

McQueen Congress

Can an Independent Win Arkansas's District 4 House Seat for 2018?

by Lee McQueen

According to Huffington Post, in 2014, which was the previous mid-term election year, 92% of registered Arkansas voters identified themselves as "unaffiliated." The remaining voters split themselves evenly at 4% between the Republican and Democratic parties.

Combined with Arkansas's open primary system, we see that voters in Arkansas enjoy the privilege of independence in their voting patterns that defies brow-beating, bullying, and gaslighting by two minor political parties losing membership, as well as media outlets who attempt to drive voters in the same way cattle is driven... with fear.

In fact, despite political gerry-mandering, Arkansas has shifted back-and-forth between Democrats and Republicans at the congressional level. The shifting numbers and changing patterns reveal an extraordinary possibility of voters moving away from partisan politics, also known as cattle drives, towards issues-based voting.

The Independent candidate for Arkansas's 4th District House seat for the 2018 mid-term election is Lee McQueen, a librarian and substitute teacher who has decided that the life, health, and safety of people comes before profits. Despite the artificial personhood granted to corporations by the Citizens United court decision, these abusive corporations with privileged access to lawmakers are not people. We humans are the people. Also, We the People are not animals. Again, people come before profits.

At long last, these truths are becoming universally-known. We see this shift in political philosophy with several Texas counties that have decided to criminalize Big Pharma and Big Insurance rather than the citizens victimized by these

industries. We see this shift in Kentucky with the attempt to revive industrial hemp to boost agriculture, manufacturing, and textile production which means instant job and revenue creation. We see trends regarding the provision of free college tuition in states like Tennessee and Louisiana, and yes, Arkansas, as well. Even renewable energy has emerged as the financially-feasible alternative to fossil fuel in Nebraska, Iowa, and Kentucky.

Both the red and the blue states of our nation are moving forward and Arkansas moves forward, as well. The focus is no longer political party gamesmanship ring-around-the rosie and musical chairs. The focus is on a growing wave of progressive candidates who openly state their positions on common sense legislation, policies, and issues that move the financial fortunes of the working and middle class forward so that everyone improves their quality of life.

For the 92% of Arkansas voters who turned away from malfeasance such as what occurred during the Democratic primaries of 2016 and the active voter suppression during the fall election of 2016, you have likely made the right decision of free agency and free will. For the 8% of Arkansas voters who choose to align with political parties, I invite you. I invite you to consider that even as you read this, your political party is actively seeking campaign donations from mega-corporations with which to disenfranchise you once more for 2018. I invite you 8% to free yourselves from partisanship, from gamesmanship, from musical chairs, and from ring-around-the rosie. Instead, I invite you to reconsider issues that affect not only this generation, but the generations that follow like healthcare, jobs, economy, education, environment, foreign policy. We can build a better world.

I intend to co-sponsor, lobby for, and vote-up legislation supportive of single payer healthcare in the form of the Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Act. Single payer healthcare releases small business owners from the burden of smothering their expansion and profits, and also releases small business owners from insurance administration because the government guarantees payment of this private delivery of services. Single payer healthcare is the fiscally-conservative choice that offers the lowest cost of coverage, the best quality of coverage, for the highest quantity of people covered.

I will support Rep. Pramila Jayapal's College for All Act so that other states have the similar benefit of free college tuition that Arkansas already provides for most

of its residents. I will support Rep. Keith Ellison's Raise the Wage Act to tie the minimum wage to inflation, putting more money into the hands of workers and consumers in order to stimulate regional economic growth with increased demand for goods and services. We have already learned for the past three decades that supply-side voodoo economics results in the hoarding of wealth, not economic growth or job creation. I will also support Keith Ellison's Inclusive Prosperity Act to discourage Wall Street from reckless speculation and toxic financial transactions with other people's money which harmed small business owners and consumers forced to sacrifice and pay the difference just to keep the lights on.

I will support Rep. James Comer's Industrial Hemp Farming Act in order to expand Arkansas's own agricultural production and manufacturing, plus ease the burden of timber production on our forests. I will support increased renewable energy development with Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's OFF Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act to further increase revenue for rural and agricultural regions. As Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas have already revealed, renewable energy and agriculture go hand-in-hand.

I believe in human rights and civil liberties abroad and at home. For this reason, I support the Justice Valve Safety Act for a draw-down on the Drug War, Justice is not for Sale Act for a scale-back on prison building, and Automatic Voter Registration Act to expand voting rather than suppress voting.

Finally, I will continue to support Sen. Rand Paul's constitutional position on the Authorization for Use of Military Force, which he maintains has been abused under three administrations. Per the U.S. Constitution, War Powers are the provenance of the U.S. Congress, not the U.S. President. Along these lines, I also support Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's Stop Arming Terrorists Act because our troops should not have to face weaponry that was made in the USA. People come before profits, including our servicemen and women.

As the University of Texas economist James Galbraith notes, war is economically-ruinous and we are now discovering as a nation what Rome, Spain, Portugal, France, England, and Germany have already experienced: Empire-building abroad destroys nation-building at home. It is time for a pivot towards diplomacy as the first resort in foreign policy. The U.S. is not the world's police man and our troops deserve better treatment from both the Commander-in-Chief and the U.S. Congress.

As long as the Republican and Democratic candidates remain bound by their corporate campaign donations to represent those corporations and not the people of District 4, the Independent can win. As long as these same partisans choose to answer to their political party bosses instead of the residents of District 4, the Independent can win. As long as those who are already bought and bossed remain on the wrong side of the issues as ordered by House leaders Rep. Paul Ryan and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Independent can win. In fact, all independents of District 4 can win.

Arkansas has moved both left and right in the past. But now, it's time for Arkansas to move forward. A vote by Arkansas's District 4 for the Independent candidate Lee McQueen in 2018, results in her voting for common sense legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives on behalf of Arkansas's District 4. A vote for the future is a vote for the ability to keep pace with the giant steps forward of other states across the nation. A vote for progress means a vote for a higher quality of life for everyone.

You are all invited to the Expanded & Improved Medicare for All Town Hall on Thursday December 7th from 5:30-7:30pm at Texarkana Public Library.

"Let's Run for Congress!"

Lee McQueen, a resident of Texarkana, is the Independent candidate in the race for Arkansas's District 4 House seat for 2018.

More: <http://mcqueen4congress.wordpress.com>