Republican Liberty Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

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Will The Real President Please Stand Up?

At publication time, it's still not clear who will be the next president of the United States. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will be clear that it will be George W. Bush, whom the state of Florida has certified as the winner of its 25 electoral votes, giving him the 270 needed to take the Electoral College. Assuming these electors have been chosen, the Republican Party will have achieved a tremendous victory: President, the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives, a majority of the nation's governors, and at least a tie in state legislatures.

Admittedly, our majorities are eroded in some ways (most significantly in the Senate). But, we have not achieved the trifecta (president, Senate and House) since 1952, and the quiniela (those three, plus the majority of governors and state legislatures) since I don't know when.

According to the political forecasting models, we were supposed to lose this year, big time. With peace and a vibrant economy, the candidate of the party in power should have coasted to victory. Pundits considered George W. Bush's early lead to be ephemeral, and thought it was already over Al Gore surged to a lead in the polls after the Democratic convention.

Then came the debates, and Bush tagged Gore as the big government candidate. Surveys indicate that support shifted to Bush as people revised their opinion of Gore from "moderate" or even "somewhat conservative" to "liberal." Gore's self-righteous attitude that came through during the debates didn't help him either.

Going into the last few days of the race, Bush seemed headed for a narrow victory. Then the chips hit the fan. The first dirty trick was the "news" that 24 years ago Bush was arrested for drunken driving. The second was that the networks, based on their exit polls, decided to declare Gore the winner and, thus, suppressed Republican turnout from the Florida Panhandle to California.

> On election night, in state after state, broadcast media pronounced Gore the winner immediately after the polls closed (or before in the case of Florida), and refused to call Bush the winner even where he enjoyed a double-digit lead. Media ar-

rogance and bias were stronger than ever on that night. At CNN, the applause could be heard over the air when Michigan was announced for Gore.

But, thankfully, they were wrong. As the raw data piled up, the media had to award one after another state to Bush. Then, at 2:18

a.m., when it became clear that only a miracle (or a theft of the election) could keep Florida from going Republican, they projected Bush to be the winner. The network "model" took into account that Gore would get a boost from Dade County (Miami), so that Bush's lead would fall when they came in. In fact, when those votes did come in, Bush's

lead shrank to about 1700, making it clear that a recount would be in order. Nevertheless, Bush was still in the lead just as the model said he would be.

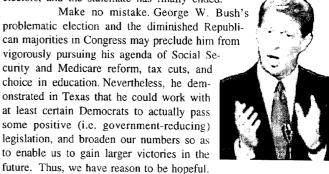
When Bush's lead narrowed, Albert T. Gore, Jr.,

a man who is a now-obvious megalomaniac, put his own ego ahead of the interests of the country and took back his concession. Determined to use every re-

maining dirty trick in the book, the Gore machine requested hand counts even after the recount showed him to have lost. Jesse Jackson, Alan Dershowitz, Rep. Robert Wexler and other Democratic operatives have incited mobs as part of Gore's psychological warfare unit.

Poll workers in Democratic Palm Beach County had been severe under pressure to "see" votes for Gore that the machines that read them didn't. In the clamor to find Gore's "missing" votes, a few hundred extra ones were divined in multiple recounts. But Bush's remaining lead and his lead in the overseas absentee ballots secured him Florida's electors by a 537 vote margin. With a number of court rulings beating back Gore's legal thrusts, the rule of law has prevailed. Florida's Republican legislature, led by Speaker of the House and RLC Advisory Board member State Rep. Tom Feeney, has chosen a slate of

electors, and the stalemate has finally ended. Make no mistake. George W. Bush's problematic election and the diminished Republican majorities in Congress may preclude him from vigorously pursuing his agenda of Social Security and Medicare reform, tax cuts, and choice in education. Nevertheless, he demonstrated in Texas that he could work with at least certain Democrats to actually pass some positive (i.e. government-reducing) legislation, and broaden our numbers so as to enable us to gain larger victories in the



