



## The GOP needs libertarians more than libertarians need the GOP right now

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Mon, 05/18/2009 - 22:19

*Republicans need libertarians more than libertarians need Republicans. It's time for libertarians - fiscally conservative, socially tolerant people who advocate limited government and individual freedom - to start fighting back. - Jon Henke*

There are all sorts of self-described libertarians out there: Ron Paul libertarians, Libertarian Party libertarians, Club for Growth libertarians, Cato libertarians, Reason libertarians, Next Right libertarians, Neal Boortz libertarians and Lew Rockwell libertarians. There are also **millions of people** ([http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=6735](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=6735)) who don't even know they are libertarians.

During the Goldwater-Reagan years, Republicans knew they needed libertarian votes to win the White House. After George H. W. Bush disregarded his "read my lips" pledge, libertarians felt pretty isolated until the Republican Revolution. Once the Republican Party gained control of Congress, libertarians and the goals of the Republican Revolution were simultaneously flushed down the commode of win-at-all-costs politics.

Republican leaders were warned **time** (<http://www.amazon.com/Conservatives-Betrayed-Government-Republicans-Conservative/dp/1566252857>) and **time** (<http://www.amazon.com/Leviathan-Right-Big-Government-Conservatism-Republican/dp/1933995009>) and **time** (<http://www.amazon.com/Elephant-Room-Evangelicals-Libertarians-Republican/dp/0471793329>) and **time** (<http://www.amazon.com/Conservatives-Without-Conscience-John-Dean/dp/0670037745>), again that they would pay a price for dismissing potential libertarian supporters. Republicans did **pay a significant price** ([http://www.cato.org/pub\\_display.php?pub\\_id=6862](http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=6862)) in 2006, but continued on as if nothing had changed. Immediately after it became apparent that John McCain was going to win the 2008 Republican nomination, the Libertarian Party **sent a funeral wreath** (<http://www.goldwatersghost.com/blog/?p=17>) to the RNC.

There are a lot of senior Republicans who apparently wish for this downward spiral to continue, as they continue to bash libertarians to this very day.

Immediately following Election Day, Mike Huckabee **graced the pages** (<http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1859539,00.html>) of *Time*, blaming libertarians for his electoral shortcomings:

In a chapter titled "Faux-Cons: Worse than Liberalism," Huckabee identifies what he calls the "real threat" to the Republican Party: "libertarianism masked as conservatism." He is not so much concerned with the libertarian candidate Ron Paul's Republican supporters as he is with a strain of mainstream fiscal-conservative thought that demands ideological purity, seeing any tax increase as apostasy and leaving little room for government-driven solutions to people's problems. "I don't take issue with what they believe, but the smugness with which they believe it," writes Huckabee, who raised some taxes as governor and cut deals with his state's Democratic legislature. "Faux-Cons aren't interested in spirited or thoughtful debate, because such an endeavor requires accountability for the logical conclusion of their argument." Among his targets is the Club for Growth, a group that tarred Huckabee as insufficiently conservative in the primaries and ran television ads with funding from one of Huckabee's longtime Arkansas political foes, Jackson T. Stephens Jr.

This wasn't Huckabee's first jab at libertarians. The following comes from **a May 2008 Huffington Post interview** ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/will-mari/huckabee-on-the-next-repu\\_b\\_103556.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/will-mari/huckabee-on-the-next-repu_b_103556.html)):

Republicans need to be Republicans. The greatest threat to classic Republicanism is not liberalism; it's this new brand of libertarianism, which is social liberalism and economic conservatism, but it's a heartless, callous, soulless type of economic conservatism because it says "look, we want to cut taxes and eliminate government. If it means that elderly people don't get their Medicare drugs, so be it. If it means little kids go without education and healthcare, so be it." Well, that might be a quote pure economic conservative message, but it's not an American message.

"Huckabee may believe libertarians are the 'real threat', but his *God, Guns and Butter* agenda would destroy the Right far more effectively than the libertarian cartoons that exist in Huckabee's head," **wrote** (<http://www.thenextright.com/jon-henke/mike-huckabee-and-libertarians>) Jon Henke last year.

Let's fast forward a little bit. Currently, we have the whole **John Cornyn/National Republican Senatorial Committee brouhaha** (<http://boycottnrc.blogspot.com/>) over the Charlie Crist endorsement.

It's no secret that libertarians have had considerable differences with folks [like Red State's Erick Erickson](#) ([http://www.wired.com/politics/law/news/2007/10/ron\\_paul](http://www.wired.com/politics/law/news/2007/10/ron_paul)) and [The Weekly Standard's Bill Kristol](#) (<http://www.reason.com/blog/show/124132.html>). That [Kristol](#) ([http://www.weeklystandard.com/weblogs/TWSFP/2009/05/praise\\_for\\_marco\\_rubio.asp](http://www.weeklystandard.com/weblogs/TWSFP/2009/05/praise_for_marco_rubio.asp)) and [Erickson](#) (<http://www.redstate.com/erick/2009/05/13/not-one-dime-to-the-nrsc/>) can agree with libertarians on this issue should indicate that fusionism need not be dead.

These aren't isolated examples of current libertarian-bashing within the GOP.

"These were real people. [The April 15 Tea Parties] weren't organized by any crazy right-wing extremists or libertarians, as you might expect," said Kansas Representative Lynn Jenkins [on a podcast interview](#) ([http://kidbri.podomatic.com/player/web/2009-05-09T23\\_25\\_19-07\\_00](http://kidbri.podomatic.com/player/web/2009-05-09T23_25_19-07_00)) a little more than a week ago. "These were just all-American people who have finally had it with Washington."

The last time I checked, a lot of all-American, non-crazy real-people libertarians were heavily involved in the Tea Party movement. [Libertarian](#) (<http://tlot.us/the-list/>) Eric Odom [told](#) (<http://www.dontgomovement.com/blog/2009/04/08/mc-chairman-steel-requests-speaker-spot-at-chicago-tea-party/>) RNC Chairman Michael Steele that he wasn't invited to speak at the Chicago Tax Day Tea Party, while state [Campaign for Liberty coordinator](#) (<http://www.campaignforliberty.com/profile.php?member=MarceloMunoz>) Marcelo Muñoz [told](#) (<http://www.theibertypapers.org/2009/04/16/md-and-at-two-tea-party-items-of-interest/>) Alabama Secretary of State Beth Chapman that she wasn't invited to speak in Birmingham, either.

In New York City, although [he supported the bailout](#) ([http://beltwayblips.dailyradar.com/video/newt\\_gingrich\\_on\\_bailout\\_reluctantly\\_yes/](http://beltwayblips.dailyradar.com/video/newt_gingrich_on_bailout_reluctantly_yes/)), Newt Gingrich [was treated respectfully](#) (<http://sroblog.com/2009/04/16/newt-gingrich-american-solutions-blog-read/>) when he spoke. Representative Gresham Barrett [wasn't treated as politely](#) ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/04/18/gresham-barrett-gop-congr\\_n\\_188578.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/04/18/gresham-barrett-gop-congr_n_188578.html)) in the more fiscally conservative state of South Carolina.

