



THE
MONTICELLO GROUP

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President
C-SPAN
400 N Capitol St
Washington, DC 20001

Greetings:

I'm surprised to find the print media beating television broadcast news professionals in one of the most interesting twists to happen in American politics this year. The *New York Times* and *Philadelphia Inquirer*, along with virtually every daily in New Jersey have been reporting on the new wildcard in New Jersey's race for governor: a Libertarian Party nominee who has risen above the six to eight other third party candidates, qualified for matching funds, and is the first third party candidate to ever qualify for the state sponsored debates that will take place later this month. Talk radio is abuzz about this campaign; going so far that Bob Grant has endorsed Murray Sabrin.

Certainly adding such a prominent wildcard to the race where incumbent Christie Todd Whitman has visions of the White House dancing in her head would warrant a little coverage of this new development, wouldn't you say? Especially when one considers that conservatives, unhappy with Whitman's record, are lining up behind Libertarian Sabrin?

I guess it's once again up to C-SPAN to deliver the whole picture to the American people. Will you be covering the New Jersey gubernatorial debates later this month?

Sincerely,

Enclosures

O-RTIC

New York, NY
Times
New York City
Met Area

Saturday

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SEP 20, 1997

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LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS

Public Funds Are Approved For Libertarian

By TERRY PRISTIN

A college professor running for governor of New Jersey on the Libertarian ticket was ruled eligible yesterday to receive matching campaign funds, the first time that a third-party candidate has qualified for state money.

The unanimous decision by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission also means the candidate, Murray Sabrin, 50, of Leonia, will be able to participate in televised debates on Oct. 21 and Oct. 24 against Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, a Republican, and her Democratic challenger, State Senator James E. McGreevey of Woodbridge.

"It's a great day for the third-party movement, and it's a great day for the people of New Jersey," said Mr. Sabrin, who teaches finance at Ramapo College in Mahwah. He said he has also been invited to participate in a debate on Oct. 18 being organized by the Philadelphia Inquirer and the New Jersey Network.

To receive matching funds, a candidate must raise and spend at least \$210,000, and Mr. Sabrin reported that he had received \$288,000. The commission had readily acknowledged that Mr. Sabrin had met the fund-raising minimum but questioned whether he had signed contracts to spend \$125,000 on radio and television advertising. An administrative law judge, Beatrice S. Tylutki, reviewed the agreements between the campaign and media outlets and ruled on Monday that they constituted contracts. After requesting further documentation, the commission accepted her finding.

Earlier this week, the Whitman campaign made its final request for matching funds. Mr. McGreevey said he still had about \$1.1 million left to raise to qualify for full funds.

The Whitman and McGreevey camps each said its side would benefit from Mr. Sabrin's greater visibility. Tom Wilson, Mrs. Whitman's campaign manager, said that Mr. Sabrin would highlight the ways in which Mr. McGreevey differs from the Governor and further define the Democrat as a proponent of more government spending.

Richard McGrath, a spokesman for Mr. McGreevey, said Mr. Sabrin would take votes away from the Governor. "It's another voice criticizing Whitman for her record," he said.

East Brunswick, NJ
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LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS



PETER ACKERMAN/Staff photographer

● Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Murray Sabrin answers reporters' questions yesterday in Trenton prior to filing for matching public funds.

Champion of less government gets public boost

By BRUNO TEDESCHI

Trenton Bureau

TRENTON — Murray Sabrin, the Libertarian candidate for governor, is a man of contradictions.

Sabrin attended public schools and colleges, and he and his wife are teachers who draw their paychecks from taxpayer-financed educational institutions. Yet, he advocates the abolition of public financing for education and an end to subsidies for state-run colleges and universities.

As a Libertarian, Sabrin is a champion of a limited role for government, including the end of taxpayer-financed campaigns. Yet, Sabrin so far has received nearly \$300,000 in matching funds from the state to run for governor.

Sabrin's television show, "On the Money," appears on a cable access channel. Yet, the Libertarians call for the elimination of the Federal Communications Commission — the agency that mandated cable access channels.

"Life is full of ironies," said Sabrin, chairman of the Department of Finance at Ramapo College in Mahwah. "We don't make up the rules, we just follow the rules. Some of the rules should be changed to make life better."

