

2012 Plot Thickens as Roemer, Anderson Go 3rd Party | Connecticut Consumer Advocate Protector Watchdog | Ct Consumer Complaints | Ct consumer Protection | Ct Advocate | Ct Consumer

<http://ctwatchdog.com/misc/2012-plot-thickens-as-roemer-anderson-go-3rd-party>

December 8, 2011



Buddy Roemer

In a novel twist, GOP Presidential candidate Buddy Roemer announced Nov. 30 that he is seeking the Americans Elect nomination as a backup for his ongoing Republican race.

The former Louisiana governor suggested that Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman would be his ideal running-mate, although there's no public indication that Democrat-turned Independent Lieberman has decided to join Roemer.

Also mixing up the race, former Democrat and two-term Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson announced last week that he is running for president as candidate for the Justice Party he is founding.

Roemer's willingness to work with a well-funded third party effort under the banner of reform could provide him a much-needed boost in visibility in the GOP race. Also, it could provide credibility to third party efforts at a time of rare dissatisfaction with major candidates, last seen perhaps in the four-party race of 1948 won by President Harry Truman.

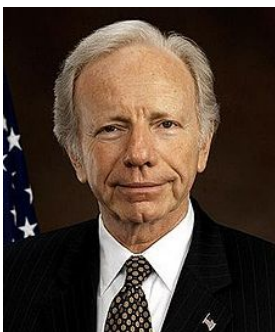
Or it could, among other scenarios, provide a success path for the re-election of President Obama by splitting GOP opposition to an incumbent whose approval ratings are now in the low 40s nationally and in the low 30s among white voters.

Similarly, Anderson could find himself a player if dissatisfaction with Obama rises among Democrats. Anderson could play the role of Sen. Eugene McCarthy in 1968 for those in the Democratic Party who are upset with Obama's jobs, safety net, war, environment, justice, and consumer measures.

For now, Roemer is far more center stage than Anderson because Roemer is in still-open GOP primary process and also seeks to tap into the considerable funding being assembled by the Americans Elect movement, which says it is non-partisan. "Today I officially announce that I will seek the Americans Elect nomination as a proud Republican but as an even prouder American," said Roemer in a statement.

Roemer is the first candidate to seek the Americans Elect nomination. I interviewed him in early October, reporting results in a Connecticut Watchdog column: *GOP 2012 Contender Roemer Decries Free Trade, DC Political Corruption*.

Joe Lieberman



Roemer said his first choice for vice president would be Lieberman, who declined to run for re-election next year after winning as an independent in 2006. "Senator Joe Lieberman's reputation as a reformer and a man of integrity is unrivaled in American politics," Roemer said in a statement this week. "He is unequivocally my first choice for a Vice Presidential running mate."

Support for Lieberman carries short-term benefits for Roemer but long-term

dangers. Most immediately, it ties Roemer's moribund campaign with a big favorite of opinion-leading TV news directors, newspaper editorial writers, Washington think tanks, and influential financiers, insurance companies, former military leaders, and government contractors. In the longer term, it's unclear whether Lieberman's pious religious persona translates into the kind of popularity and reform that many in the public seek.

Lieberman, who narrowly won his 2006 election after losing the Democratic primary to Ned Lamont, has not been notably successful otherwise in recent years. He and then-Vice President Al Gore failed to win Florida in the official ballot counts of the 2000 presidential election. Lieberman then suffered an embarrassing defeat in the 2008 New Hampshire Democratic Presidential primary even though he is well-known in New England.

Organizers for all 10 GOP debates have excluded Roemer from them despite his impressive resume of a governorship, four terms in Congress and what appears to be a highly successful career since then as an innovative banker. Roemer stands out from others in the GOP field by refusing campaign contributions over \$100, denouncing corruption in the campaign finance system and visiting the Occupy Wall Street movement with sympathetic words.

Americans Elect is an effort by centrist donors and politicians to create a new third party for the presidential race, overcoming the ballot barriers that the two major parties have created to limit viable choices. But its major backers tend to be secretive, well-heeled financiers whose procedures are quite different from those espoused by Roemer, as Huffington Post columnist Jason Links reported in [Buddy Roemer Throws In His Lot With Americans Elect — Which Is A Huge Mistake](#).



Rocky Anderson

As noted, the former Salt Lake City Mayor [Anderson](#) announced plans to run as a third (or arguably fourth) party candidate following his departure from the Democratic Party this summer. The two-term former leader of Utah's largest city is organizing the Justice Party to represent values he says the Democratic Party has forsaken in its effort to curry favor with lobbyists he calls insensitive to the needs of ordinary citizens.

Previously, former New Mexico Gov. [Gary Johnson](#) said he is seriously considering running as a Libertarian candidate after feeling "left by the wayside" in his current run for the GOP nomination. The construction tycoon and two-term governor during the 1990s has been included in several of the GOP debates this year but excluded from others.

For many voters at this early stage, the importance of a third or fourth party effort is how it affects the two major party contests.

As a prediction: Roemer's efforts this week will increase his visibility, which can only help him in the short run. The profile gives him a window to make his case in New Hampshire, where he now lives in anticipation of the Jan. 10 GOP primary.

The possibility that he'd continue through November and take a decisive share of the GOP vote in a close race makes him an especially notable figure. For that reason alone, he's likely to find, as have other candidates, that being prominent brings it's own special set of surprises.

Similar Posts: