

Politics: Third parties offer other options

By: Stacey Williams
News Editor

When in the voting booth, people may have noticed that there were many unfamiliar names on the presidential ballot.

Who are Cynthia McKinney and Bob Barr? Well, these candidates are members of third parties; people who do not agree with the dominant Republican and Democratic parties. While there are many third parties, this article will only focus on the three largest third parties plus independents.

The Constitution Party

Though billed on its website as the third largest party in the nation, the Constitution Party garnered the second highest number of votes among recognized third parties. Founded in 1992, it was known as the U.S. Taxpayers Party until 1999. Its platform reflects the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.



The Party opposes gun control, taxes, immigration, the United Nations, gay rights and welfare. Members are pro-life and believe that prayer should be in schools.

The Constitution Party wants to reduce the role of the federal government by cutting bureaucratic regulation, reducing spending

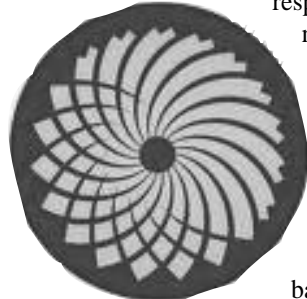
and replacing the income tax with a tariff-based revenue system. Most members of the Constitution Party find that many federal expenditures, such as those for health care, education and welfare are unconstitutional. The party also favors the idea of abolishing the U.S. role in the United Nations.

The Constitution Party opposes abortion, same-sex unions, illegal immigration, gambling and the U.S. Patriot Act. In the 2008 Presidential elections, the presidential and vice presidential candidates were Chuck Baldwin and Darrell L. Castle. The Constitution Party earned 181,796 votes, giving it one-tenth of one percent of the popular vote.

The Green Party

Veteran third party presidential candidate Ralph Nader was the Green Party's first nominee in 1996. In 2008, Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente were candidates as president and vice president.

Among other things, this hard-core liberal group emphasizes environmentalism,



The Green Party believes that the death penalty should be abolished.

respect for diversity and nonviolence. They have guiding principles, which they call their "Ten Key Values."

These values call for a Grassroots Democracy and community-based economics, among other things.

Members also want to restrict police usage of guns and all forms of weapons, and nationalize health care and ensure universal coverage. They oppose further oil and gas drilling. They also want to repeal the Patriot Act. They believe that illegal immigrants should have a chance to become U.S. citizens. The Green Party received one-tenth of one percent of the popular vote with 152,292 people casting their ballots that way.

The Libertarian Party

Founded in 1971, the Libertarian Party is neither left nor right. Its guiding principle is the mutual respect for rights. Members believe in total individual liberty and total economic freedom. They support a laissez faire economy, which they argue means more freedom, less government and lower taxes. Libertarians are pro-drug legalization believing that a war on drugs threatens individual liberties.



believe in a foreign policy of free trade and non-interventionism. The party is most divided on

They are also pro-choice, gay marriage and home schooling; and anti gun control, welfare, government regulation of business, minimum wage and income tax. Libertarians

the issues of capital punishment and intellectual property. Libertarians led all third parties with four-tenths of one percent of the popular vote, or 510,570 people voting for Bob Barr and Wayne A. Root.

Independents & Other Notes

There are also people who voted independently, not casting their ballots for any of the other parties. Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzales, who ran as Independents, received six-tenths of one percent of the vote, beating all the other third parties with 697,251 people voting for them.

While many students on campus may just classify themselves as either Republican or Democrat, there are a few students who align themselves with third parties.

Sophomore Susanna Walters recently realized that her views are more Libertarian, and that she is not the Republican she once thought she was.

"People are too closed minded with a two-party system," Walters said.

She also believes that Third Party candidates should get as much coverage as Republicans and Democrats, especially when it comes to debates.

"They (voters) would have had a better opportunity to choose what they wanted," Walters said. "We had some pretty good candidates."

As a combined total, all of the third party candidates got 1.5 million votes, although no third party candidate received any electoral votes. While they did not receive as many popular votes as in previous years, it still shows that there are people in the country who are dissatisfied with the two party system.

Students visit MS Mistletoe Market



Seventeen Jones County Junior College Fashion Merchandising students attended the Jackson Mistletoe Market on November 6. Students met attending artists, authors and designers, and they took the opportunity to network with the 170 vendors for future job possibilities. The JCJC fashion merchandise students and chaperones who recently visited the Mississippi Mistletoe Market are, left to right, front row, Stephen Douglas (Hattiesburg), Jo Anna Newcomb (JCJC Dean's Office), Pearlie Knight (Collins), Deedra Duckworth (Laurel), and Finée Ruffin (Fashion Merchandising Instructor); back row, Ashley Helton (Petal), Jasmine Allen (Moss Point), Brittany Bolick (Jackson), Ellie Turner (Enterprise), Dawn Dearman (State Line), Brett Williams (Seminary), Alania Smith (Bassfield), Shylauh Ephem (Petal), Natasha Andrews (Wayne County), Sarah-Jane Thaxton (Laurel), and Ashlie Smith (Petal). Not pictured are Alex Lovell (Jackson) and Kim Bridges (Truck Driving Instructor JCJC). *Photo by Kelly Atwood/JCJC Marketing Dept.*

Poultry Association presents grant to JCJC

By: Teresa Martin
JCJC Marketing Dept.

Jones County Junior College has been awarded the \$7,000 Harold E. Ford Foundation grant from the Poultry Association. The college's agriculture science program has received more money than Penn State and LSU and is the only junior college receiving this type of grant.

"JCJC is honored to be among a prestigious group of colleges," said president, Dr. Jesse Smith. "The poultry industry is an enormous part of the Mississippi economy and having the Poultry Association give us a donation like this to recruit students to go into the poultry field is a blessing. This type of investment will yield a great return."

