends to focus on the 28 Principles of Liberty as outlined by Cleon Skousen in his book, "The 5000 Year Leap," which really focus on our Christian principles.



cpwva.org