

2016

A Broken System

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Recommended Citation

McAuley, Dylan (2016) "A Broken System," *Forum Magazine*: Vol. 2016 , Article 7.

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/forum/vol2016/iss2/7>

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Third-Party Alternatives to America's Least Favorite Candidates

BY DYLAN MCAULEY

Are you dissatisfied with having Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as our nation's two major nominees for president of the U.S.?

If so, you are not alone. According to CBS and the New York Times, Trump and Clinton are respectively the most unpopular Republican and Democratic nominees in history, with more Americans having unfavorable views of the candidates rather than favorable views. This unprecedented distaste for the two major

candidates, who according to the New York Times were chosen by a mere 14 percent of eligible voters, has left Americans looking for other options. In a previously unheard of situation, voters on both side of the aisle are declaring their refusal to vote for their party's candidate. While this seems like a convenient response, it

makes one wonder, what other options are there? Luckily, there are quite a few options if you prefer to exercise your right to vote but do not wish to vote for Trump or Clinton. Listed below are the other candidates who will appear on ballots across the nation:

Gary Johnson

RUNNING MATE:

William Weld – Governor of Massachusetts: 1991-1997

PARTY:

Libertarian

EXPERIENCE:

- Libertarian nominee for President: 2012
- Governor of New Mexico: 1995-2003
- Founder of multi-million dollar corporation Big J Enterprises

As a former Republican Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson made it his mission to veto hundreds of bills that would have increased spending while simultaneously cutting taxes over a dozen times. Johnson's first priority as president would be to send a truly balanced budget to Congress by placing all government expenses on the chopping block, including military and entitlement spending. Johnson is also running in order to solve problems that other candidates have not focused on during this election. He has promised to fight for term limits on all federal politicians, he has vowed to end the widely disliked Drug War, and he has promised to protect the Fourth Amendment rights of Americans by ensuring privacy in their homes and on the internet. Having unsuccessfully run for

the Republican nomination in 2012, Johnson changed political parties to accept the Libertarian nomination that same year and ended up winning about one percent of the national vote. This year the former Governor has polled as high as 13 percent in a CNN poll by calling for a simplified tax code for all Americans, a foreign policy platform in which the U.S. is not the world's police force and war is a last resort, and a more limited government with fewer burdensome regulations. If he can poll 15 percent he will appear on the national debate stage this fall. As a fiscal conservative and a social liberal who will appear on the ballot in all 50 states, Gary Johnson appears poised to be the most popular third-party choice for Republicans and Democrats who feel spurned by their nominees.

Dr. Jill Stein

RUNNING MATE:

Ajamu Baraka – Activist

PARTY:

Green Party

EXPERIENCE:

- Green Party Nominee for President: 2012
- Member of the Lexington, Massachusetts Town Meeting from the 2nd District: 2005-2011
- Two-time candidate for Governor of Massachusetts: 2002, 2010
- 25-year career as a physician of internal medicine

The only other woman running for president, Dr. Jill Stein has said you should “forget the lesser evil and stand up and fight for the greater good.” Stein, a former physician, is running with the hope of inspiring a multi-party system in the U.S. to achieve what she considers to be true democracy. She hopes to attract supporters of Bernie Sanders who think that Hillary Clinton does not represent their interests. Stein promises free higher education, an increased minimum wage of \$15 per hour, and trade agreements that favor unionized American workers, unlike the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which she believes export American jobs. The furthest left of any major candidate running, Stein hopes to institute Medicare for

all Americans, which would build upon the Affordable Care Act to extend Medicare privileges to all Americans. She also hopes to make the U.S. 100 percent reliant on renewable energies by 2030 by creating a “Green New Deal” to advance her party’s goals for a healthy, clean environment while creating millions of new jobs. Having run for the Presidency as the Green nominee previously, Stein is hoping to significantly exceed her .36 percent of the vote in 2012 and seems capable of doing so, having polled as high as 7 percent in a CNN poll. Such a performance would easily become the Green Party’s best performance in its history. A social and economic liberal, Stein is aiming to gain support from primarily disenchanted progressive Democrats.

Darrell Castle

RUNNING MATE:

Scott Bradley – Founder and Chairman of the Constitution Commemoration Foundation

PARTY:

Constitution Party

EXPERIENCE:

- Constitution Party Nominee for Vice-President: 2008
- Personal injury and bankruptcy attorney

Darrell Castle follows what is perhaps the strictest interpretation of the Constitution of any candidate running for president this year. Castle, believing it to be entirely unconstitutional, hopes to eliminate the Federal Reserve and to inform banks that they are on their own if the economy takes a downturn. He further hopes to allow Americans to use any currency they please and require the U.S. government to accept any currency for the payment of taxes. Castle, the only veteran in the race, believes that war is the last resort and that Congress

alone can authorize any military engagement. Another candidate with a non-interventionist policy, Castle would like to withdraw the U.S. from all international organizations including the United Nations, NAFTA, the World Trade Organization and NATO, because he believes American participation in these only negatively affects Americans. As a social and fiscal conservative, Castle is by far the most conservative candidate in the race and could be a good fit for voters who think that Clinton and Trump are too liberal on social issues.

While there are many many third-party candidates running for president, these are the three who are most likely to appear on your ballot in November. It’s unlikely, but

not impossible for one of them to win the White House. Nevertheless, their surge in popularity proves that Americans are craving another option in this election. If you

still do not like these candidates, and you cannot stand Clinton or Trump, you could always write a candidate of your choosing in, as long as you get out and vote!