Home to Fort Sumter, South Carolinians are used to the first volleys of a war. In a recent *Wall Street Journal* column, Senator Jim DeMint [called for a coalition built upon small-government principles](#) (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124121871475178899.html>):

Freedom will mean different things to different Republicans, but it can tether a diverse coalition to inalienable principles. Republicans can welcome a vigorous debate about legalized abortion or same-sex marriage; but we should be able to agree that social policies should be set through a democratic process, not by unelected judges. Our party benefits from national-security debates; but Republicans can start from the premise that the U.S. is an exceptional nation and force for good in history. We can argue about how to rein in the federal Leviathan; but we should agree that centralized government infringes on individual liberty and that problems are best solved by the people or the government closest to them.

In a move which has insulted Ron Paul supporters, SC Senator Lindsey Graham [unnecessarily stated](#) (<http://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/SouthernAvenger/archives/2009/05/03/lindsey-graham-ron-paul-is-not-the-leader-of-the-republican-party>) that "Ron Paul is not the leader of the Republican Party" during the SC GOP Convention. [Rob at Say Anything noted](#) (<http://savanythingblog.com/entry/lindsey-graham-insults-libertarians-gets-heckled-at-south-carolina-gop-con/>):

Graham also calls himself a "Reagan Republican," yet dismisses libertarianism. Graham should perhaps remember that [Reagan himself](#) ([http://reason.com/7507/int\\_reagan.shtml](http://reason.com/7507/int_reagan.shtml)) said that "the very heart and soul of conservatism is libertarianism."

This barb wasn't isolated, either. According to video [posted](#) (<http://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/SouthernAvenger/archives/2009/05/03/lindsey-graham-ron-paul-is-not-the-leader-of-the-republican-party>) by Jack "Southern Avenger" Hunter, Graham made a similar comment in early May.

Taking the DeMint side on the issue, SC Governor Mark Sanford [fired back](#) (<http://www.campaignforliberty.com/blog.php?view=18432>) at Graham.

"Throw me in that briar patch," responded Sanford. "I'm guilty. I love liberty and I think that ought to be a good thing and I don't think that it's something people should back away from. I've been accused of being a libertarian and I would say I wear it as a badge of honor because I do love, believe in and want to support liberty."

"I'm not going to give this party over to people who can't win," [noted](#) (<http://politicaticker.blogs.cnn.com/2009/05/17/lindsey-graham-gets-combative-over-gop-future/>) CNN about Graham's comment.

Graham is correct in this regard. There aren't enough libertarians out there right now to become the dominant force in American politics. As election results continue to prove, there aren't enough people willing to support business-as-normal inside-the-beltway Republican types, either. Should the national GOP leadership re-invite libertarians to the table (as they are doing in some places at a state and local level), the Republican Party might once again become more significant in the national political arena.

Obviously, neither side in this fight is afraid to duke it out. Libertarians have one critical advantage, though.

Libertarians are used to wandering in the wilderness like political nomads. We know we'll be called upon from time to time to act as tour guides in order to lead the Republican leadership towards some safe small-government oasis or waterhole of individual liberty. We don't even need maps or compasses, as the routes are permanently etched within our minds. Being tough and hearty political travelers, another forty years in the wilderness doesn't scare us all that much.

We are, however, becoming increasingly annoyed with Republican leaders who have established a pattern of stiffing us on the bill for our services -- making us significantly less inclined to help out in the future.

We warned Republicans in 2004. We showed some resistance in 2006. We showed most of our cards in 2008. Months after the election, the John Cornyn/Mike Huckabee/Lindsey Graham wing of the party continues to hurl insults at us. At this point, any reasonable person might ask why libertarians would even care to lift a finger to help.

Without enough allies to fight the Democrats or even the skills to find the path to small government and individual freedom, the current Republican leadership may not be destined to forty years in the wilderness. Without libertarian assistance, they may not even make it to the next oasis.

With or without the GOP, libertarians will somehow survive. Can the GOP survive without libertarians?

**UPDATE:** Chris Moody [thinks](http://csmoody.wordpress.com/2009/05/20/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now/) (http://csmoody.wordpress.com/2009/05/20/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now/) this is one of the best blog posts he's read in a while, and Norman Leahy [calls it](http://tertiumquids.blogspot.com/2009/05/on-again-off-again-dance-between-gop.html) (http://tertiumquids.blogspot.com/2009/05/on-again-off-again-dance-between-gop.html) "a broadside." Laura Ebke [seems to agree](http://redstateeclectic.typepad.com/redstate_commentary/2009/05/who-needs-little-libertarians.html) (http://redstateeclectic.typepad.com/redstate\_commentary/2009/05/who-needs-little-libertarians.html).

Freedoms Truth [goes after left-libertarians](http://www.thenextright.com/freedoms-truth/left-libertarian-or-just-plain-liberal) (http://www.thenextright.com/freedoms-truth/left-libertarian-or-just-plain-liberal) and [then argues](http://www.thenextright.com/freedoms-truth/republican-party-needs-social-conservatives-more-than-social-conservatives-need-the-r) (http://www.thenextright.com/freedoms-truth/republican-party-needs-social-conservatives-more-than-social-conservatives-need-the-r) that the Republican Party needs social conservatives more than social conservatives need the GOP.

Over at *The Liberty Papers*, [I've started keeping tally](http://www.theilbertypapers.org/2009/05/20/which-is-the-best-libertarian-insult-libbieloon-libtard-or-losertarian/) (http://www.theilbertypapers.org/2009/05/20/which-is-the-best-libertarian-insult-libbieloon-libtard-or-losertarian/) of the various insults being hurled at libertarians because of this post.

#### Average:

Your rating: None Average: 3.8 (8 votes)

## Comments

**Hilarity** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29105)

Submitted by NoMoreBlatherDotCom on Mon, 05/18/2009 - 23:47.

Despite having [bad things to say about him](http://24ahead.com/blog/archives/007188.html) (http://24ahead.com/blog/archives/007188.html), I agree with the Huckster about the "heartless, callous, soulless" bit. Please accept the fact that we aren't going to ever become a libertarian paradise like Somalia, and move on. The best that could be done is to make gov't a bit smaller and a lot more efficient and less intrusive. Instead, libertarian policies - such as the support that many offer for massive law-breaking - leads to more government, more power for the far-left, and more intrusion. And, it makes it even easier for the Dems to portray the GOP in a negative light, in that case correctly. If you want to oppose the Dems, do so in a way that has broad support and that's not based on self-delusion.

As for the [tea parties](http://24ahead.com/s/tea-parties) (http://24ahead.com/s/tea-parties), please feel free to rejoin us back here on Earth when you get a chance. The one yesterday in L.A. got 0.005% of this city's population, and others in deep blue districts have gotten less than 1% of all voters and in some cases done even worse. Despite Fox's best efforts, their big day got only 0.1% to 0.2% of the U.S. population to turn out. What part of "you don't have the numbers" is difficult to understand?

And, there are certainly some interesting folks helping them along, such as DickArmey, GroverNorquist, and the Kochtopus. That should be a clue right there. If that's not enough, the fact that their leaders have to engage in ACORN-style street protests with loopy signs instead of [doing something much, much more effective](http://24ahead.com/s/question-authority) (http://24ahead.com/s/question-authority) should be an even better clue.

