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David Boaz on Libertarian Voters

Earlier this month, Real Clear Politics ran an article titled "[Conservative Libertarianism's Comeback](#)", which shows polling data that indicates American voters today are more libertarian than ever, at least on economic issues.

"Every year, since the early 1990s, the Gallup poll has sought to measure the degree of libertarianism in the American mind. First question: does the public believe the government is "trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses?" Fifty-seven percent said yes last August, the highest level since 1998.

Gallup's second question asks whether Americans believe "government should promote traditional values in our society" or "not favor any particular set of values." A traditional libertarian would side with the latter point. But 53 percent favored the state promoting "traditional values" in 2009, a five-point rise since 2008."

As these numbers indicate, libertarian progress might be advancing in the economic sphere. Quoted elsewhere in the article, David Boaz, Executive Vice President of the Cato Institute and member of the Students For Liberty Board of Advisors, comments on this new dynamic:

As David Boaz, Cato's executive vice president, put it, "because Obama is advancing a big government agenda, it's the small government constituency in America that is energized."

David Boaz has previously done research on what he calls [The Libertarian Vote](#). According to his polling research, approximately 15% of Americans respond with libertarian answers to basic policy questions. Moreover, 59% of his questioned survey respondents identified a fiscally conservative and socially liberal. A detailed analysis of these numbers is available here, which I highly recommend reading: <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2007/02/02/the-libertarian-vote-new-returns-trickle-in/>. A new update tied into recent developments can be found [here](#).

On a side note, **David Boaz will be our guest of honor at**



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the first [Alumni For Liberty Leadership Dinner](#) on Monday, January 25th. AFL Leadership Dinners provide an opportunity for AFL and SFL members to have an intimate dinner and discussion with an active leader in the pro-liberty movement. If you are interested in having dinner with David Boaz, click here to learn more and register today:

[Leadership Dinner With David Boaz](#)




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