



Libertarian Party opposes Obama war plan

By Salem Libertarian Examiner, Margie Wilson-Mars

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In a [press release](#) dated December 2, 2009, the Executive Director of the [Libertarian Party](#), [Wes Benedict](#), said that the party was against the new war plan. President Obama announced the war plan during his address at West Point on December 1, 2009. Benedict said *"Rush Limbaugh should buy Obama a nice cigar. The liberal president has done exactly what the conservative leader wanted: escalate the war."* The lack of support should come as no surprise:

On September 18, 2008, the party released the following [Resolution](#):

WHEREAS the government of the United States should return to its historical libertarian tradition of avoiding entangling alliances, foreign quarrels, and military adventures; and

WHEREAS the stability and security of Afghanistan lie outside the jurisdiction of the government of the United States; and

WHEREAS the Libertarian Party recognizes that the only legitimate role of the military is to defend America against direct attack or the imminent threat of attack;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Libertarian National Committee calls on the government of the United States to withdraw the armed forces of the United States from Afghanistan, without undue delay.

In the December 2nd statement, the Chairman of the Libertarian National Committee, [William Redpath](#), said *"This is further evidence that the differences between Republicans and Democrats are, at most, rhetorical. This president, whose votes made him the most liberal member of the U.S. Senate, has just announced an escalation of a foreign war. His campaign promise of 'Change' now sounds a lot more hollow."*

The Chairman added *"According to the Cato Institute, 'the U.S. military's counterinsurgency doctrine says that stabilizing a country the size of Afghanistan would require far more troops than the most wild-eyed hawk has proposed: about 600,000 troops.' President Obama is proposing to put a total of about 100,000 troops in Afghanistan, which won't*

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come close to accomplishing anything." He concluded by saying "The president's speech was surprisingly content-free. The speech was nearly all platitudes, which is typical for politicians, particularly presidents. Will someone please restore substance to American political discourse?"

A December [Gallup Poll](#) shows that 55% of Americans disapprove of the president's handling of the situation in Afghanistan. Only 35% approve of his handling, down from 49% in September.



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