Last week, the bookish 50-year-old from Leonia became the first third-party candidate ever to receive matching funds from the state — a distinction that also will allow him to appear in two televised debates alongside Governor Whitman and the Democratic nominee, state Sen. Jim McGreevey of Woodbridge.

The money, which will help Sabrin buy TV commercials, and his appearance in the debates will give his radical ideas for changing the role of state government an air of

credibility.

But whether New Jersey voters are ready for those ideas is another matter. Political analysts predict Sabrin's message will appeal to only a small portion of the electorate.

"In this state, I think his message would be better if people were unhappy," said Cliff Zukin, a professor at Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics. "I don't think people are either unhappy or angry. I don't think his solution relates to a problem people want solved at this moment in the state's history."

Like Republicans, Sabrin calls for limiting government. But his views drift into philosophical territory far beyond where even the most conservative ideologues dare to venture.

He calls for the abolition of welfare, food stamps, housing subsidies for the poor, public education, state income tax, state sales tax, affirmative action programs, and public ownership of land. He believes people have a right to own assault rifles and carry concealed weapons.

At the same time, some of his ideas would appeal to some socially liberal voters. He advocates legalizing drugs, for example. Although the Libertarian Party is pro-choice, Sabrin opposes so-called partial birth abortions, and thinks states or communities should decide if abortion should be permitted — not the courts.

"We stand for something clear, and that's less government," said Leonard Flynn, chairman of the New Jersey Libertarian Party, which was founded in 1973. "We want to make government smaller. That's the way it will be better. It's really a return to what our country



MEL EVANS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Murray Sabrin, the Libertarian candidate for governor.

used to be based on."

Sabrin has been a Libertarian since the 1970s, although he was not active in the party until this year.

Born in Bad-Worishofen, West Germany, after World War II, Sabrin's parents immigrated to the Lower East Side in New York and eventually settled in the west Bronx. His mother and his father, who worked at a pencil factory, sheet metal factory, and as a cab driver, live in Middlesex County.

Sabrin attended public schools and Hunter College in New York City. During that time, Sabrin says, he was a liberal Democrat. "Everyone in New York City was a Democrat then," he said. "If you were a Republican, they were probably doing brain scans on you."

Growing disillusioned with the Democrats in the late Sixties, Sabrin became a Republican. But not

LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE

Name: Murray Sabrin

Occupation: chairman of the Department of Finance School of Administration and Business at Ramapo College

Age: 50

Born: West Germany

Home: Leonia

Education: doctor of philosophy, Rutgers University; master's degree, Lehman College; bachelor's degree, Hunter College

Career: teacher, New York City public schools, 1968-72; economist, American Institute for Economic Research, 1979-81; analyst, American Investment Services, 1981-82; Century 21 Sales & Marketing, 1983-85; professor, Ramapo College, 1985-present.

Family: wife, Florence

for long. "When President Nixon imposed wage and price controls, that's when I left the Republican Party," he said.

Both of Sabrin's parents survived the Holocaust, and his intuitive distrust of big government was partially shaped by the atrocities of Nazi Germany, which he calls the ultimate big government.

"I find it really incredible that people with Jewish backgrounds don't embrace libertarianism, which is an anti-big government philosophy that doesn't have the power to persecute anybody," Sabrin said.

But as an intellectual, Sabrin is

more comfortable with abstract concepts than practical applications. He shies away from answering questions about some of the consequences of implementing libertarian ideas.

When asked how a system of private roads would work, he responds, "I'm not hung up on private roads. Some people are, but I'm not. What we have today is a pretty good system."

In other areas, Sabrin's ideas are more fully developed. He believes taxpayers should stop funding education. Small, private schools would replace shuttered public schools. Parents would be able to afford tuition because their property taxes — in most cases — would be cut in half.

But what about families at the lower income level that are barely making ends meet? How could they afford tuition?

"You have volunteers from the community, you have retirees who are looking for things to do," Sabrin said. "In other words, mobilize the resources at the local level to deliver education if you don't have the financial resources to have a full-blown suburban school district."

While his chances of winning are slim, Sabrin said he decided to run for governor because he wants to make an impact.

"This is an incredible opportunity to shape not only New Jersey history, but American history," he said. "If I'm elected, I'll be the first Libertarian governor in history with the opportunity to implement ideas of the Founding Fathers at the state level, which could be a model for the rest of the nation. That's an awesome opportunity."