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Editor's Corner:

Talking to the Walls



Dateline: Broward County, Fla. Nov. 7, Election Eve. An Irish Pub in downtown Hollywood. The election returns come in over the bar TV, and patrons cheer and jeer as state results are read. A wiry, middle-aged woman next to me loudly scolds her newfound young charge about the high crimes of the Bush family; she says his royal bloodlines extend back hundreds of years and there's nothing we can do about preventing his election. The young man, a chubby blonde guy about 30, affirms the Bush-bashing; he mumbles that Bush's

ascendance is in accordance with "prophecy." Their conversation turns to the question of driving to Palm Beach to "score some weed." I understand the voters now. In any and all future political campaigns, I will promise not a "chicken in every pot," but a chick, and some pot.

RLC Advisory Board member **Rep. Mark Foley** (R - Fla.) has been in the news looking great for the GOP. He's been serving as a regular commentator on the Palm Beach County election fiasco and dispelling myths about the vote in Palm Beach County. McLaughlin Group regular and *Roll Call* editor **Mort Kondracke** got one up on Mark while appearing on a panel on violence in the media, back in August, though. Foley announced "I watched 'Bonnie & Clyde' seven or eight times as a kid and I never thought about going out and robbing a bank." Kondracke quipped "You became a Congressman, didn't you?"

RETRACTION, BIGTIME: In the last issue, I mis-identified the Republican given the cold shoulder by a handful of anti-gay conventioneers at the GOP National Convention as Arizona **Senator John Kyl**. The target of their rudeness wasn't Kyl, but Congressman **Rep. Jim Kolbe**. On Thanksgiving, poor Kolbe was also given a bum's rush by Tucson's Gospel Mission Homeless Shelter, where he had cheerfully volunteered to lend a hand last year. This year, he was informed via faxed memo that his presence was not desired.

RLC Advisory Board member **Rep. Tom Feeney** of Oviedo, Fla., has been elected to the position of Speaker of the House in the Florida State Legislature. He does use the "l" word to describe himself, although he is sometimes tarred with the "far right" label by the media and other opponents of limited government. Feeney, 41, was one of the first proponents of school choice in Florida in the early '90s. Send Tom congratulations by e-mail at: **feeney.tom@leg.state.fl.us**

Republican Liberty

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Former RLC Ad Board member and now former U.S. Congressmen **Brian Bilbray** failed to hang on to his seat in District 49, which includes the San Diego coast. The Dem, former Assembly member **Susan Davis**, received a full 50% of the vote while the Libertarian candidate, **Doris Ball**, went home with 3%. Dems targeted Bilbray as vulnerable, since Bilbray was almost beaten by **Christine Kehoe** in 1998. If Bilbray had shown some backbone and had not backslided on crucial issues like the right to keep and bear arms, partisan soldiers might have gone to work for him. Instead, his lack of principle cost him the election.

VA RLCers Rick Sincere and Michael Crafaik presented former Virginia Governor George Allen, who ended up thumping longtime Democrat Senator Chuck Robb. At a recent Allen for Senate event, Upon seeing Rick and Michael, Allen happily exclaimed "uh oh, here come the libertarians!" He was even happier when presented with a PAC check. RLC Chair Clifford Thies and his wife Carol also supported the Allen campaign.



Former Gov. George Allen, U.S. Senate candidate from Virginia, thanks RLC member Michael Crafuik for a contribution to his campaign.

In the last issue, RLC Treasurer Mike Holmes predicted that LP Presidential candidate Harry Browne would be "lucky" to hit half a million votes, with the actual vote count probably in the 400,000 range. Browne was on the ballot in all 50 states except Arizona, where author L. Neil Smith appeared as the LP Presidential candidate. The total result? 385,000 votes, compared to 489,000 in 1996. Mike, you're too generous. I hate to say it, but the election further demonstrated the irrelevance of LP Presidential campaigns. (MA LP Senate candidate Carla Howell got over 300,000 votes). I'm sure some RLCers donated to Browne's campaign. Hell, I even gave Browne some spare change. But when the quixotic LP presidential run consistently gets next to nothing in the popular vcte, you've got to either mend it or end it. Remember, insanity is repeating the same action expecting a different result. Look, I feel your pain, but it's a losing strategy, and diverts time, talent and resources. I am reminded of the immortal words of Vietnamese informercial king, Tom Vu: "Don't be a loser! Don't hang around with loser, either!"

