

LaRouche Democrats Shape Elections In Michigan, Washington State

by Harley Schlanger

Aug. 9—The powerful intervention of the LaRouche candidates' slate into the U.S. Congressional elections, as a *national voice*, had a profound impact on the primary elections Aug. 7, in Michigan and Washington state. Slate members Bill Roberts, in the 11th Congressional District of Michigan, and Dave Christie, in Washington State's 9th C.D., ran hard-hitting campaigns, focused on the three-part Glass-Steagall-plus policy platform, and the removal of President Obama from office, as their only "issues." By sustaining this focus, the impact of their campaigns was felt far beyond their Congressional districts.

Roberts received 41% of the vote in the Democratic primary, a total of 15,338 votes. In Oakland County, one of the two counties in the district, the vote was even closer: his opponent, Dr. Syed Taj, had 54%, Roberts 45%. Taj spent more than \$260,000 against Roberts, and had the full backing of the local Democratic party machine. He refused to debate Roberts, insisting that Roberts was "not a Democrat," because he wants to impeach President Obama. Since Taj's entire campaign message was that he supported Obama, and Roberts did not, this became the central issue in the race, and voters knew that a vote for Roberts was a vote against the President.

Rejection of Obama

Roberts commented in his post-election statement that the vote in the district "unmistakably demonstrates that a large portion of Michigan's Democratic voters do not want Barack Obama to be their President." This vote conforms with the pattern elsewhere, that whenever there is a clear alternative to Obama in Democratic Party primaries, there has been a significant vote against his re-election. In Demo-

cratic Presidential primaries in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arkansas, more than 40% of the votes cast were against Obama.

This is even clearer in two of the Congressional races involving LaRouche slate candidates. In the 22nd C.D. of Texas, Keshia Rogers, who is well-known there for her calls for Obama's removal, received over 50% of the vote, winning the May 29 Democratic nomination for the second time (the first time was in 2010). Roberts' 41% represents the same pattern.

However, in the case of the two LaRouche candidates, voters were confronted by a choice that went beyond a simple yes-or-no vote on Obama, as both Rogers and Roberts effectively communicated precisely why they opposed Obama, with an emphasis on the President's commitment to the greenie anti-devel-



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LaRouche Democrat Bill Roberts received 41% of the vote in Michigan's 11th C.D. primary race, boldly demanding the impeachment of Obama. His campaign generated widespread support for revival of Glass-Steagall as well.

opment perspective involved in his assault against NASA, and his anti-American support for London-centered bank bailouts and fascist austerity, rather than a return to Glass-Steagall and physical production.

These anti-Obama votes have created deep concern among Obama's operatives in the Democratic Party. In 1968, a 40%-plus vote against then-President Lyndon Johnson in New Hampshire, convinced him not to run for re-election. While there have been strong indications that many Democrats recognize that Obama's re-election is in trouble—and even agree that he should not be re-elected, as his policies have been so destructive—there has yet to be a decisive drive among Democrats to remove him, except that by Lyndon LaRouche and his slate.

Taking National Leadership

During their campaigns, neither Roberts nor Christie limited themselves to campaigning in the district, but hit the region, bringing serious issues of national reconstruction to the voters. Roberts campaigned throughout the whole metropolitan Detroit area, which has been devastated by the post-2008 crash, on top of 30 years of deindustrialization which hit especially the auto industry, and the machine-tool sector within it. More than 211,000 auto jobs were lost between 2000 and 2007, and, even with the Federal bailout of the Big Three auto companies, Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler, total jobs in auto have continued to decline. The unemployment rate in the metropolitan Detroit area was officially 9.7% in June, but this is based on the faked figures of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Actual unemployment is closer to 20%, with estimates that up to 50% of youth are unemployed.

Roberts challenged voters to respond to this, offering the LaRouchePAC plan for reindustrialization, centered around the deployment of the Detroit area machine-tool capability, to build [NAWAPA XXI](#) also took this fight to labor unions in Ohio and Indiana, intersecting a growing anti-Obama sentiment, especially among building trades union members.

Roberts placed before the voters the evidence of how the Libor-rigging was taking lives, through cuts in police and fire protection, and health care, in order to pay illegal fees to investment banks for “risk management” costs. As Detroit has been placed under emer-



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Running for the Democratic nomination for Congress from the Seattle area, Dave Christie took Glass-Steagall and NAWAPA to party organizations throughout the state. The result was resolutions in favor of Glass-Steagall from the state party and AFL-CIO.

gency financial management—i.e., fascist austerity run by the bankers who committed the fraud—Roberts intervened before the Detroit City Council, demanding that they join him in seeing Treasury Secretary Geithner fired, Obama removed, and the corrupt bankers jailed. This had a sharp effect on City Council members and city employees, who have been watching impotently as a non-elected emergency board—similar to the current governments in Greece and Italy—have been desperately trying to survive the draconian cuts which have been imposed.

No Love for Obama in Washington

While Christie received a smaller vote, of 3.27% in a five-way race, his campaign likewise had a much broader reach than his immediate district. He took Glass-Steagall and NAWAPA to the Democratic Party throughout the state. Eleven Democratic legislative district councils and county party organizations passed resolutions in favor of Glass-Steagall, with resolutions supporting its return passed by both the state party and the state AFL-CIO. Christie and his campaign organizers also took the campaign for NAWAPA throughout the Northwest, including neighboring states, some of which would be involved directly in the massive project.

It is also clear that Christie's campaign to remove Obama has had a significant effect. Not only have local Democratic clubs endorsed Glass-Steagall, and especially Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-Ohio) H.R. 1489, but the *entire* King County (Seattle area) Democratic slate has included Glass-Steagall in its platform. This is despite the fact that in virtually every debate over Glass-Steagall in every forum, someone raised an objection, saying they couldn't support it because Christie was calling for Obama to be removed, and was displaying posters of Obama with a Hitler mustache. At the same time, many in Washington know that it was Obama directly, and his Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, who killed the effort in 2010 to pass Glass-Steagall, which had been spearheaded by Washington's Democratic Senator, Maria Cantwell.

In a post election statement, Christie said, "Over the last year of the campaign, we have stirred up massive support for the single unified policy of the national LaRouche Slate: Glass-Steagall, a national credit system, and NAWAPA XXI. We played a critical role in getting 11 Legislative District and County Democratic Party organizations to endorse resolutions in support of

Glass-Steagall, including the Washington State Democratic Party. Labor organizations not only endorsed calls for Glass-Steagall, but also gave support for NAWAPA XXI publicly and privately. Every one of these endorsements involved intense and often bitter fights concerning Obama's mustache, and highlighted the growing discontent with Obama by a growing faction of the Democratic Party and organized labor."

In fact, the support for Obama is a millimeter deep, as shown by the fact that party leaders in Washington state have had to plead with activists to get on board with the Obama campaign, to no avail. At one party event, a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), unable to convince members to sign up to be delegates for the national convention in Charlotte, N.C., said publicly, "We have heard the grumblings, we know that there are Democrats who have given up on Obama, but he is our candidate, and we need to get behind him."

Her appeal moved no one in the room.

It was also acknowledged by Obama campaign organizers, that the number of volunteers to campaign for him in King County is down by 90%!

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