P.S. Here's a fun photo from the Buffalo "party". In case anyone thinks it's a plant, note that it was taken by MattMargolis of BlogsForBush infamy. It about sums up the intellectual heft of the "parties".



(<http://img22.imageshack.us/my.php?image=teapartystupidity.jpg>)

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**If this libertarian...** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29174)

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:46.

...is so heartless and uncaring, why was I just at [this event](http://alric.org/2009/04/27/alric-secretary-to-hear- eminent-domain-testimony-with-us-civil-rights-commission-on-wednesday-in-montgomery/) (<http://alric.org/2009/04/27/alric-secretary-to-hear- eminent-domain-testimony-with-us-civil-rights-commission-on-wednesday-in-montgomery/>) ensuring that the poor and disenfranchised in Alabama have property rights, too.

**Funny how GOP hacks acts as if the past 8 yrs were libertarian.**

(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29108)

Submitted by Chieftain1776 on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 05:17.

Will Wilkinson puts it nicely:

[The Party of Untrammled Freedom and Maximum Individual Choice?!](http://www.willwilkinson.net/flybottle/2009/05/05/the-party-of-untrammled-freedom-and-maximum-individual-choice/) (<http://www.willwilkinson.net/flybottle/2009/05/05/the-party-of-untrammled-freedom-and-maximum-individual-choice/>)

by Will Wilkinson on May 5, 2009

David Brooks (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/05/opinion/05brooks.html?em>):

[I]f Republicans had learned the right lessons from the Westerns, or at least John Ford Westerns, they would not be the party of untrammled freedom and maximum individual choice. They would once again be the party of community and civic order.

What in tarnation is this man talking about? Where is this Republican Party of "untrammled freedom and maximum individual choice"? Did Ron Paul just become House minority leader or take Michael Steele's job or something? Have the Republicans put up the white flag in the War on Drugs? Are GOP Senators stumping to end the legislation of morality? How did I miss this? It's like Brooks was kidnapped by a Romulan and is sending us op-eds from an alternative timeline.

We already tried the "Compassionate Conservatism" of Bush/Douthat/Brooks, the "National Greatness Conservatism" of Brooks/McCain/Kristol/Graham/Frum. What did we get in return? A "compassionate" Federal Reserve/Fannie Mae/CRA housing boom and bust drowning us into another Great Depression and a "Great" and unnecessary Iraq War in which 4,000 fathers, brothers, and sons perished. Think about "soullessness" of *that* this Father's Day...I know the families will.

Oh and most importantly to these hacks: landslides losses in 2006 and 2008.

I'm sorry if I'd rather take the "heartless, souless" libertarianism than pretend we can live a government created utopia. Even after the horrors of the last 8 years, and in the spirit of compromise, most of us libertarians will settle for the mere federalism enshrined in the Constitution. The central planners can try to create *their* utopia state-by-state and they'll have more of the resources that won't be going to the Federal Leviathan. *When* their schemes fail the political hacks that tried it will pay the price (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124260067214828295.html>).

**Re: Funny how GOP hacks act as if past 8 yrs were libertarian**

(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29141)

Submitted by gs on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 10:50.

I can see why the would-be theocrats would dissimulate that way, but I don't get the likes of Brooks.

My high school English teacher would have flunked that column cold. It's not even worth criticizing. Not even wrong, as the saying goes.

Thank goodness that William F. Buckley didn't let Brooks become his successor at National Review.

**With or without the GOP, libertarians will somehow survive...** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29116)

Submitted by Daniel Ruwe on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 08:31.

...Can the GOP survive without libertarians?

Yes. Where else will they go?

**Isn't it obvious?** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29119)

Submitted by Bryan Pick on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 09:03.

- Stay home on Election Day
- Vote for a Democrat who at least delivers on being socially tolerant, since the Republicans in power are big spenders anyway
- Vote for the LP

You may disagree with the reason for doing any of those, but libertarian-leaning people are doing all three. And Republicans aren't losing just their votes, but other forms of support as well.

The GOP isn't in the best of health right now. If they won't show libertarian-leaning people any respect, they'll have to make up the difference elsewhere. How's that working out for them?

**Where else will they go?** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29176)

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:49.

Libertarians have been so seriously dissed by the GOP that they didn't go to the polling booths to pull the McCain lever -- or even vote for their local Republican congresscritters.

**In 2008, libertarians...** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29120)

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 09:07.

...stayed home, voted for Obama or went third party. There is no way more than a few of us give our vote to McCain. Fewer stayed home in 2006 because the Dems actually played ball with us in the mountain states and a few other areas.

The question is what the social conservatives are going to do. They can't vote Dem and have no where else to go.

Most libertarians will vote for a candidate like Mark Sanford. Some may vote for Palin, but some won't. Give libertarians yet another big-government Republican and libertarians won't be a part of it.

And no one can make us!

**Libertarian bashing is deserved, long overdue. They need it!** (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29122)

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 09:28.

Libertarians made no bones about being vocally opposed to the GOP team in 2008. Your posterboi candidate had the gall to pledge that Libertarians would be "the upsetting electoral force in 2008" and that would stamp the GOP finally as "Dead On Arrival". Reason Magazine ran articles with quotes from famous (or infamous) Libertarians taking potshots at Bush 43, at Bush 41 and McCain and the GOP and anyone else around who could be a whipping boy to garner some press attention for the failing, flailing Libbies. Bob Barr: "We'll be the deciding force in this election. Mark my word." And the LibbieLoon's spokesman offered this outrageous promise: "Bob Barr is one of the strongest candidates in the Party's 37-year history, and we look for him to have an enormous impact in the 2008 race."

BobBarr got about 510k votes nation-wide; RalphNader, without any Party organization, got about 670k vote. Libbies took in an "amazing strong" 0.4% of the vote --that's translated as four tenths of one percent of the vote. And on that basis, BobBarr and his fellow LibbieLoons crowed into the morning hours of ElectionNight2008 that they'd be the deciding factor in dozens of states... including NorthCarolina -which they weren't. Nevada; which they weren't. Et cetera, et cetera.

Guess what happened? Did the LibbieLoons meet or exceed their outlandish and press-grabbing promises? Nope. Obama and the Dems out-organized the GOP, the economy went into the tank, McCain made missteps and no one except LibbieLoons contend that the Libbies were a deciding factor in the race. Hey, but BobBarr and LibbieLoons quickly claimed they'd be back in 2012! Oh yeah? The GOP shouldn't be shaking in their boots... they should be using the boots to kick the LibbieLoons' collective asses back to their own miserable, underachieving political swamp and down the rathole from whence they came... but, that's kind of sounding a tad angry now, no? I think all the LibbieLoon bashing is well deserved and rightly given to those disloyal twits who now want to take the GOP deep into the Loon-aticLand of dope legalization, no taxes, no military, evict the UN, cancel all treaties, open the borders, go back to the Gold Standard and "Just Say Yes to the Terrorists".

With "friends" and "political allies" like the Libbies, you gotta wonder why the GOP leadership hasn't been more strong in its condemnation of the disloyal, disreputable, farRight LibbieLoons? Fusionism isn't about the soc-cons hooking-up with LibbieLoons on a street corner at 2AM... it should be about fusing the GOP's boot on the LibbieLoons' backside.

