

# Maas: Lots of disillusioned voters are natural Libertarians

*By Jim Mass*

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Daily Herald Media recently urged citizens to [“get involved” to overcome partisan gridlock.](#)

Unfortunately, Gannett Wisconsin Media is pretty much “bipartisan” — that is, it only pays attention to the two old political parties, no matter how many parties exist or overcome all the obstacles to get candidates on the ballot. To [learn](#) about the Libertarian response to the State of the Union or the Wisconsin State of the State, for example, you will have to do an online search; you didn’t read about it in this newspaper.

Therefore, potential voters are often led to believe they have only two choices and neither one may match their principles very well. These “disengaged” voters are not lazy or indifferent; on the contrary, they care enough to withhold their support from candidates they can’t believe in. As P.J. O’Rourke wrote, “Don’t vote: it just encourages the bastards.”

Between 9 percent and 13 percent of voters surveyed by Gallup held libertarian views, 14 percent in the Pew Research Center Typology Survey and 13 percent in the American National Election Studies, [according to a 2006 report by the Cato Institute.](#)

Interesting. So, some voters may have held their nose to vote for the “lesser of two evils,” or maybe not voted at all. Rarely do Libertarians get 10 percent to 20 percent of the vote. Libertarian candidate Ed Thompson got more than 10 percent around here in his campaign for governor but we haven’t seen the likes of that since 2002.

The GOP often is said to campaign like Libertarians but govern like Democrats. Republicans with a Libertarian leaning are becoming disillusioned with Republicans’ excessive spending, social intolerance, civil liberty violations and unnecessary and wasteful wars.

Democrats also are disillusioned with civil liberty infringements, the war on drugs, the never-ending war on Afghanistan and the growth of an overseas empire. Too bad there isn’t a political party that is both fiscally conservative and socially liberal.

Actually, there is.

The Daily Herald concludes, “It is up to all of us to get involved, pay attention and demand that our **leaders** work together for the common good, not the good of a single political party.” I agree! To get their attention, may I suggest muting the upcoming incessant barrage of campaign commercials and going to the polls in November and voting for third party candidates — or, as O’Rourke suggests, by not voting at all.

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