

Ron Paul and the TEA Party Movement – Can they Help Govern?

By Jesse Benton

Chairman, Ron Paul 2012
Campaign

About me

- Eight cycles in American electoral politics
- Communications Director, Ron Paul 2008
- Co-Founder, Campaign for Liberty
- Campaign Manager, Rand Paul for Senate
- Campaign Chairman, Ron Paul 2012
- Campaign Manager, Mitch McConnell
2014

In American Politics, winners make
policy and losers go home!

Paul Campaign Successes

- Second place in nine states
- Second most delegates (652)
- Historic finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire
- Several key tenants in GOP Platform, including auditing the Federal Reserve

Interesting Paul Facts

- Won the 18-30 vote in virtually every state
- Received over 2 million aggregate votes
- Raised \$42 million with a median contribution of \$104
- In Iowa and New Hampshire, won votes of both Most Conservative and Most Liberal

Key TEA Party Dates

- December 16, 2007
- Spring 2009
 - Outrage over TARP and Obama stimulus
- November 2010 elections
 - 32 members of the House in. Rep. Amash
 - 5 members of Senate in. Rand Paul

Ron Paul vs. TEA Party

- Related, substantial overlap but not the same
- Best analogy – cousins?

Ron Paul Movement

- Libertarian –
 - classical liberal (Jefferson, Mill, Bastiat)
- Youth Driven
 - Many engaging in Politics for first time
- Clear intellectual framework
 - Nock and Mencken
 - Mises and Hayek (Road to Serfdom)
- Tolerance
- Non-Intervention overseas

TEA Party

Taxed Enough Already

- Much more decentralized
- Social conservative element
- Much more traditional GOP Influence
 - TEA Party Express
 - Koch Brothers
- Anger at Obama

Key Commonalities

- Balanced Budget
- Repeal Affordable Care Act
- Sound Money
- Federalism

Key Difference

- Foreign Policy
- Staying power?

Can they Move Forward?

- Rand Paul
 - picking battles
 - Uniting Ron Paul and TEA Party
 - Uniting on social issues through Constitutional federalism
 - Foreign policy in the language of Ronald Reagan and Robert Taft