Here's the real GOP deal for LibbieLoons... if you agree with the Party's core principles on smaller govt, lower taxes, strong natl defense and JackKemp's Opportunity Society, come on board! If you don't and --like RonPaul-- want to abdicate the Free World to the IslamoFascists, then take a hike or return to that land of electoral wonders and political groundswells (not), the LibbieLoon party. Hey, someday you'll break 1% of the natl vote. That's a hell of a goal to shoot for!

And as for RonaldReagan being the new posterboi for the LibbieLoons looking for a little love in da'GOP... well, boys, the sad truth is that even Ron didn't buy into the Loon-atic fringe when he was a lowly Governor trying hard to buy votes so he could engage in the supremely disloyal act of challenging JerryFord for the 76 nomination. What is about disloyal LibbieLoons and disloyal acts like RonReagan's in '76?

In that interview quoted above, Ron the Gov takes issue with lots of LibbieLoon-atic antics and, after dismissing the notion that having a town fire dept isn't socialism to his way of thinking, he goes onto to find common ground with the Loons interviewing him. Of course, Ron's agenda was to build support ANYWHERE... and we all know, lunatics are allowed to vote.

The real RonReagan quote was when he rightly announced a bid for the 1980 nomination and said: **"A troubled and afflicted mankind looks to us, pleading for us to keep our rendezvous with destiny; that we will uphold the principles of self-reliance, self-discipline, morality, and, above all, responsible liberty for every individual that we will become that shining city on a hill."**

The problem with LibbieLoons is that they don't believe in making America that shining city on a hill... they want the hill torn down with cynicism, anarchy and pure greedy self-interest ran riot in the land. It's why RonPaul & BobBarr are such a good spokesmen for the Libbies. GOPers still see Reagan's dream as do-able and worthy of our combined effort.

The 1975 Reagan quote was more about showing Reagan's ultimate disloyalty to his GOP standard bearer than an endorsement of Libertarian-ism... if there is such an animal. He was after votes --he'd say anything to get there.

**[responsible liberty](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29154](#))

Submitted by Freedoms Truth on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 12:26.

**"A troubled and afflicted mankind looks to us, pleading for us to keep our rendezvous with destiny; that we will uphold the principles of self-reliance, self-discipline, morality, and, above all, responsible liberty for every individual that we will become that shining city on a hill." - Ronald Reagan**

Note the words **responsible liberty**

**Reagan understood that liberty requires the fertile ground of strong families, strong communities and a moral and civil society.** He understood what the ACLU always forgets.

It's the narrow focus on solely individual liberty that limits libertarian application to all issues. Reagan went beyond that, he practiced (as you note) the politics of addition.

Michigan-Matt, good quote but you detract from your message with your attacks and ranting. Vinegar only goes well in small doses.

**[A lot of libertarians...](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29179](#))

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:56.

...place a lot of emphasis on personal responsibility (<http://www.thefreemanonline.org/featured/reflections-on-self-responsibility-and-libertarianism/>).

**[Noted. You note the words "morality" and the other points.](#)**  
([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-](#)

[gop-right-now#comment-29188](#)

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:51.

For someone who contends to be a GOPer, I think responsible liberty is a great place to start the debate about where the GOP proceeds. Unfortunately, LibbieLoons don't want "responsible" liberty... they want unlimited, unchecked, unfettered liberty. They want to be able to smoke, sell and grow dope down at the school yard... they want to get rid of America's "entangling" treaties and withdraw from the world's problems as Pure & Unabashed Isolationists.

Reagan knew and points out in that 1975 interview noted in this post that America has a destiny. It has a duty. That govt can serve it's citizens and the citizens control the govt, not abdicate from it. Morality is part of it --and that's an area that LibbieLoons want everyone to accept their hands-off approach. Sorry, I don't want gay marriage endorsed by society and I don't want to be responsible for the burdens of the divorced spouse when that SSM breaks up. and I sure don't want the Loons determining American interests abroad.

LibbieLoons are not only Isolationists. They're also Nullificationists. They're anti-state. They're in favor of little or no regulation even if the regulations stand the test of time going back to TeddyRoosevelt. Frankly, I'd like to know that the marketplace is full of LibbieLoon-inspired opportunists out for a quick buck, a fast take and no liability.

Sorry, Freedom, they don't want the kind of responsible liberty that Reagan was speaking about --they want unlimited, unchecked, unfettered liberty to pursue whatever, wherever and whenever and however THEY think it best optimizes their self-interests.

Remember, this is a thread purporting to argue that the GOP "needs" the Libertarians rather than vice-versa.

GOP needs to put a boot to the disloyal, back-stabbing LibbieLoons and send em packing --not make the GOP over into LibbieLoonLand Part Deux.

**[if it's conservative to look backward...](#)** ([stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29245](#))

Submitted by Maleficent on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 10:58.

and find things good... why not look back to before we banned recreational drugs? they didn't cause nearly the problems back then...

**[BobBarr got about 510k votes nation-wide](#)** ([stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29178](#))

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:52.

The Libertarian Party is but a small piece of the entire libertarian movement.

" it should be about fusing the GOP's boot on the LibbieLoons' backside."

Have fun losing even more congressional seats to the Dems.

**[Have fun losing MORE Congressional seats to the Dems???](#)**

([stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29186](#))

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:39.

Ummm, in case you haven't noticed but the Libertarian Party has yet to win a single --one-- Congressional seat since its founding. Any current Libertarian Party supporters in Congress belong to a real political party, namely the GOP. CrazyUncleRon is still registered as a Republican --although I doubt he's comfortable with that label after the thrashing he received in the 2008 primaries by Republican contenders who out-pollled him... I think CrazyUncleRon got like 1.6% of the entire GOP Presidential primary vote --even including Open Primaries in states where Democrats got to vote in the GOP primary without penalty.

Have fun losing more seats? Really, now. And that comes from someone who isn't a GOPer, who is a LibbieLoon and who projects to know something, anything about politics? Umm, right. You go to the town market with that one and sell it.

**[I don't think you get it](#)** ([stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29189](#))

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:55.

I'm not talking about the LP, but the much broader libertarian movement. These are people who are generally classified as fiscally conservative and socially tolerant. Believe it or not, there are millions and millions of these folks out there. You might

read Ryan Sager to see how the loss of these votes cost a whole lot of congressional seats in 2006.

Also, while I've been employed by the LP and LP campaigns, I've worked plenty of GOP campaigns, too. My first one was Oliver North's Senate race in VA.

**The Libertarian Movement, is it?** ([//stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29205](http://stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29205))

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 20:28.

Wow, I hadn't heard there actually was one. A "libertarian movement"? Wow, is that separate of the Libertarian Party who still have the incredible political presence of... what 1/2m voters supporting them?

I had heard that some political activists, still trying to validate Bob Barr getting less than 510k General election votes or about 0.4% of the total American vote, would like to propose there is something like a movement afoot. I know they've tried to glom-onto the Tea Party incarnation as proof of it... except when CrazyUncleRon ran the Tea Party events, they were meant to raise money, not anger.

