

Thanks, KOKO, for including ALL parties in this event.

I'm Bill Wayne, Libertarian candidate for the 121st District. I've lived in the Warrensburg area for 31 of the past 41 years; my wife's family has been here since 1834. We have operated Cedarcroft Farm Bed & Breakfast since 1988.

I'm not spending your time or contributors' money with misleading or irrelevant mailings, phone calls or ads with accusations about other candidates. I'm not afraid to tell you what I believe and where I stand. That's why I took the Political Courage Test at Project Vote Smart, posted actual survey responses at my website, www.olddrum.net, and included specific information at my blog (linked from the website).

I value freedom – economic freedom and personal freedom. I don't believe it's up to government to determine who succeeds and who fails economically. It's not up to government to regulate bedroom behavior of consenting adults. It's not up to government to decide what is and isn't good for you to eat, smoke or drive. It's not up to government to decide what your children should learn. It's not up to government to tell you how to manage your money – or tell you how much money you should have. It's not up to government to give you a job. It's not up to government to pick winners and losers. I believe this, and that's why I'm a Libertarian.

Taxes. Higher taxes, especially personal and corporate income taxes, are disincentives to economic growth. The answer to this is taxing consumption rather than income. The Fair Tax eliminates many hidden taxes and tells you up front what you're paying to the government. At the Federal level, it would eliminate sending in those forms to the IRS – it would in essence eliminate the IRS. While it would be best if the Fair Tax were implemented on the Federal level, we need to start someplace, and Missouri's that place. While we're on taxes, let's eliminate (or at least control) tax incentives doled out to favored developers – they subvert the free market in favor of “crony capitalism.” Let's also require all taxes to have sunsets, requiring a public vote to reauthorize. To put it bluntly, you know better than any government employee how best to manage your money.

Education. Throwing money at government school systems doesn't work; schools spending the most per pupil (NYC & DC) are among the worst nationally. I think schools need to compete, just as businesses do. I am the only candidate for 121st District who is on record as supporting Educational Freedom. I support vouchers to let at least some of the money follow the student, perhaps that part of state aid that is tied to attendance. I support limited school choice, within the capacity of the receiving school system. We need to demand our US Senators & Representatives work to get rid of No Child Left Behind, which gives the Federal government too much power over local education. Local people can determine best what their curriculum (beyond the “3 Rs”) should be.

Health care. Obamacare is a huge power grab by the Federal Government. I think the people of Missouri have spoken about the issues involved and it's now up to our delegation in Washington (and the courts) to overturn it. Over the years, our Constitutional principles have been subverted to allow more and more government intrusion into places where it was never intended to go. When we freed slaves, gave women the vote, instituted and repealed prohibition, we did it by Constitutional Amendment. Now we reinterpret the Constitution on the whim of the majority of the day.

To expand health care, we need more medical professionals, not fewer as Obamacare will result in, especially more primary care people. The market can help bring them closer to the people; already some big box stores have placed primary care providers in the store.

Immigration. We have two problems, most of which can only be solved at the Federal level. One is caused by the war on drugs. We have created a market that only criminals can fill, and they have destabilized Mexico. Mexicans want to escape this. Then, we have economic opportunity. It used to be that Mexicans legally came here to work for a season then go home – now they're afraid to go home because they may not be able to come back. There's work for seasonal people – I can't even get someone to quote a roof job for me. We need to decriminalize marijuana for starters, set up a program to allow seasonal workers to come and go, loosen visa requirements, and curtail welfare for non-citizens.

Jobs. Government doesn't create jobs, it hinders those who do. The best way to create jobs is to remove barriers to small business. We have too many regulations – why should a practitioner of African hair braiding need a cosmetology license? Why does an apartment locating service need a real estate license? Why does someone with 5 cabins at the lake or a 5 room bed and breakfast have to meet the same standards as a 1000 room hotel? Let's make sure that regulations & licensing requirements aren't there just to limit competition, and eliminate the ones not absolutely necessary. Then, let's implement the FAIR tax to lessen the burden on all employers. Missouri's indexed minimum wage certainly doesn't help new jobseekers, either.

Seniors. I wasn't sure if you were asking about senior citizens or HS/College seniors – if the latter, educational competition to prepare them, reducing regulations and eliminating the minimum wage will help. Senior citizens - I'm not sure what more you want state government to do for senior citizens – and I qualify as one. I will say this – I'm retired USAF & drawing military retirement pay. If I die before Sandra does, most of that goes away. Social security – If I die, Sandra draws based on my account and hers goes away. If we are going to be required to pay into social security, there needs to be some way for us to control some of that money so that we can have something set aside that we own, not doled out at the whim of the government. It's too late for me, but I hope something can be done to allow younger people that option.

Closing. I want to mention a some issues you didn't ask about:

Both my opponents say they're NRA members; I'm not only a 40 year NRA member, I belong to the Western Missouri Shooters Alliance and shoot skeet competitively. You KNOW I'm a Second Amendment purist.

Should the government be able to take your property and give it to someone else because it might generate higher taxes? I say NO, but current law allows this to happen. I back a state constitutional amendment to limit eminent domain to its proper use – roads & government buildings.

I fought zoning at the local level and I will fight any bill that would require counties to be zoned without the consent of the citizens, and I'd try to change state law to allow citizens to have the final say on major zoning changes.

Whenever government at any level makes rules or laws to make you do things that are "good for you" or stop doing things that are "for your own good," be wary. Whether it's restrictions on what you can eat, where you can smoke, what over the counter drugs you can buy, what you can buy at the store (or where you can shop), these all give government ownership over you. I believe that you should own yourself.

If you're sick and tired of government as usual, if you're sick and tired of vicious negative campaigning, if you're sick and tired of not knowing what candidates really believe, it's time to send the democrat and republican establishments a message. You own your vote – they don't. To keep a third voice alive, please vote for Libertarian candidates for Senate, State Auditor and State Representative - we truly believe in shrinking government.