
Redpath In Race For 10th District

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Libertarian William Redpath knows that his election to the 10th District seat of the U.S. House of Representatives is a long shot. Besides needing to oust 30-year Republican incumbent Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA-10) and best Democratic challenger Jeff Barnett, Redpath must do it from a small party whose representatives are not regularly seen in public office. But that did not deter him from embarking on his campaign and securing his party's nomination earlier this year.

"I would really like to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives," Redpath said. "But one thing we need more than anything else is candidates."

Having recently come off a second term as the chairman of the Libertarian National Committee, Redpath said he always encouraged members to "lead by example." And by running to represent the 10th district, he said, he is doing just that.

Redpath said, given what he has seen in studies and other analysis, he believes the federal government "will never again have a balanced budget" if it does not change its spending habits.

"We need to take drastic steps. And Frank Wolf is not the man for that," Redpath said, noting that a C+ to C- rating from the National Taxpayers Union "just doesn't cut it anymore."

The biggest thing the federal government can do to improve the nation's economy is "get out of the way," Redpath said, and "create conditions for prosperity to happen." There is a very high correlation, he said, between countries with economic freedom and a high per-capita income, and it can be very clearly shown in studies.

"Proper management of the federal government and spending would create an economic renaissance in this country," he said.

Redpath is a proponent of the 19 percent flat tax, as proposed by Robert Hall and Alvin Rabushka, senior fellows at the Hoover Institution, and, if elected, would call for a wholesale overhaul of the federal tax code. He would like to see the tax code "radically simplified" and do away with deductions and credits that force people to do certain things to see a financial break.

"We need to give people the incentive to be productive," Redpath said. "The government needs to ask people to be the best they can be, and I think a flat tax would do that."

Redpath acknowledged that the Tax Reform Act of 1986 did much to simplify the tax code, but since then it has been made more complicated and troublesome to work through.

One of the biggest areas where Redpath would like to see a shift is in control, from the federal government to state and local governments.

"The nation was founded on the principle of federalism," the 52-year-old Leesburg resident said. "Government should be as close to the people as possible. What can be devolved to state and local [governments] should be."

Among the issues that the federal government should not be involved in are transportation, education, and social services, he said.

Redpath said he does not think it is a federal government's job to get involved with the tolls on the Dulles

Greenway, an issue Wolf has championed against, and said, while the Dulles Rail project is likely too far along to move back on now, he said buses would have been a more economical investment for multi-modal transportation in Loudoun.

"We are never going to get a grip on our transportation problems as long as it costs the same to get on a road at 3 a.m. as it does at 8 a.m.," he said, noting that tolls are the best ways to pay for highways and he does not think that such options should be limited to the Dulles Toll Road.

The federal government also should stay out of what Redpath defines as "victimless" crimes, such as drugs and gambling. To achieve that Redpath supports appealing all federal laws and prohibitions on the matters, leaving it to the states to determine how to handle the issues.

In other areas, Redpath points to the Cato Institute's identification of \$348 billion in possible spending cuts in the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Transportation, Energy, Education and Housing and Urban Development. The final two departments would be closed completely. Redpath said education is not something mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, and the federal government needs to stop getting involved in that and similar areas, like farm subsidies and corporate welfare. And as to those who might say it is not the right time to begin limiting government programs, Redpath has a simple answer.

"It's always a good time to stop doing things that it shouldn't be involved in," he said, noting that even NASA has room for cuts because the "only legitimate reason for the U.S. to be involved in space exploration is for the military. Otherwise leave it to the private sector."

Redpath also believes that the government needs an immediate pullout from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, mostly because he believes the country is spending too much on the military and those actions. The men and women in Congress, including Wolf, talk about winning in Afghanistan, but Redpath says he has yet to hear what the definition of winning is. He also is concerned that the U.S. is involved in nation building, and noted that the U.S. last declared war in World War II against Romania.

"The War Powers Act [of 1973] and the Constitution need to be taken seriously," Redpath said. "Either declare war, or bring the boys home."

But Redpath said he is equally committed to national security, calling it one of his top issues. He believes that spending as much as the rest of the world combined on defense the U.S. actually leaves it more vulnerable because it is more likely to become involved in other issues in other countries. Redpath also supports the defense spending cuts outlined in the Sustainable Defense Task Force's report from June that would save almost \$1 trillion over the next 10 years.

"By having a more restrained foreign policy we will be safer in the long run," Redpath said. Such a policy would also increase the affordability of national security because the military and defense make up such a large part of the current deficit, he said.

On immigration, Redpath is supportive of a more open, albeit regulated, policy. If a person does not have a criminal background, a serious communicable disease or cannot be "reasonably deemed a security threat," they should be able to immigrate and work toward citizenship, Redpath believes.

"Immigrants have been a great benefit to this nation throughout history," Redpath said. "It should be regulated. I am not talking about throwing open the borders."

He understands, and shares, concerns about illegal immigration, but he is also concerned about the need some have expressed to "clamp down" even more on legal immigration, noting that it's almost impossible for unskilled workers to come into the country legally and so they choose to come illegally, creating the problem that currently exists.

If he is elected, Redpath acknowledges the challenges that would greet him as a member of a minority party, but he said he is ready for that.

"I would have to work with everyone to try to get my points across," he said, noting there is always need for compromise in Congress, from all sides, but "sometimes the best thing you can do is say no."

Redpath has lived in Leesburg since 2003, having spent 18 years before that in Herndon. A certified public accountant and chartered financial analyst, Redpath is a vice president for BIA/Kelsey, a Chantilly financial consulting and valuation firm that specializes in the appraisal of media and telecommunications businesses and assets. Prior to joining that company in 1985, he was a senior financial analyst with NBC in New York, an internal auditor with ABC in New York, assistant financial manager of WISH-TV in Indianapolis, and on the audit staff of Arthur Andersen & Co. in Cincinnati.

Born and raised in Ohio, Redpath received his bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Indiana University and his MBA from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago.

This is his fourth time running for office in Virginia as a part of the Libertarian Party. He first ran for the House of Delegates in 1993, then the State Senate in the January 1998 special election, governor in 2001 and U.S. Senate in 2008.

For more information on his campaign, visit www.redpath2010.com.

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