

## **Libertarian pro-marijuana legalization candidate Gary Johnson denies report that David Koch will plow 'tens of millions' into boosting his presidential campaign**

- Johnson ran for president in 2012 and got 1 million votes
- He scored 10 percent support in the latest Fox News poll
- Johnson plans to run with former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld as his running mate
- How his candidacy would affect a Trump-Clinton race still unclear

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Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson is denying a report that business mogul David Koch plans to give 'tens of millions' to boost his presidential campaign.

'We have no knowledge of it. None whatsoever,' Johnson told CBS.

'You just got to laugh,' he added.

'To my knowledge, it's not happening,' he insisted to [The Washington Post](#).

'That's not to say it isn't, but it would be a surprise to me. We tried to talk to Kochs during the last cycle, and we couldn't do it. There are a lot of people who are expressing interest, in a big way, to be a part of this, but I'm not naming names. I can say that I haven't reached out to the Kochs,' he added.

The conservative [Daily Caller](#) website reported that Koch had made the pledge, which would represent a huge infusion of cash, citing a source within the Johnson campaign.

A Koch spokesman didn't provide comment in the initial report. Koch sits on the board of the libertarian Cato Institute.

The Libertarian Party meets at the end of the month in Orlando, Florida to pick its nominee.

Johnson announced Wednesday that he would tap former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld as his running mate.

Like Johnson, Weld served as a Republican governor of his state.

'We got together and shook hands on it,' Johnson told the Associated Press. 'It brings an enormous amount of credibility to what it is I'm doing. I'm unbelievably flattered by this and humbled.'

Johnson represented New Mexico for two terms as governor. He factored into early debates in the 2012 Republican nomination fight, pushing a non-interventionist foreign policy and expressing support for legalization of pot, before getting sidelined from the main presidential debate stage when he ran as a Libertarian.

He has sued the commission on presidential debates to try to get included in the official presidential debates between the two parties. To be included, a candidate must reach 15 per cent support in national polls.

Weld has represented casino mogul Steve Wynn, who has famously clashed with Trump over business interests over the years.

Johnson said Weld could help bring in cash to fund his campaign's shoe-string budget.

'He could be a huge influence when it comes to fundraising. Huge,' he said. 'That was something that he in fact volunteered — that he enjoys doing it.'

Johnson's campaign had just \$35,000 in the bank at the end of March.

David Koch was the Libertarian Party's candidate for vice president in 1980.

Like Johnson, Weld favors abortion rights and same-sex marriage.

In 2014, Johnson, who favors legalization of marijuana, was named CEO of marijuana products company Cannabis Sativa Inc.

While a contribution of the magnitude described in the Daily Caller article would be unprecedented for a third party run, the Kochs have big plans for 2016. A group of conservative donors organized by Charles and David Koch revealed plans last year to spend \$900 million this cycle.