Mississippi State University Poultry Science department head and Poultry Association board member Mike Kidd, Ph.D., presented the check to JCJC agriculture science instructor, Tim Ishee. Kidd explained that JCJC has been providing about half of the students graduating from the MSU poultry science program.

"It's a pleasure to see these funds being used at JCJC because they have high quality students who go to MSU and as a Poultry Association board member we are here to support their efforts which support the industry," said Kidd.

Poultry science graduates have a vast array of options according to Dr. Kidd.

"They can work inside or outside, with chickens or with people, in processing, sales, and administration," he explained. "There are so many opportunities and possibilities."

The poultry industry is growing, according to Dr. Kidd and it needs leaders, workers, and employees. JCJC poultry science student from Seminary, Brandon Thrash agreed.

"I basically have a job waiting on me when I graduate," he said.

Ishee said the grant money will be used to recruit poultry science students, and fund field trips to poultry related businesses and colleges, like the MSU Poultry Science department. This is the second grant JCJC has received from the Poultry Association.

Election

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if the defeat of McCain by Obama was a bit too much to bear.

Young Americans voted in 2008's election in record numbers.

Eighteen percent of all voters in this year's election were ages 18-25, resulting in a 52 percent increase since the 2004 election. With the media providing a strong influence, more young people voted this year than ever before, thus making 2008's presidential election one of the most historic ever.

Christmas

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school and branch out from their comfort zones.

"Christmas music is very powerful in that it is capable of producing powerful emotions, said Taylor. "Because it is usually such a joyous time of the year for

most people, most of the music is filled with that same joy or anticipation of joy."

Everyone is encouraged to come support these musical groups and show appreciation towards their hard work of bringing Christmas to Jones.

"We hope that many will bring family and friends to make this a yearly Christmas tradition and create new memories to enjoy," said Taylor.

Bishop

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Student Center on "The Virtue of Altruism" Good People Making a Good World."

"Altruism means kindness and compassion and doing things for other people," said Bishop.

He firmly believes altruism is important, but unfortunately,

some people feel that showing compassion is a sign of weakness and live selfishly.

"My paper is really a rebuttal to that way of thinking; rather than being selfish we should be compassionate and do things to help other people and make the world a better place," he said.

Bishop's dream was to teach and, for the past 18 years, he has taught philosophy and religion at Jones. He also had another dream

- to start a philosophy club.

"I saw the need to have some organized way for students to be able to do some community service," he said.

Community service projects in which Bishop is involved include collecting food for the local animal shelter, helping the Baptist Student Union raise money for their projects.

"It was my classes who would meet together and had

a defined purpose," Bishop explained. "So, I recently started Sigma Kappa Alpha (philosophy club)."

SKA may be a new organization, but the group has more than 40 charter members.

"Philosophy is all about helping you to be wise and be a good person and we are adopting some community projects (to help us be better people)," Bishop said.

Livestock

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feet and leg structure, evidence of muscle and fat (market animals) or conditioning (breeding animals), and for how well the animals will perform under harsh conditions like Mississippi winters for instance.

On October 4, a group of students participated in the State Livestock Judging Competition. It was a collegiate and a high school competition. Jessica Blackwell, Joseph King, Brad McGee and Lisa Bounds represented JCJC and placed second to Hinds Community College.

They evaluated cattle, sheep and swine. Each animal has to be evaluated for different things. For instance, in breeding cattle, emphasis is placed on muscle and maintaining the sexual characteristics. In other words, cows must look feminine and bulls must look masculine.

In market animals, more fat or finish is important because the animal is destined for someone's dinner table. If the animal does not have enough fat or if it has too much fat, it will usually lose value as far as yield grades.

In swine, it is ideal for them to have no fat on them. Swine must have a lot of muscle down their back, in their rump and in their back legs.

Sheep can have a small amount of fat on them but not too much. They must be mostly

comprised of muscle in their lower body as well. Many times, it is not appealing to see a sheep with a lot of muscle at the front of the body.

Judging involves visual appraisal and sometimes even touching the animal. Most of the time a judge's best tools are his or her eyes. In a competition, there are four animals in a class. Each animal is evaluated and ranked from first to fourth. The student judge then defends his rankings to a panel of judges.

The students have to employ every aspect of knowledge about animals and communication in order to perform well in the competition.

"The students that come out of my class usually have learned a lot of communication skills that will help them in the future,"

said Tim Ishee, JCJC agriculture and livestock judging instructor. "Some of my students have interviewed for jobs and have received high compliments on their communication skills. I haven't had one student to get to the final interview for entrance into veterinary school and be denied. Each of them has to face a panel of Ph.D. veterinarians, and they say afterward that they were calm and collected the entire time."

Ishee's students practice their communication skills with each other. They must maintain eye contact with individuals, speak with inflection and maintain a good posture.

In the spring semester, Ishee will take a class of students to Denver, CO for the National Livestock Judging Competition.

Pageant

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Graves, Hannah Burch, Jessica Collins, Myverick Garcia, Julie Falgout, Benonica Mann, Katie Bailey, and Breanne Ponder.

After the 12 finalists were selected, each had to answer an interview question and model individually for the judges so the top five could be selected.

Before the Top Five were

announced, Sicily Axton, JCJC's 2007 Most Beautiful, was presented and made her farewell walk before crowning the winner.

Contestants had to write a 200-word essay on the person who has influenced their life the most besides their parents. Caitlyn Buckalew won the essay award.

Contestants chosen to the Top Five were: fourth alternate, Lauren Bridges who was also selected Most Photogenic; third alternate, Kelsey Buckman; second alternate, Jessica Collins; and first alternate, Katie Bailey.