Of course, I know, there's a lot to be said if we all could just close our eyes, click our heels three times and think of Kansas... maybe there really could be a libertarian movement.

But the truth is that your movement is nothing more than a straight up fiction created by a group of hardcore political activists who are still mad they aren't taken seriously by anyone --including the GOP.

Maybe that libertarian movement you speak about could begin by waging a legitimate, meaningful challenge to the Dem and GOP prez candidates? Maybe that movement you speak about could be more than just wishful thinking from a hardcore group of Reason magazine editors trying to keep their sponsors and advertisers?

Because, at the end of the day, that's all the so-called Libertarian Movement is all about... that and some crafty push-polling by special interest groups intent on making themselves look like a lot more is hiding behind the green curtains of Oz.

Grab Toto and make a try for it, Stephen. It's better than drowning your sorrows in a beer.

**Great read.** ([//stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29124](http://stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29124))

Submitted by ldb on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 09:30.

Like many Libertarians, I've always assumed that the out of control national debt will eventually cause an implosion. While the current spending regime will accelerate this process, it has been going on since Reagan. The Reps can make all the noise they want about it, but they are as complicit as the Dems (and it's amazing that they only started making noise when they got booted out of power).

So, with that being equal, I'm voting my social conscience. I have no desire to live in a theocracy. I have no desire to abandon everything America stands for morally by torturing people. I believe that all men are created equal, and that economic discrimination based on a couple's genital plumbing arrangement is wrong. I believe that science, not superstition, should be paramount in schools. I believe that immigration enforcement should be aimed at the businesses who hire them (unfortunately, these business interests control both parties). I believe that 8-10 million children without insurance should still have access to health care. I think abortion is bad, but making it illegal is worse. I believe invading a nation based on lies is wrong to the tune of 1 trillion dollars.

It's clear the Republicans want nothing to do with people like me. So be it.

**ldb** ([//stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29166](http://stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29166))

Submitted by Freedoms Truth on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 13:44.



Your comments were worthy of response, but would become extended, so I made it a new post here:

<http://www.thenextright.com/freedoms-truth/left-libertarian-or-just-plai...> (<http://www.thenextright.com/freedoms-truth/left-libertarian-or-just-plain-liberal/>)

**Thanks** (</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29180>)

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:58.

**Some Republicans are interested in** catering to the libertarian vote. Others aren't, And others want to give libertarians the boot.

Which way the GOP will move is yet to be determined.

**Which way the GOP is moving? Really, you didn't get the memo?** (</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29204>)

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 20:17.

With the election of Michael Steele, the Party leadership and grassroots-driven state party leaders have spoken, Stephen.

It's to move toward the center. It's to move AWAY from the divisive issues that soc-cons brought to the Party in the 1990s. It's to move toward moderate, electable candidates while milking those fringe political subsets of all their stinking, filthy lucre and giving high-fives to the TeaParty movement. It's to remind party GOP regulars that soc-cons ruined the brand and shouldn't be allowed anywhere near a county convention again... let alone be allowed to run for state delegate.

It's to make a competitive mark in the PR wars with the Democrats. It's to let the Democrat Congress and Obama give Americans all the reasons they need to regret their vote. It's to point out that Obama and ACORN stole the 2008 election with vote fraud unparalleled in American annals of politics since the Chicago vote fraud in 1960 that elected John Kennedy illegally.

In short, to do what's necessary to win. Not win someone's concept of a Purity Politics Beauty Contest. To win office; it's what a Party is for, afterall.

I'm surprised you didn't get the memo... it was sent to the LibbieLoon headquarters in c/o your candidate for 2012... the incredible, electable BobBarr. 😊

**No political party can survive...** (</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29135>)

Submitted by davidfarrar on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 10:07.

...by exclusion. The challenge for the Republican party is to insure that all its members have a voice, that all can speak and that all are accurately heard. At present, the RNC is engaged in rebuilding its web presence. Let's hope this effort will allow all of its members to be heard. Only when the political aspirations of the members of the Republican party are accurately reflected by its leadership can the common good for all be achieved.

ex animo



davidfarrar

**"...hope this effort will allow all of its members to be heard"**

(</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29181>)

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:00.

We'll see what happens. Obviously, the Lindsey Graham types (if you listen to the end of the video) don't want this to happen.

**Stephen Gordon...** (</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than->

libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29187)

Submitted by davidfarrar on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:48.

...I, too, am not holding my breath that the new RNC website is going to give the grassroot of the party their voice, allow them to speak, and most importantly of all, to be accurately heard. But if you don't ask before the fact, you lack the predicate to complain after the fact.

As I have mentioned here on previous occasions, I see the web site [The People Decide](http://thepeopledecide.us/) (<http://thepeopledecide.us/>) as a good example of just how this can best be accomplished. It is still a work in progress, but if the RNC did something along these lines, that is, cybernetically allowed each member to act as if they were a voting member of Congress, their voices would be heard -- which is exactly why the corporate rulers of the Republican party would never allow such power to fall into the hands of their fellow grassroot party members.

ex animo



(<http://thepeopledecide.us/>)

davidfarrar

David, (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29191)

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:58.

Your suggestion seems to be pretty much in line with what I'm hearing from Tea Party folks and other local grassroots people.

Stephen Gordon... (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29197)

Submitted by davidfarrar on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 08:54.

Yes. The truth is, the only real political ideology Tea Partyers have in common is their fiscal conservatism. And many feel, as I do, we have been betrayed by Congressional Republicans who voted for the TARP. And the only place for the grassroot of the party to call these members to account for their betrayal is at the ballot box. That is how the system works. When elected officials fail in their duty to the people who put them into office, it becomes not only the responsibility, but the duty of the people to remove them from office. If we fail in this resolve, we have no right to complain. Like mindless lemmings headed towards the cliff, we deserve what we get.

This is the only true way to "reform" a political party that hasn't changed its political platform. Of course, those in power are going to try their best to convince you otherwise with all sorts of schemes to reform the party. But they are all merely smokescreens, designed to fool the grassroot membership into believing that "real" party reform has taken place. So it doesn't surprise me that McCain and his people over at the NCNA would think "listening tours" would be a good way to divert the party's grassroot membership from their real duty at hand.

ex animo



(<http://thepeopledecide.us/>)

davidfarrar

"It's those evil RINO GOP elites, I tell ya!!!" (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29236)

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 09:11.

David, you're sounding more like Pat2Me!!! up in PA than anything approaching a sane, reasonable thinker.

The GOP elites aren't the problem. You aren't part of the GOP base or grassroots anymore than BobBarr, DrDobsen or RushBlow.

If you really want your special voice heard, try honestly joining up with the LibbieLoon-atic Party, try getting their platform and agenda and candidates reformed to your special world vision... try selling that nonsense to more than just 510k voters in an election that saw over 129 million voters show up at the polls and vote.

.5m for the LibbieLoons out of 129 million voters?

It isn't the evil, non-listening GOP elites, David. It's what you got, you can't sell; what you believe, the voters ain't buying. So you attack the hypothetical GOP elites?

Talk about tilting at windmills. Get over the LibertarianParty and do your best there-- and be sure to announce as you enter: "Bombs Away". Because damage is all you'll do on the best days.

