

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

Another View -- Liz Mair: NH Republicans should support Johnson and Weld

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Donald Trump's admitted predatory behavior toward women, coupled with allegations by many women of sexual assault perpetrated by the Republican nominee, have left millions of Republicans already struggling with the notion of Trump as GOP standard-bearer in a major dilemma: Do they vote for the party's nominee, even though it literally sickens many of them, or do they vote for Hillary Clinton, an equally unappealing prospect?

One recommendation is that voters, especially those in the Granite State, do neither. Don't stay home or skip voting for President.

The right move is to vote for Gov. Gary Johnson, a former Republican governor now running as the Libertarian nominee.

New Hampshire's motto is "Live Free or Die." Neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump has a mentality, outlook or philosophy that comes close to aligning with the state's core values. They are both the most big-government-happy nominees that the major parties have put forward in recent decades. Voters who prioritize liberty and freedom should reject them and vote with a clean conscience.

Gov. Johnson has long attracted greater interest in New Hampshire than in many other states, probably because like the state's voters, he prioritizes fiscal discipline, limited government, civil liberties, and a less hawkish foreign policy.

Gov. Johnson will be on the ballot in all 50 states, allowing his voters to send a real message on Election Day: Liberty matters, and if the major parties make the mistake of nominating candidates like Clinton and Trump, they should not count on our votes.

Gov. Johnson earned excellent ratings from the fiscally-conservative Cato Institute for his governance of New Mexico. The same is true of his running mate, Gov. Bill Weld.

Gov. Johnson never raised taxes as governor — not once — and was a governor who showed no fear in vetoing fiscally irresponsible legislation. He balanced New Mexico's budget every year.

Gov. Johnson has a plan to shrink government by about 40 percent, a true commitment to reining in the deficit and our national debt

Hillary Clinton wants to double down on failed Obamacare and Donald Trump is a long-standing supporter of single-payer and full-on government-run health care schemes. Gov. Johnson wants to get back to a free market approach focused on driving down the cost of actual health care, as opposed to just insurance.

Gov. Johnson opposes mass surveillance of hundreds of millions of ordinary Americans, including you and me. He would not do it as President, whereas Hillary Clinton's voting record and service in the Obama administration indicates that she would, and Donald Trump has already indicated a preference for heightened domestic surveillance beyond even that seen under Presidents Bush and Obama.

Secretary Clinton attempted to buddy up to Vladimir Putin, with a predictable lack of success. Donald Trump seems to be doing the same thing now.

Gov. Johnson is not so naïve as to think that any amount of pandering or flirting will make Russia see eye-to-eye with the United States.

Whereas Hillary Clinton is directly responsible for the over-criminalization that we see in America today through her advocacy for Clinton-era criminal law changes, and whereas Trump apparently believes even more Americans should be jailed, Gov. Johnson supports a broad range of criminal justice reforms, including with regard to flawed drug laws.

That is a real draw for younger voters, as is Gov. Johnson's long-standing support for government recognizing same-sex marriage, an area in which New Hampshire has led.

While Gov. Johnson is pro-choice, he actually holds the most explicitly pro-life position of all three of the candidates. He has always opposed late-term abortions just like most Americans do, but as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump do not or have not until exceedingly recently.

Gov. Johnson has also always been a consistently strong supporter of Second Amendment rights, whereas Hillary Clinton wants more gun control and Donald Trump favors confiscating guns from legal owners if they are minorities living in crime-prone areas.

He and Hillary Clinton agree that it is fine to violate due process in the interest of restricting gun ownership.

On Nov. 8, New Hampshire voters should cast a vote they can feel good about and send a message: Support Gov. Johnson, and tell the elites never again.