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Businessman to bankroll Super PAC backing Libertarian presidential nominee Gary Johnson

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The founder of a California tomato processing company will bankroll a Super PAC supporting [Gary Johnson](#), the Libertarian Party's nominee for president.

"We need to make this happen," [Chris Rufer](#) told [The Hill](#) newspaper.

Rufer, who is president of Woodland, Calif.-based Morning Star, said he will give at least \$1 million to a Super PAC backing Johnson, but he hasn't identified which group will get it. Possibilities include Purple PAC, a super PAC run by Cato Institute founder [Ed Crane](#), and Free the People, an outside group run by [Matt Kibbe](#), who had been a Rand Paul supporter.

A well-funded Super PAC could make Johnson more of a player in this year's presidential election. He got only 1 percent of the popular vote as the Libertarian Party's nominee in 2012. But a new [Quinnipiac University poll](#) found that he's got 5 percent support this year. ([Hillary Clinton](#) leads [Donald Trump](#) by 40 percent to 38 percent, with Green Party candidate [Jill Stein](#) at 3 percent.) Other polls have put support for Johnson as high as 10 percent.

Johnson, a [former governor of New Mexico](#), tapped former Massachusetts Gov. [William Weld](#) as his running mate, in a bid to show that he's a serious candidate. He hopes to convince voters who don't like Clinton or Trump that he's a viable alternative.

He's a fiscal conservative who wants to cut taxes and reduce regulatory burdens, but he also thinks the government should stay out of people's personal affairs. He not only favors legalization of marijuana, he also briefly served as CEO of Cannabis Sativa, a legal marijuana business.

Johnson is not only appealing to Republicans who can't stand Trump, but he's also making a pitch to supporters of [Bernie Sanders](#), the independent who's running against Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Johnson said on C-Span Tuesday that [he likes "73 percent of what Bernie says,"](#) such as support for marriage equality and opposition to military interventions.

Meanwhile, Las Vegas casino magnate [Sheldon Adelson](#) is preparing to launch a new Super PAC backing Trump's presidential candidacy, [according to Politico](#). Adelson, whose net worth is

estimated at \$25 billion, spent more than \$100 million on Republican candidates in the 2012 election.