

The McDonough County  
**VOICE**

## **Bill Weld challenges president for party nomination**

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April 26, 2019

Popular conservative political pundit Rush Limbaugh has said the Republican Party is the Party of Trump and that life-long Republicans need to get used to the idea. Former two-term Republican governor of Massachusetts and 2016 Libertarian vice presidential candidate Bill Weld says otherwise.

Not only is Weld challenging President Donald Trump for the party's favor, he also has called for the president's resignation in light of revelations contained in Robert Mueller's special counsel report.

For not having the benefit of being the incumbent, Weld is facing a significant amount of pushback from the national party from the get-go.

"They tried to shut down the first in the nation primary in New Hampshire," Weld told MSNBC "Hardball" host Chris Matthews on Wednesday. "The (Republican National Committee) said we didn't need it, and we should all be for Trump. That lasted about one minute because the people of New Hampshire realize that 50 percent of their clout in this country comes from having the first in the nation primary. But they're sending out messages from the RNC, from Washington; from Trump headquarters saying don't let there be any discussion. If anyone representing Bill Weld shows up at a Republican committee meeting, move to adjourn. If that doesn't work, move to table. If that doesn't work, then walk out."

Weld said it is fear that continues to unite many around Trump.

"I don't know why people should be scared of saying, 'The emperor has no new clothes.' But they seem to be."

In a recent editorial published by conservative opinion outlet The Bulwark, Weld went so far as to state the president should resign due to a crisis of trust.

"How can a president function if he instinctively lies to not only the public, but his own staff?"

There is one essential truth that leaps from the pages of the Mueller Report. No one can trust Donald Trump."

## Viewpoints

Weld officially announced his candidacy on April 15. At the time, Weld stated: “Ours is a nation built on courage, resilience, and independence. In these times of great political strife, when both major parties are entrenched in their ‘win at all cost’ battles, the voices of the American people are being ignored and our nation is suffering. It is time for patriotic men and women across our great nation to stand and plant a flag. It is time to return to the principles of Lincoln – equality, dignity, and opportunity for all. There is no greater cause on earth than to preserve what truly makes America great. I am ready to lead that fight.”

As governor of Massachusetts, Weld is credited with being an early proponent of LGBT civil rights, signing “landmark welfare reform, establishing public education standards,” cutting taxes 21 times without ever raising them, balancing the state’s budget and overseeing the state’s bond rating system upgrade six times. Hinting toward some of Weld’s Libertarian tendencies, he has historically been pro-choice and his support for LGBT rights includes the 1992 executive order to recognize domestic partnerships of same-sex couples. He also signed 1993 legislation to protect LGBT student rights.

## Background

Weld is a former two-term Republican governor of Massachusetts elected in 1990 with 50 percent of the vote and re-elected in 1994 with 71 percent of the vote. Weld took office from prior governor Michael Dukakis. He is noted as being the first Republican elected governor in that state in 20 years. He is credited with beginning a run of four Republican governors in a row.

While governor, he was ranked by the Wall Street Journal and the Libertarian think tank Cato Institute as the most fiscally conservative governor in the country. He served as national co-chair of the U.S. Privatization Council and of U.S. Term Limits. He led official trade missions to Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe while governor. He is active on the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and served five years on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council upon appointment by President George W. Bush. Weld also serves as an associate member of the InterAction Council, which is a group of former heads-of-state from around the world who convene to discuss global issues such as nuclear proliferation, energy, religious sectarianism and food and water supplies.

In the 2016 election, he was tapped by Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson to be his vice presidential running mate. Weld made a controversial move on the eve of the election by urging voters to vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton if they had reservations about voting third party instead of standing firm with Johnson.

Prior to entering the executive level of government and public policy, Weld served seven years in the Justice Department under President Ronald Reagan. He was assistant U.S. Attorney General in charge of the Washington, D.C., criminal division and as U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts. While U.S. attorney, Weld won 109 convictions in 111 prosecutions of public

corruption. Prior to his Justice Department stint, he was a U.S. House of Representatives staff member and participated in the Watergate impeachment case and subsequent impeachment trial in the Senate.

He is a graduate of Harvard Law School cum laude and Harvard College summa cum laude. He also studied international economics at Oxford.