Republican Liberty Caucus -- Membership Survey

Dear member: We are interested in your views. Please take the time to complete this survey and return it to us. Don't feel overly constrained by the form. In fact, you're *invited* to write comments in the margins or on a separate sheet of paper. Results will be published in a forthcoming issue of our newsletter. Individual responses will be kept confidential.

	PAR'	TI				
1. How do you describe your political philosophy?						
[]conservative []liberal []libertarian []moderate []or	ther:					
2. How do you describe your political affiliation?						
[] Republican [] Democrat [] Libertarian [] independent	[] other:		_			
3. On a scale of 0 to 100, to what degree do you favor econom	<i>ic</i> liberty (1	00 repres	enting the	most am	ount of liberty), with regar	d to such
issues such as taxes, spending, and regulation?						
4. On the same scale, where do you place yourself on personal	liberty issu	ies such as	s freedom	of religio	n, speech, sex and drugs?	
Let's turn to specific issues. How do you feel about						
_	ly agree	agree	neutral	disagree		
5. Raising the minimum wage?	[]	[]		[]	[]	
6. Adding a prescription drug entitlement to Medicare?	[]	[]	[]	[]		
7. Privatizing Social Security?	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
8. Protecting American manufacturing from international trac		[]	[]	[]	[]	
9. Using U.S. military forces in world peacekeeping missions?	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
10. Restricting ownership of handguns or other firearms?	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
11. Ending military draft registration?	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
12. Restricting speech that might foster hatred?	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
Let's change the format of the questions.						
13. How would you describe your position on taxes?						
[] Taxes should be increased						
[] Taxes are just about right						
[] First balance the budget, then cut taxes						
[] Both balance the budget and cut taxes						
Taxes should be cut irrespective of balancing the budget						
11 axes should be cut mespective of baraneing the budget						
14. How would you describe your position on primary and sec	ondary edu	ucation?				
[] I agree with the teachers' unions—we should spend more and m	ore on gove	ernment-ru	n schools			
[] Expand choice and competition, but only within the public school	ol system, si	uch as with	charter sc	hools		
[] Expand choice and competition through vouchers which can be a					S	
[] Favor ending government involvement in education and also fav						
[] Favor ending government involvement in education and oppose						
15 Hammand and the Control of the Co						
15. How would you describe your position on abortion?						
[] government should protect human life from conception						
[] government should protect human life from conception but make			pe and inc	est, [] thre	eat to	
the mother's life, [] seriously ill or deformed unborn chi						
[] government should protect human life within the womb but only			onths of pr	egnancy, r	more or	
less, because of the countervailing right of privacy of the						
[] government should protect human life within the womb but only			ths of preg	nancy, mo	ore or	
less, because of the countervailing right of privacy of the						
[] government should not interfere with a woman's right to termina	ite a pregnar	ncy				

