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**Garry Reed**

Dallas Libertarian Examiner

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Gen Y – the Libertarian Generation?

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Young people at former presidential candidate and Texas Congressman Ron Paul's Rally for the Republic in 2008 in Minnesota. (AP Photo/Jim Mone)

During the 2008 campaign, the Boston Globe reported, "Ron Paul, 72, amassed a considerable following among younger voters, largely because his libertarian message was deemed countercultural." But will it ever translate into a libertarian future?

A recent Libertarian Party of Texas news release began, "Three highly-regarded national polls have confirmed a growing Libertarian trend in U.S. politics."

The Pew Research Center annual report on political values and trends concluded, "these independents are more likely to be economically conservative and socially tolerant."

In simple lay terms, that defines libertarians.

The Washington Post/ABC poll reported, "87% of Americans are concerned by the growing federal deficit, and 53% were not confident in the government's ability to cut wasteful spending in the President's economic recovery package."

Which is another way of saying that a majority of Americans take the libertarian view on these issues.

A Rasmussen Reports poll discovered that "Fifty-nine percent (59%) of politically independent Americans viewed 'big government' as the greatest threat" to the country in the future, as opposed to big business or big labor.

Again consistent with libertarian philosophy.

So what does this have to do with Gen Y?

Consider just one source, an opinion piece in the Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel by Jim Burkee, [The Liberty-loving Gen-Yers will reshape politics.](#)

The demographic that voted for Democrats 2-to-1 were young people between 18 and 29, the leading edge of those born between 1980 and 1995, who are now being tagged as Generation Y.

But Burkee warns the Dems: "While they seem to lean to the left, they're actually more libertarian than liberal, a fact that will reshape the way we think about liberalism and conservatism in decades to come."

Burkee's assessment of the Y's guys and gals is a daisy-chained litany of libertarian leanings:

"...the most liberty-loving generation since the era of Andrew Jackson...In short, they love their freedom...more likely to see all politicians as corrupt...support liberalization of drug laws...less likely to support restrictions on immigration...they are also free-traders...supportive of globalization...support proposals to privatize Social Security..."

And just for good measure... "It's the classical liberalism of Milton Friedman, who argued

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