**Thanks, again, Matt...** (</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29240>)

Submitted by davidfarrar on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 11:12.

..for your erudite suggestion. But I have not said it was the GOP elites, nor even RINOs, destroying the party from within, but the corporate wing of the party, the corporate elites of the party. By following the Golden Rule\*, they have been successful in pursuing their own political agenda of more taxes, more government, at the expense of the party's political platform of less taxes, less government. And since we are, after all, at the Next Right website, one would think we should focus on why the Republican party is presently failing, not the Libertarian party.

That being said, it would seem logical to me that if we simply gave all party members a voice, allowed all to speak and to be accurately heard by the party's corporate leaders, this may, in fact, be the fastest remedy available to address this obvious structural imbalance of power within the party -- so that the common good of all can be achieved.

What say you?

ex animo



davidfarrar

\* He who has the gold, rules.

**mucking up debate with wrong definitions** (</stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29152>)

Submitted by Freedoms Truth on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 12:17.

I am annoyed by the misuse of labels as a poor substitute for honest critique (\*). **This column continues the error of Mike Huckabee in confusing libertarians with 'fiscal conservatives' and mis-characterizing/mis-labeling other parts of the party.**

Jon Henke put it: "libertarian cartoons that exist in Huckabee's head" - that's what it is. Club for Growth is NOT 'soulless' nor is it precisely libertarian. The column above make the error on adding confusion with its 'libertarian this' or libertarian that. How about correcting hte terminology please - Ron Paul REPUBLICANS, Club for Growth CONSERVATIVES, Next Right CONSERVATIVES, Neal Boortz CONSERVATIVES. Lew Rockwell paleo-conservatives.

Perhaps the WORST absurdity was in an heated email exchange I witnessed lately, where a RonPaul type made a statement in retort to an attack on libertarians causing problems in the GOP "libertarians are not conservatives" with "**neo-cons are not conservatives!**"

Huh? A neo-conservative is not a conservative? oy vey! My head really hurt after that one.

For this particular fiscal small-govt conservative, Reagan Republican and full-bore pro-life conservative with many views that are consistently fiscal conservative, but not a "zero tax" or "zero govt" person, I am aghast at Huckabee's hucksterish mis-labelling. And we dig the divisions DEEPER by creating labels that divide the conservative coalition rather than UNITE THE RIGHT, which is what we should be doing.

Fiscal small-govt conservatism is a core unifying principle/value of the GOP coalition. So is liberty, freedom and respect for constitutionalism and rule of law. So DeMint and Sanford are on solid ground here:

Freedom will mean different things to different Republicans, but it can tether a diverse coalition to inalienable principles.

As DeMint points out - the '3-legged stool' of national security, small-govt and rule-of-law/civil order/moral values are tethered to liberty as the core value. But that said, libertarians is more ideological and narrower term than small-government conservative. The term libertarianism adds baggage of libertine views on personal behavior that is baggage not unity for the GOP tent. As such, letting the Hucksters or for that matter extreme libertarians egg on the rhetorical division, by mislabelling small-govt conservatives as 'not conservatives at all' and attacking such beliefs will hurt those of us who want UNITY and not division on this matter.

We dont need so-con bashing, we dont need libertarian-bashing, we dont even need moderate (grassroots moderates) bashing per se. Multiple labels are welcome but the **unifying concept should be "small-government conservative" ie one who believes in maximizing individual responsibility and freedom, and keeping govt taxes, spending, regulation and power limited.** The various other labels/definitions take this base and go in different directions but are united in the general view of relations of the individual, community and the state.

(\*) See RNC fiasco over calling Obama /Democrats 'socialist'.

**[a lot more libertarians around than you realize \(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29182\)](#)**

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:03.

"Ron Paul REPUBLICANS, Club for Growth CONSERVATIVES, Next Right CONSERVATIVES, Neal Boortz CONSERVATIVES. Lew Rockwell paleo-conservatives."

Most Ron Paul supporters I know are self-identified libertarians. I know LP members who donate to the Club for Growth. There are self-described libertarians and the Next Right -- Jon Henke is a classic example.

Both Boortz and Rockwell are self-described libertarians.

**[Does this mean... \(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29171\)](#)**

Submitted by gruffbear on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 14:42.

Does this mean that the bloggers on thenextright.com will stop calling libertarians "libtards"?

**["...will stop calling libertarians 'libtards'?" \(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29183\)](#)**

Submitted by Stephen Gordon on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 16:04.

LOL. I wouldn't count on it, though.

**[lib-tards \(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29192\)](#)**

Submitted by Freedoms Truth on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 17:01.

... is an insult to LIBERALS.

If you want to insult Libertarians, you call em Loser-tarians or something like that.

**[Insulting Libertarians isn't a wise thing to do; just \(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29203\)](#)**

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 20:05.

call them what they really are: LibbieLoon-atics.

That captures it all --or at least all they got-- in a nutshell. If a irresponsible notion like replacing the US military and intelligence community with a 18th century notion of a well-regulated militia of citizens isn't the height of LibbieLoon-atic, I guess it would be dope legalization... or going back to the Gold Standard... it's almost as pathetic of the loons who think there is a "Libertarian Movement" abreast or that the GOP "needs" the LibbieLoon-atics.

What a bunch of losers looking for a second political party to destroy. The GOP doesn't need to move backwards in time... it needs to reform itself with the right, conventional message, move toward the political center because that's where Obama's impact on the American political culture will have taken us in 4 yrs and begin recruiting and supporting candidates who believe the best of America still awaits our manifest destiny.

Yep, LibbieLoon-atics nails it. Perfectly.

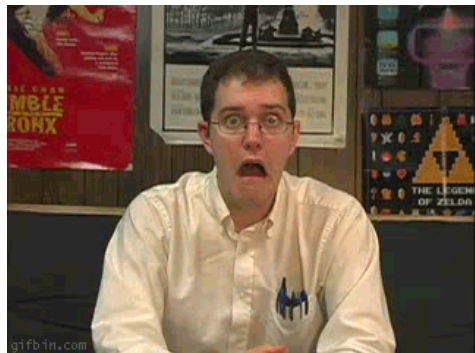
**So why would an Obama impacted political center... (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29208)**

Submitted by davidfarrar on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 21:54.

...abandoned him in four years and vote for a corporate-financed, NCNA moderate tax-and-spend-even-more Republican?

Didn't McCain just lose an election following your advice?

ex animo



davidfarrar

**David, McCain lost because of disloyal, sit at home snits**

(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29223)

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 06:47.

I'm thinking you haven't been learning or listening... McCain lost because the GOP relied on the fact that soc-cons and farRight LibbieLoons would pull into line and vote against the realistic excesses promised in an Obama Administration.

Little did anyone know how fundamentally self-interested and disloyal those two groups of supposedly "base-GOPers" could become... I say supposedly because I sure as heck hope they are NO LONGER considered to be part of the GOP base.

McCain lost because of a tanked economy. He lost because of an unpopular Prez. He lost because soc-con GOPers in Congress ruined the Party brand. He lost because he didn't go moderate enough --like dumping Palin before she became the polarizing choice of extremes.

You gotta listen and learn, first David.