16. How would you describe your position on describe and over-the-counter, like [] these drugs shouldn't be illegal, but access to the drugs" and doctor's prescription for "ha [] these drugs should remain illegal, but access to [] we should return to the Reagan/Bush policy of each of the should declare a real war on drugs	e aspirin and ca em should be re rd drugs'' :hem should be :	ndy stricted, for allowed for p	example, people wi	with an age requirement for	
[] we should declare a real war on drugs					
Let's again change the format of the question.	How importa	nt is it to?	?		
	rtant importan			don't know	
17. term-limit members of Congress?	[] []	[]	[]	[]	
18. reform the legal system?	[]	[]	[]	[]	
19. reform or simplify the tax code?	[] []	[]	[]	[]	
20. reform Social Security?	[]	[]	[]	[]	
21. regulate sex/violence on TV and the Net?	[] []	[]	[]	[]	
22. increase regulation of campaign financing?		[]	f]	[]	
23. prohibit striker replacement?	[]	[]	[]	[]	
24. open up exploration and development					
of natural resources such as coal and oil?		[]	[]	[]	
25. For whom did you vote for President?		PAR			
[] Gore (D) [] Bush (R) [] Browne (L) [] Other:	[]	NOTA		
26. For the candidate of which party did you was a second control of the candidate of th	[] Other:vote for the U.S	S. Senator?			
28. For the candidate of which party did you [] Republican [] Democrat [] Libertarian					
29. For the candidate of which party did you	vote for the up	per house o	f the stat	e legislature?	
[] Republican [] Democrat [] Libertarian	[] Other:	[] NOTA	[]NA	
30. For the candidate of which party did you [] Republican [] Democrat [] Libertarian					
31. What do you think is the consequence, wh [] to educate the voter [] to keep the Republican Party from compromis [] to defeat the Republican Party candidate so as t [] to win elections [] other	ing too much			tarian Party nowadays?	
32. What do you think is the consequence, whe [] to educate the voter [] to keep the Democrat Party from compromisir [] to defeat the Democrat Party candidate so as to [] to win elections [] other	ig too much			n Party nowadays?	

				0.11	1 4 0	
33. In which party do you think liberta						
[] definitely the Republican Party [] pr						
[] probably the Libertarian Party [] bo	n equally [J neither	[] neutrai/de	on t knov	v	
34. Thinking back ten years ago or so,	what would	have been	vour answe	r to the :	above question?	
[] definitely the Republican Party [] pro						
[] probably the Libertarian Party [] bo						
	. , -	-				
			PART	[]]		
35. Overall, how would you describe yo	our satisfacti	on with the	e Republica	n Libert	y Caucus?	
[] very satisfied [] satisfied [] neutr	al [] dissat	isfied []	very dissatis	fied		
					10	
36. Would you identify one or two spec	ific things al	bout which	you are mo	st satisfi	ed?	
37. Would you identify one or two spec	ific things al	bout which	vou are no	satisfie	d?	
37. Would you identify one of two spec	inc times a	out which	you are no.	Butisme	•	
Considering our new sletter, Republican	a Liberty, ho	w importan	it do you co	nsider th	e following?	
ı	ery important	important	not import.	oppose	don't know	
38. increasing frequency	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
39. covering campaigns and elections	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
40. covering legislation	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
41. other:	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
Considering our political action comm	ittee, how im	portant do	you conside	er the fo	llowing?	
42	r 1	r 1	r 1	F 3	r.)	
42. contributing to Pres. candidate43. to Congressional candidates	[]	[] []	[]	[]	[]	
44. to state and local candidates	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
77. to state and local candidates	LJ	ΓJ	f 1	LJ	ĹĴ	
Which criteria should we consider who	en making co	ontribution	s with our I	PAC?		
45. political philosophy	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
46. chance of winning	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
47. personal relationship with candidate	[]	[]	[]	[]		
48. expressed preference of donor	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	
	~					
49. Considering our lobbying effort or			d of issues s	hould w	e emphasize?	
[] mostly economic liberties, e.g., taxes, s	-	_	17=1		4:1	
[] mostly personal liberties, e.g., ending of both equally	irait tegistrati	on, and rega	mznig manji	iana ion	neurcai use	
[] both equally						
50. When we have to make a choice, w	hich would v	vou prefer	we do?			
[] stick to our principles even if it means				on		
[] make deals in order to get votes neces.		=	Ü			
		-				
51. Our next convention will be held t	nis Decembe	r in Atlanta	a, GA. Past	conventi	ons have been held in Gatlin	burg, TN ('94), Alexandria, VA
('96) and Las Vegas, NV ('98). Where	would you	like us to h	old future c	onventid	ons? [] Las Vegas (again)	
[] Chicago [] Houston [] Washing	ton (again)	[] New Yo	ork [] Nev	v Orlean	s [] San Francisco [] Orla	ando [] other:

