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Washington DC » Politics » DuPage County Libertarian Examiner

This article is part of Chicago's Elections 2010



Are libertarians finally swaying elections?

April 24, 12:26 PM • DuPage County Libertarian Examiner • Tim Vock



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According to a new [study](#) from the Cato Institute, it may be libertarian voters - not Tea Parties or general conservatives - that have been influential in swinging recent votes such as those in Massachusetts and Virginia.

Libertarians tend to prefer Republican candidates to Democrats. Recent years have shown seen that change, however. The Bush administration coupled with a same-party Congress were as far from conservative fiscally as any Democrat. The GOP seemed to rely too heavily on social conservative values, losing the fiscal pillar of their constituency. Bush ballooned spending and deficits and increased the government's reach into the economy. A moderate tax rate cut did not impress many Americans who knew that without cutting government spending, tax cuts only mean we will all have to pay that much more next year.

In 2008, the Republican Party chose to field only one true fiscal conservative (Ron Paul) and nine other candidates who would spend half their debate time criticizing him and his ideas. Nevermind that Ron Paul was proven correct in most of them. No one seemed to believe the victor was anything of supporter in liberty, whether because of his support for ill-advised foreign wars, the McCain-Feingold campaign reform that only curtailed freedom further, or his general government-as-the-answer demeanor. A poll in Reason magazine, a popular libertarian publication, showed libertarians favoring Obama to McCain prior to the election. According to Cato, libertarians ended up supporting McCain/Palin in the end, but not among the youth. How many fiscal conservatives just gave up and stayed home?


If 14-23% of America is fiscally conservative and socially liberal, it does not matter what term they give themselves. Republicans and Democrats need to take notice and start courting our votes. We need to make sure they do so by telling them what is important to us, making sure they know we are the swing votes that will mean the election, and if possible, organizing to give ourselves far [more electoral power](#).

In 2006, the Republicans suffered a big defeat in Congress. The big issue at the time was the Iraq War, and libertarians were fed up. In 2010, the big issue is the economy, which will likely result in the Democrats suffering huge losses after spending, bailouts, and health care reform. What will it mean for our Congressmen in Illinois?


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