**Thanks, Matt, for the correction... (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29228)**

Submitted by davidfarrar on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 08:31.

...here I was thinking it was McCain's failure to entice enough independents that caused him to fail.

I was just hit with a post here the other day that insisted McCain actually did quite well with conservatives, even soc-cons due to their fear and loathing of Obama.

As for me, I think I will continue to believe McCain lost the support of many independents because he wasn't a Teddy Roosevelt, as he proclaimed himself to be, but a Franklin, when he raced back to Washington and sold this country out to socialism.

But the question remains: Why would an Obama impacted political center abandoned him in four years only to vote for a corporate-financed, NCNA, tax-and-spend-even-more Republican?

ex animo

davidfarrar

**don't you think it was a mix of factors? (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29238)**

Submitted by xc1148 on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 09:40.

McCain obviously won the youth and minority votes, and I think he was doing poorly among the far-right until he picked Palin. I think the votes he got because people were scared of Obama were probably canceled out by the people that stayed home, the true fiscal conservatives who knew the Republicans had strayed from their values (TARP) but couldn't bring themselves to vote for a Dem.

To your main point, you are correct, I don't think people that voted for Obama are going to abandon him.

the only thing that can get obama voters to switch would be a true fiscal conservative. i think it took a lot for obama to let GM and chrysler fail, and it will take a lot for someone in government to finally start to cut spending. if someone can come up with a real plan to fix social security or lower the budget (excluding war costs), that person will have a lot of support. right now, both parties increase spending so there isnt much of a difference.

**[Are you sure...](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29242](#))

Submitted by davidfarrar on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 10:11.

...McCain obviously won the youth and minority votes,

That being said, I think your analysis of what it will take to win is spot on.

ex animo

davidfarrar

**[haha just a typo](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29247](#))

Submitted by xc1148 on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 11:18.

:)

**[Michigan-Matt](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29214](#))

Submitted by Dan Hansen on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 00:26.

You've been busy on this thread. You've got your catch-phrase insult that you repeat over and over again ("LibbeLoon"). And you're having a good time beating up strawmen ("grow dope down at the school yard", "back-stabbing", "isolationists" who "want to abdicate the Free World to the IslamoFascists" as we sit isolated with our "well regulated militia"). Yeah, right, that's what we want. Sure. An Islamic theocracy of dope-smokers who carry muskets in the town square on weekends.

So you've got your insult. And you've got your talking points. "Run to the middle". "We wanna be the party that wins!" References to Jack Kemp (that's the third Jack Kemp reference I've read in the last two days, which is interesting. Guess he looks better now that he's dead). You could be parroting a Lindsey Graham speech.

But then you have the nerve to talk of the core value of small government. You people talk about small government but then you lie through your teeth. You've done nothing but increase the government's size to the tune of multi-trillion dollar budgets. Your version of the middle has nothing to do with "smaller" (let alone small) government. Your version of a strong national defense requires spending a trillion dollars to keep troops in 130 countries. Your version of a free market requires an \$800 billion dollar bail-out package and a central bank that starts up the printing presses. And I'm talking about the Republicans here.

Basically, you're a Republican. You're what we used know as a war-hawk democrat. We know your kind and frankly you're nothing but a monkey-boy. We've been been watching you "win" elections for years. And to what point? So you can be a Democrat-lite?

So score your little debating points about "dope-smoking militias". Your kind will debase the currency, destroy the middle class, and leave our grand-kids to pick up the mess.

So, monkey-boy, convince us that your "middle" is not just democrat-lite. Convince us that you're not a RINO. What government programs are you going to cut to get the budget back in place? What military program are you not going to fund? How are you going to handle medi-care? What do you think of the Fed and currency debasement?

Or maybe you'd rather talking about growing dope in theocratic schoolyards while

marching around with muskets. Yeah, that's the ticket. Pay no attention to the monkey-boys writing bad checks to everybody. Cause they're in the middle of it all. And boy are they. More precisely, they're at the center of it all.

More to the point. This huge government leviathan is your friggin fault. Sack up and admit it.

**Dan Hansen, insults never get you ahead.** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29234](#))

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 08:35.

Dan offers: "Yeah, right, that's what we want. Sure. An Islamic theocracy of dope-smokers who carry muskets in the town square on weekends".

Ever been to a Libertarian Party function? You described it perfectly already. Of course, if your posterBoi of a "man", DOCTOR CrazyUncleRon, had gotten into office, the Islamofascists would have been running terror cells in America again because he was against the Bush Doctrine and policies which have kept American citizens safe since 9-11. I hate to say this Dan, but just on that point alone --skip all the others you try to raise-- you guys lose the most fundamental, core issue of the day and should be stamped on your forehead with the word "Failure". Remember, you guys would like to eliminate the FBI, IRS, CIA, NSA, etc. and turn the military into a citizen-based militia armed with Uzis and 500 round banana clips... "no gun laws".

National security, American leadership of the Free World and embracing our destiny to be that Shining City on the Hill that Reagan dreamed about isn't compatible with Libertarian Party policies. Pure and simple. Failure is your worst enemy but constant bedmate.

Now, as for programs to cut? There are billions of dollars worth... where to start? Farm subsidies? Expensive multi-service military weapons programs? Foreign aid? The entire Energy Dept... Education Dept... countless federal agencies? Sure. Put the natl museums on a pay-as-you-go basis? Sure. Privatize the National Centers of health, CDC, etc? Sure. Reduce all federal budgets by 25%? Sure. Cut federal pensions? Sure. Eliminate SS payroll taxes if the individual agrees not use services later? Sure. Cut out every single Natl cultural program (NPR, NCH, NCA, etc)? Sure. Downsize Congressional and Judicial and Executive staff? Sure... as long as it's more than the 25%. Zero-based budgeting? Sure. Eliminate earmarks entirely --not just the growth of earmarks? Sure.

There's a lot to be done, Dan. Can it be done by Libertarians who can't seem to get past amusing 510k voters in the ENTIRE USofA? Nope. Can it be done by GOPers? Sure.

Do Libertarians want to be a part of that sea-change reform? They can if they're willing to man-up, admit their disloyalty to the Party and agree NOT to undercut the GOP in the future. And drop all these stupid, politically suicidal calls for purity politics and "defeat da' RINOs" as a political goal worthy of consideration by anyone other than the LibbieLoon-atics.

Oh... and they have to hog-tie BobBarr and DOCTORCrazyUncleRon together and parade them through the town square as our newest Villageldiots.

That's the ticket. Yeah, that works for me.

**I sure as hell don't need republicans** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29175](#))

Submitted by cr on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:46.

And yes, the libertarian party is diverse as is the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. However, at least the Dem party doesn't promise limited government and being fiscally conservative and do the opposite. I don't agree with Obama's spending plan, but it's not a surprise. Outside of being against liberals, I simply don't know what the republican party (actually) stands for.

On a side note, I noticed Ron Paul and his son on what's-her-face's show . . . Maddow. A few times now. Interesting that. I disagree with Ron on some things, but he seems like an honest bloke . . . what-you-see-is-what-you-get. Maybe more reps should look into that instead of sitting around calling people names.

**Libertarians and the GOP are oxymorons** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29177](#))

Submitted by Jim Dandy to th... on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 15:56.

