



Libertarians Name Gary Johnson as Presidential Pick

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Libertarians from all over the country were in Orlando on Sunday afternoon, where they nominated former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson as their nominee for President of the United States.

Recent polls show the 63-year-old Johnson, *who* served two terms as the Republican governor of the southwestern state of New Mexico from 1995 to 2003 before becoming a Libertarian, winning about 10 percent of the vote nationally against Trump and Clinton in a hypothetical three-way match in November's national election.

Hoping to emerge as a viable contender against the two major parties' nominees in the general election, Johnson says he aims to tap into voters' broad reluctance to fall in line behind Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

No third-party candidate has won a vote in the Electoral College since George Wallace, running under the segregationist American Independent Party, in 1968.

Bill Weld was selected by Delegates to be Johnson's running mate.

"Gary will be an outlet for millions of Americans *who* just can't fathom the idea of voting for Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump", said Ed Crane, *who* co-founded the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute.

"We are not Republican-light", Larry Sharpe, a vice-presidential candidate said in a takedown of the Johnson-Weld ticket mere inches away from the former MA governor.

Weld will have to overcome meaningful differences between his demonstrated policy preferences, particularly past support for gun control measures, and his willingness to support Republican politicians.

Johnson defeated five hopefuls to secure his place on top of the Libertarian ticket, which will likely be the only third party on the ballot in all 50 states.

He described himself as socially liberal in spades and fiscally conservative in spades.

On fiscal matters, Libertarians push for reduced spending and taxes, saying the federal government has become too big across the board.

That, Johnson said, made him "the best of both worlds". Johnson said in his acceptance speech before an audience of around a thousand delegates and attendees.

To date, U.S. presidential votes have been a two-way fight between Democrats and Republicans.

The Libertarian Party is in Orlando this weekend, deciding *who* will get its nod for Presidential nominee.

Despite being the favorite, Johnson was only elected on the second ballot and garnered 55.8 percent of the vote.

Howell thinks that's partly because more Americans are coming around to the party's long-held agenda, which includes legalizing marijuana, curbing government surveillance, and limiting US military involvement in the Middle East.