THIRD PARTY 11/02/2016 M.Clark

The U.S. presidential election season has been a topic for nearly two years with new stories coming out every day about the leading candidates, Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. But as Falcon News Reporter Matthew Clark reports, third party and independent candidates have also received attention this year.

MP3 R/T: 2:28 O/T: STD

AARON TAYLOR: “I AM COMPLETELY NONPARTISAN. I’VE SEEN THE PARTY SYSTEM JUST HASN’T WORKED PRETTY MUCH EVER SINCE I’VE BEEN ALIVE.”

MATTHEW CLARK: THAT’S AARON TAYLOR, AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR THE 30TH DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN’S STATE ASSEMBLY. HE SAYS THE CURRENT POLITICAL MODEL OF REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ISN’T WORKING FOR HIM OR MANY OTHERS WHO IDENTIFY AS MILLENNIALS. DURING THE CURRENT ELECTION SEASON, INDEPENDENT AND THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES HAVE GROWN IN POPULARITY AMONG A YOUNGER GENERATION OF VOTERS. UW-RIVER FALLS POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR NEIL KRAUS SAYS THIRD PARTY AND INDEPENDENT POPULARITY IS A NEW PHENOMENON.

NEIL KRAUS: “I HAVEN’T SEEN THAT, I DON’T THINK, EVER, ACTUALLY. RALPH NADER IN 2000 WAS POLLING 4-5 PERCENT AND HE ENDED UP GETTING 2 POINT 8, 2 POINT 7, 2 POINT 8. BUT EVEN POLLING AT 5 PERCENT WAS REALLY HIGH AND HE WAS IT.”

MATTHEW CLARK: EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE POLLS SHOWED LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE GARY JOHNSON AND GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE JILL STEIN WITH AROUND A COMBINED 10 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE LATEST POLLS FROM ABC AND THE WASHINGTON POST SHOW JOHNSON AT 4 PERCENT AND STEIN AT 2 PERCENT. KRAUS SAYS JOHNSON’S NUMBERS ARE MOST SURPRISNG.

KRAUS: “LIBERTARIANS RUN SOMEBODY EVERY FOUR YEARS. THEY’VE DONE THAT FOREVER, SEEMS LIKE FOREVER, THEY’VE DONE IT FOR DECADES NOW. BUT NEVER POLLING MORE THAN, I MEAN, AT THE END OF THE DAY, THAT GUY — IT USED TO BE THE SAME GUY EVERY FOUR YEARS — AND NOW JOHNSON IS DIFFERENT, WOULD GET LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE VOTE AND HE’D NEVER POLL AT GREATER THAN THAT EITHER.“

MATTHEW CLARK: TAYLOR SAYS THIRD PARTY AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES HAVE BECOME MORE POPULAR AMONG YOUNGER VOTERS BECAUSE THEY TALK ABOUT ISSUES CLOSER TO HOME.

AARON TAYLOR: “STUDENT DEBT AND GOING TO COLLEGE, AND STUFF LIKE THAT. IT’S SOMETHING THAT NO OTHER GENERATION HAS BEEN BURDENED WITH AS MUCH DEBT AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE AS WE ARE. “

MATTHEW CLARK: KRAUS SAYS DESPITE GROWING POPULARITY, IT’S UNLIKELY SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES WILL WIN THE PRESIDENCY ANY TIME SOON.

NEIL KRAUS: “SO MUCH IS DEPENDENT ON HOW THE RULES ARE WRITTEN IN TERMS OF GETTING ON BALLOTS AND GETTING INTO DEBATES, AND ALL THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. THERE COULD BE A LOT MORE SYMPATHY FOR THEM BUT THEY COULD STILL HAVE A VERY HARD TIME GETTING VOTES BECAUSE THEY’RE NOT VISIBLE, THEY CAN’T RAISE MONEY, AND THAT KIND OF THING.”

MATTHEW CLARK: FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M MATTHEW CLARK.

The most successful third party candidate to ever run for president of the United States was Teddy Roosevelt, who in 1912 picked up 88 electoral votes while running for a third term after switching to the Progressive Party ticket. However, the election was won by the Democratic candidate, Woodrow Wilson.

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