.. The underlying principles of Libertarianism cannot coexist with the pro-corporate GOP.

Just take a look at what the mainstream GOP media are hitting today: They are going crazy over CAFE standards, Cap-and-Trade, the Environment, and Obama's National Health Insurance plan.

Each of these involves one of the pillars of corporate support for the GOP: Big Oil, Big Energy, Big MD.

Each of these issues says nothing to Libertarians' core concerns.

For years now, the GOP has not spoken to or addressed Libertarian issues, because they cannot afford to. The bulwark, the mainstay, the center of the GOP's success was always the support of the corporate and business community for the dismantling of regulations and taxation that hurt profits. Bush was spectacularly succesful in delivering that during both terms, in statute and agency regs and changing the composition and reach of regulatory bodies.

Gingrich, Rush, all the people who are considered leaders of the GOP today write books, travel, and speak on behalf of these and other pillars, and will defend corporate interests to the death. That's who got them where they are.

Libertarians? Not so much. Reagan's genius was in making Libertarians believe he would address their concerns. Lower taxes, smaller government, less regulation in their everyday lives, and a tiny footprint in other countries' affairs. The GOP pays lip service to these principles, but lip service is as far as it goes.

Once Reagan gained power, he grew the government, took out needed regulation, put in payroll and other tax increases, got the US involved in nation-building around the world and especially in Latin America, sent secret billions to Afghanistan, ran a stupid "war" in Grenada, bombed Lybia, gave away hundreds of billions to corrupt Defense programs, and tripled the National Debt. None of these were things Libertarians supported.

Libertarians hung on to the GOP anyway, for decades, against their better judgment: Simply because they were told they had nowhere else to go.

The writer makes a good point: When you find yourself stuck with nowhere else to go, you need to think about how you got there, and then you have to search your principles to decide where you really want to be.

**Jim offers: "Once Reagan (/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29193)**

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 17:02.

Jim offers: "Once Reagan gained power, he grew the government, took out needed regulation, put in payroll and other tax increases, got the US involved in nation-building around the world and especially in Latin America, sent secret billions to Afghanistan, ran a stupid "war" in Grenada, bombed Lybia, gave away hundreds of billions to corrupt Defense programs...."

Jim, you point out one of the main reasons why the GOP needs to boot the LibbieLoons from the Party... they are anti-American, they are Isolationists who don't share Reagan's view of that Shining City on the Hill, and they'd quickly turn over the world to IslamoFascist terrorists and shrug and say... "Well, the terrorists have a right to exercise their personal liberty", the terrorists aren't our problem, they're someone else's... or the winner, "Our Founding Fathers never intended the military to go beyond a well regulated militia".

Stupid and wrong-headed and dangerous. It's why no one deserves the LibbieLoons and the GOP sure as heck doesn't need 'em.

**Curious - how is Reagan's view of that Shining City on the Hill**

(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29211)

Submitted by NextRightNando on Tue, 05/19/2009 - 23:01.

Curious - how is "Reagan's view of that Shining City on the Hill holding" up in light of the revelation that the Bush Administration tortured people in the hopes of manufacturing BS evidence that retroactively supported the decision to invade Iraq? How shiny is that city given that the Republican Party is committed to blocking an investigation aimed at unearthing the truth about these appalling deeds in the hopes of preventing them from happening again?

**It's been tarnished, but with some elbow-grease, it'll shine.**

(/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29235)

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 08:53.

NextRightNando, I have to say that I don't know who you think got tortured by the Bush Administration... unless you're now buying into NancyPelosi and the ACLU's "CriminalsFirst" policy on terrorism.

I don't know why you still think that someone "manufactured" evidence that made the joint coalition invasion of Iraq and toppling a despotic, murderous tyrant from power now seem like bullsh\*t? There were over 50+ reasons for going to War... the UN's inaction and ineffectiveness was a huge part of why America and other allies needed to lead. Or were you one of those ready to fight after a dirty bomb was released in an American city and another 3000 Americans slaughtered to make it politically correct to attack Iraq?

I really don't know what you're talking about re: trying to block any investigation of invasion-- or 9-11 or the surge or anything else in the last 8 yrs. I think it is private citizen and former Veep Cheney who is asking for the stonewalled Obama Admin to release classified documents and become transparent with the American people... your guys are the ones stonewalling. Just like you have on lots of other issues... like ACORN's fraud



stealing the 2008 election.

I just wonder why, NextRightNando, you think the same people who embraced the voter fraud highjinks of ACORN and the SEIU and stole the 2008 election can be trusted not to turn any investigation into the actions or policies of the Bush Admin into a political witch hunt.

Newsflash: Obama won by stealing the election. The Bush Admin is past news. Now, tell me why you need so much vindication and validation that you'd be willing upend our great American judicial process for a political witch hunt. It is all about your BloodLust?

Ever hear of The House on UnAmerican Activities Comiittee in the 1950s? Your team is coming pretty close to their hazards with your latest spewfests on "torture".

Why is it that you guys seem to want to protect the terrorists, give them the benefits of American citizenship, extend the US Constitution and Geneva Convention protections to armed terrorists belonging to no-nation? Is this some new version of NancyPelosi's "CriminalsFirster" policy?

I guess it's the same impulse that allows you to ask that voter laws be changed so felons in prison can vote for your guys? "CriminalFirsters" for terrorists? Is that it? It that your game?

**[the 2008 election was](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29246](#))

Submitted by molotov on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 11:14.

the 2008 election was stolen?

and not a single Republican marched in protest to that theft? Wow.

Who is stealing the Republican's popularity? Obama . . . or the Easter Bunny? or Both?

**[HAHA](#)** ([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29248](#))

Submitted by xc1148 on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 11:43.

that made my day :)

But to your point, yes the election was stolen. The GOP nominated a true conservative that fired up the base, he was leading in all the polls, had donations pouring in left and right, picked a VP that brought all the independents into the fold...and then BAM. All the polls must have been wrong, McCain was up in every one, but somehow Obama snuck in there at the last second. considering Obama had no funding, most americans thought the country was on the right track prior to the election, and bush had an 80% approval rating and ther GOP nominee had voted with bush 90% of the time....something just doesnt seem right.

**[molotov, hold on to your cocktail with both hands](#)**

([/stephen-gordon/the-gop-needs-libertarians-more-than-libertarians-need-the-gop-right-now#comment-29249](#))

Submitted by Michigan-Matt on Wed, 05/20/2009 - 12:30.

The election of 2008 was stolen? Yep, by the voter fraud and Chicago-style-politics-as-usual corruption by Obama. And ACORN did it with the help of the Democrat Party... and now ACORN is being rewarded with huge govt taxpayer-funded "grants" worth 10's of millions.

Stolen. Obama and his cronies are the beneficiaries of that theft.

You should get out of the basement and read some regular, mainstream sources. CNN, Fox and a variety of other mainstream media outlets have been talking about the Stolen Election for weeks. Read a little WSJ. Watch SenDemLeaderHarryGreed talk about the fine work of ACORN and their SEIU union thugs in doing the "heavy lifting" for the Democrats and Obama.

Stolen. Obama is not the legitimate president no matter how many times his staff has him sworn in to office.