

Elections confirm support for LaRouche

by Patricia Salisbury

Supporters of imprisoned U.S. congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche netted double-digit votes in Democratic Party primary races in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana on May 8 and May 15, despite efforts by Democratic Party bureaucrats—now referred to by many as the “Democratic party poopers”—to prevent exactly that result.

The results confirm a pattern of 20-45% popular support for candidates who campaign on LaRouche-associated policies, a pattern which has withstood politically motivated, manufactured charges against LaRouche, and despite continuing efforts of Democratic Party bureaucrats to use lies, slanders, and intimidation in order to suppress the LaRouche vote. LaRouche himself is running for Congress as an independent Democrat in the November elections in Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Substantial support for LaRouche was most striking in Pennsylvania's 5th CD, where Donald Hadley, whose link with LaRouche played a key role in the campaign, polled 23% of the vote. Hadley was seen as a threat by the Democratic Party bureaucrats from the outset, because in 1988 he had won the Democratic Party primary by a margin of 54% of the 21,000 votes cast. This time, Chester County party chairman John Lord made a public vow to resign if the hand-picked, party-endorsed candidate, Sam Stretton, did not win the race. He also threatened that Democratic Party committee members who allowed a Hadley victory would be blackballed from future leadership in the party.

Candidate Stretton, without presenting a shred of evidence, branded Hadley as a “fascist” and an “anti-Semite,” and attempted to coerce local newspapers to cease coverage of Hadley's policy statement, but refused all challenges from Hadley to meet and debate the actual issues. Stretton's pressure was so heavy-handed that the editor of one local newspaper retorted in print, that he, and not Stretton, would determine what was newsworthy in the campaign. Finally the state party bureaucracy got into the act, sending out a letter urging party members to beat back the “extremist threat,” as they termed the Hadley campaign for legislation to outlaw Satanic practices and against the malthusian Clean Air Act. Despite the extraordinary barrage of harassment, the Hadley campaign polled almost one-quarter of the votes cast in the Congressional District, and won western Delaware County, one of the three counties which comprise the 5th CD.

But Sam Stretton's woes are far from over: In the general

elections, he now must confront nationally renowned LaRouche backer Lewis du Pont Smith who is running as an independent.

Several other candidates publicly associated with Lyndon LaRouche also ran well in Pennsylvania. In the northwestern region, Walter Sapala, a Food for Peace activist well-known for his role in organizing a successful campaign which forced the resignation of Pennsylvania director of the Farmers Home Administration Elmer Hawbaker, a farm foreclosure proponent, won 46% of the vote in a race for a state legislative nomination. In the 12th CD, John “Doc” Shrader polled 7%, and two LaRouche candidates ran unopposed and won their precinct committee races. Betty Clift, running for Democratic State Committee, who was also named in the press as a LaRouche candidate, polled 12%.

In addition to the direct LaRouche vote, there were other signs in the Pennsylvania primary of discontent with the issueless politics practiced in both the Republican and Democratic parties. Peg Luksik, a housewife from Johnstown and a pro-life activist, polled 46% in the Republican primary for governor against Barbara Hefer, the current state auditor general, who spent \$400,000 on her campaign, as opposed to Luksik's \$40,000. Hefer is a protégée of Republican Party big-wig and Bush family intimate Elsie Hillman, and her weak showing against a political unknown can be attributed to both the strong sentiment for pro-life politics among voters, and the growing disgust with the Bush Republicans' sellout of their own constituencies.

Strong showings in Indiana and Ohio

Candidates running as LaRouche Democrats in the May 8 Indiana and Ohio primaries also made strong showings, despite frantic efforts by both “Bush Democrats” and Republicans to convince the voters that the alternative economic recovery programs offered by LaRouche do not exist. In Ohio, where the *Dayton Daily News* announced that 7th Congressional District candidate Don Scott was “unreal” and instructed the voters to “reject a LaRouchie,” Scott polled 22% for Congress and 32.4% for Democratic state central committee. In Columbus, Mary Brown received 43% of the vote in her state central committee race, and Toledo auto worker John Pulhug, running for the central committee seat of state Democratic boss James Ruvolo, polled 35%.

In Indiana, 4th CD candidate Carolyn Williams received 2,400 votes, even though the *Huntington Herald Press*, owned by Vice President Dan Quayle's family, lied the day before the election that Williams's environmentalist opponent, Democratic incumbent Jill Long, was running unopposed. In other Indiana races, LaRouche activist Georgia Irej received 28% for State Senate, and John W. Taylor, who had been “inadvertently” left off the congressional ballot in Vanderburgh County, received 11% overall, receiving 18-20% in rural counties where his name had not been erased from the ballot.