52. Are you planning to come to this year's convention? [] yes [] no
53. Have you visited our website at http://www.rlc.org? [] yes [] no
54. Would you like to receive regular updates and news via e-mail? [] yes [] no If so, what is your e-mail address?
55. Are you active in a state chapter? [] yes [] no
56. If not, would you like to become active in a state chapter? [] yes [] no
57. For how many years have you been a member (including 2001 if you have paid or are now paying dues for 2001)?
58. What would you like to add?
59. sex: [] male [] female
60. age: [] less than 25 [] 25 to 44 [] 45 to 64 [] 65 or older
61. education: [] 0-11 years [] 12-15 years [] 16 or more years
62. If you haven't already done so, would you like to pay your membership dues for 2001, and/or make an additional contribution at this time? [] Yes: [] trial subscript./2 issues \$6
[] enclosed is my check or money order payable to "Republican Liberty Caucus," or [] charge my credit card: [] Visa [] MC Acct # Exp. Date
[] contact me about joining the (monthly or quarterly) Minuteman Pledge Program Signature: be sure to use your credit card billing address!
Name Day Phone Number
Address Evening Phone Number
e-mail address

Whether or not you make a contribution, please detach and return the completed survey form to us at:

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The RLC Winner's Circle



Our Guys - The really good news regarding Congressional elections is that Ron Paul was again re-elected,

this time by a margin of 60 to 40 percent. Fellow Texan and RLC Advisory Board member John Culberson cruised to victory in his heavily Republican district 78 to 21 percent. (We knew this would be decided in the GOP primary.) Our own Don Loucks won his bid for Bastrop County Commissioner by an extremely narrow recount margin of 9 votes; Loucks is the first Republican elected to office in Bastrop.

In Kentucky, RLC-supported Don Bell did very well against a supposed "safe" incumbent, losing 54 to 44 percent. In Oregon, former RLC national committee member Jeffrey Pollock got a respectable number of votes (continued on page 7) in his uphill effort in that state's 2nd Congressional District.

In Florida, Club for Growth-backed Ric Keller squeaked out a narrow victory to fill an open Republican seat, 51 to 49 percent. And, in Arizona, Jeff Flake, also aided by our fellow libertarians in the Club for Growth, scored a more comfortable victory 53 to 43 percent, to fill another open Republican seat.

In Virginia, RLC-supported George Allen was the only Republican to defeat an incumbent Democrat for a seat in the U.S. Senate, surviving a last-minute barrage of television advertising by the other side to win 52 to 48 percent. In California, RLC Advisory Board member Tom Campbell lost, trailing by 56 to 36 percent with nine of the state's ten million votes tabulated.

In Colorado, RLC Advisory Board member Penn Pfiffner lost his bid 54%-46% for the State Senate in District 21 for an open Democratic seat. In Massachusetts, RLC Advisory Board member Bob Hedlund was re-elected to the State Senate, as were three other State Senators who received support from the MA RLC's PAC.

Initiatives - While many initiatives are difficult to interpret in terms of our agenda as mainstream libertarians, a few of them clearly indicate that the electorate maintains a basically libertarian-oriented.

In California, drug sentencing reform passed overwhelmingly 60 to 40 percent, and in Oregon, mandatory sentences for drug offenses was defeated 74 to 26 percent. In Colorado, medical marijuana won 54 to 46 percent, and in Nevada, medical marijuana won 65 to 35 percent.

Term limits for state legislators passed in Nebraska. And, in Massachusetts, voters cut their taxes and turned down universal health insurance. (Yes, this happened in Massachusetts.)

The one area where direct democracy appears to indicate otherwise is (and has been for some time) choice in education. In California and Michigan, school vouchers went down to flaming defeat. And in Washington, a charter school initiative was, at the time of writing this article, trailing in the vote count 51 to 49 percent. Educational choice has never done too well as a referendum item, and it is more likely to be achieved through the normal legislative process.

