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Race's third wheel knows odds are long

Libertarian candidate Redpath says voters want an alternative

By Ben Orcutt -- borcutt@nvdaily.com

William Redpath admits it's tough for a third-party candidate to run for Congress.

But that's just what the 53-year-old business appraiser, who specializes in media and telecommunications, is doing. Redpath is running as a Libertarian for the 10th Congressional District seat against 15-term Republican incumbent Frank R. Wolf and Democratic challenger Jeff Barnett.

"It's an uphill battle, to put it mildly," Redpath said in a Friday e-mail. " But, I wanted there to be more than just an R and D on the ballot. I have received very warm responses from so many people. There are a lot of people looking for a political alternative. Unlike the major party campaigns, everyone on my campaign is a volunteer. And, with only volunteers, it's tough to manage the volunteers. I won't be able to do nearly the quantity of paid media that I would like to do."

Asked to define a Libertarian, Redpath said, "Libertarianism is a combination of conservative positions on economic issues and liberal positions on social issues, but the core theme is that libertarians want to minimize the use of government coercion in society. We think that people should, to the greatest extent possible, be able to live their lives without interference, as long as they do not harm other people or their property."

If elected, Redpath said his top priority would be "cutting government spending and reforming entitlements."

Redpath mirrored Wolf and Barnett in terms of what the key issues are for the Nov. 2 election.

"The key issue in the Tenth District is the same as everywhere else in the nation," Redpath said. "We are facing a possible fiscal and economic catastrophe if we do not seriously cut federal government spending. We should change the tax system to a flat tax, eliminating nearly all deductions and credits, and reducing marginal tax rates. We should repeal Obamacare, then end our system of employer-based health insurance."

Redpath also has his own ideas about Social Security and Medicare.

"We should adopt the Cato Institute's '6.2% Plan' for Social Security, which would allow younger people to have personal accounts for their contributions, with employer contributions supporting today's seniors," he said. "We should institute vouchers for Medicare patients' use, with Medicare premiums based on individuals' health and lifetime income history. Medicaid should be changed into a block grant to states and phased out over ten years, as welfare should be the states' responsibility." Redpath plans to appear on Friday at the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association candidates' forum from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lee Jackson Inn and Conference Center in Winchester.