The Capital "Ls" - Nationwide, Libertarian candidate for President Harry Browne finished fifth, with less than 400,000 votes, behind Bush, Gore, Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan. (Of course, Pat's numbers may be slightly inflated due to those butterfly ballots in Palm Beach County, Fla.) In Nevada, Browne finished behind "None of the Above," 3315 to 3309. In New Hampshire, a Democrat (!) running on the Libertarian ticket was elected to the state house.

New RLC Chair Elected in Atlanta

"This ain't your daddy's GOP" says Muth

Delegates to the RLC national convention in Atlanta, Georgia concluded their biennial meeting on December 10 with the election of a new National Committee, including longtime Nevada GOP activist Chuck Muth as its National Chairman. The convention included appearances by Republican Reps. Ron Paul (TX), Bob Barr (GA), and Lew Rockwell of the Ludwig von Mises Institute.

"The Republican Liberty Caucus is a very unique organization under the GOP's big tent," said Muth, who has served as Nevada's RLC head for the past four years. "Unlike other Republican affiliate groups, we don't care about your color, or national origin, or income, or age or gender, or sexual orientation. We only care if you champion limited government as authorized by the Constitution, personal freedom and individual responsibility."

Muth said he'll focus on two primary objectives during his two-year term: Building RLC affiliates throughout the U.S. and promoting the election of pro-liberty Republicans at all levels of public office and the GOP itself. He also affirmed that the RLC under his watch would not become a middle-of-the-road, "let's-make-a-deal" organization.

"The 'Rodney King' Republicans of the Kumbaya wing of the GOP aren't likely to find a sympathetic ear at the RLC as long as I'm chairman," said Muth. "We're in a dead serious war of ideas with our opponents, and I'm in this to win ... not split the difference. The future of our country and our children depends on our winning this contest of philosophies. The RLC will march toward the sound of the cannons, not retreat from them ... and will endeavor to become the home for 'broken glass' Republicans who have the stomach for battle with the left. RINO's (Republicans In Name Only) need not apply."

"We believe the U.S. Constitution is the original "Contract With America," concluded Muth. "It's time for us to concentrate on electing representatives who will live up to their oath to honor, abide by and defend the greatest political document of all time. Democrats and others who would shred that compact with our Founding Fathers need to be wiped off the electoral map."

The RLC elected Murray Sabrin of New Jersey as Vice Chairman (a new position), Laura Kotelman of Illinois as Treasurer and Rob Booth of Texas as Secretary. Rounding out the National Committee will be the RLC's founder, Eric Dondero of Texas, Tom Walls of Florida and Rick Sincere of Virginia. The convention voted unanimously to congratulate outgoing Chairman Dr. Clifford Thies for his years of dedication to the RLC and the cause of liberty.

Jim Hudson and Earle Smith of the Georgia RLC treated convetiongoers with sincere Georgia hospitality. Chuck Clay, Chair of the GA GOP, showed up to greet us on Saturday. At Saturday's luncheon, Matt Glavin of the Southeastern Legal Foundation spoke of his campaign to rid Georgia of Affirmative Action. RLCers also heard presentations from Carol Ann Rand and Sharon Harris of the Advocates for Self-Government, Kelly McCutchen of the Georgia Public Policy Institute and Mike Tanner of the CATO Institute. Lew Rockwell of the Mises Institute gave a well-received speech at the Saturday banquet, exhorting libertarian Republicans to focus on their political market: Middle America. A lively discussion about foreign policy ensued after Rockwell's talk. On Sunday, Ron Paul staffer Norm Singleton, RLC Exec. Director Tom Walls and Greg Newburn of the Florida League of Student Libertarians outlined plans to promote liberty in the 21st century. Mich. RLCer Leon Drolet gave a talk on his upcoming campaign for the Michigan legislature.

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