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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9 BY AND FOR FREEDOM LOVING ALASKANS



Dearth of Opportunities

By Tim Sovde

A few years ago I ran for Fairbanks City Council. There were any number of venues which allowed the public to understand where the candidates for local office stood on the issues. The following is a list of those past forums and events which afforded the public access to the candidates.

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|---|--|
| ITA Candidate Forum | Artic Alliance for People |
| KJNP "Closing Comments" Forum | KTVF channel 11 candidate interviews |
| K13XD channel 13 candidate interviews | Republican Luncheon Fridays at Denny's |
| Visitor Industry Local Government Candidate Forum | News-miner Questionnaire |
| Fairbanks Downtown Market (Downtown Association) Candidate Stump Speech and short Q&A | |
- Note that the KTVF and K13XD were one on one interviews and public notice of when they would be ran was problematic. If you are not a regular viewer there was a good chance of missing the show segment.

This election cycle I have noticed a dearth of opportunities to meet the local candidates in Q&A or forum setting. Here is a list of events where the public can learn more about the local candidates.

Events

ITA Candidate Forum was held September 9th.

KJNP-TV Local Candidate forums at **9 pm**:

- Thursday, September 18th**, Interior Gas Utility Board
- Tuesday, September 23rd**, FNSB Assembly
- Wednesday, September 25th**, FNSB School Board
- Tuesday, September 30th**, Fairbanks City Council
- Thursday, October 1st**, North Pole City Council



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Republican Luncheon Fridays at Denny's

Friday, Sept 19. David Pruhs, Fairbanks City Council, moderated by Cheryl Markwood

Friday, Sept 26. Denis Gardella, School Board seat, moderated by Pat Fink

Larry Morris, candidate for Borough Assembly, this Saturday, the 20th, will be having a hot dog meet and greet out at the Salcha Fairgrounds.

As you can see there are very few opportunities this year to get to know the local candidates. The oxygen is being sucked out of the room with all the state ballot initiatives and the US Senate race which just keeps on giving and giving and giving.

Now if I could figure out what the senate race was giving and bottled it I would be rich either selling it or being paid big bucks for toxic waste removal.

The events I have listed are probably not the only events, they are simply those I am aware of.



An Important Point on the Governor Race

By Lance Roberts

The governor race in Alaska has taken an interesting turn with Independent Republican Bill Walker jumping out of his party and platform to team with Byron Mallott, the Democrat's candidate aligned with Begich and Obama. If this alliance wins, then it will have a major impact on the ongoing gasline projects. Some say that this race is now reminiscent of the Palin or Hickel races, but there are major differences. Sarah Palin ran against proven corruption in the legislature and won with the conservative populist vote, never abandoning party or principles. Hickel ran a conservative campaign against a liberal Republican opponent. Walker is running a liberal populist campaign based on an appeal to perceived evils in our successful oil and gas industry. He believes the state should just take over many facets of the industry, reminiscent of third world nationalization. He's running against an incumbent governor whose optimism and focus on increasing oil production and a gasline have created an economic boom with jobs increasing every year. We currently have a gasline deal moving forward with buy-in from the producers and approval of the legislature.

From an energy perspective, the most important issue that the next governor will address is a gasline project. Bill Walker has for many years been a driving force behind the Alaska Gasline Port Authority (AGPA), established in 1999 by the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the North Slope Borough and the City of Valdez. It was created to support a gasline effort, and early on chose to support the one that the voters had asked for that year, the line to Valdez. That project never garnered the support that was necessary to see it to fruition. Other gas projects were later proposed and gained political backing. Walker's Port Authority chose a scorched earth policy, working to defeat many proposals that weren't their own. They advertised with public dollars and personally lobbied the legislature and administration to kill all other gas projects, instead of modifying their plan to fit the new situation. Personally, I've always been a supporter of the line to Valdez, and voted for Walker in 2010 because I thought that the specific gasline was the defining issue. What I don't understand is refusing to adapt when the situation changed, delaying the chance for a gasline, due to a desire for a particular plan. Sometimes perfect is the enemy of good.

Consider the following questions: How is Walker going to advance the gasline project that is already in motion? The Alaska LNG project, a project to construct a gasline and the facilities to export gas and provide for Alaska's energy needs, has achieved cooperation with the oil companies and they been doing field work for it all summer. The planned route goes to Nikiski, on the Kenai Peninsula, not Walker's hometown of Valdez and the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) work is underway. There are more negotiations still to be done. How will a man who has consistently worked for the last fifteen years for a specific project to Valdez and against all others handle those negotiations? How will he make the win-win deal that is needed in our free enterprise system to advance a gasline, when he has taken an adversarial position with the oil companies, going so far as to sue the state after the Point Thomson settlement took place? This settlement would supply the gas for a line, has caused the oil companies to invest billions in infrastructure and had 700 people working this



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summer. If Walker mandates a change from what was previously approved and intended by the legislature, how will he be able to get legislative approval?

For most of Alaska, a gasline is just an important source of future revenue, but for us in Fairbanks it is life or death, as many of our long-time citizens are leaving for places with cheaper utility bills. Sean Parnell helped the Interior by proposing and supporting the Interior Energy project to truck gas to Fairbanks. This is a bridge project that will prove helpful, but does not diminish the need for a long-term solution such as a gasline. If you examine the record of the candidates then it's pretty easy to see that the choice you'll make in November is Walker or a natural gas pipeline.

Lance Roberts is an engineer, born and raised in Fairbanks. He is a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly. The views expressed here are his own and do not represent the assembly or borough administration.

Editors Note:

In a news lease after this article was submitted, Bill Walker said he would want to look at what's been done so far and if it makes sense for the state to pull out of the current gasline proposal, it will.



Ten Reasons to Condemn Inflation

Mises Daily: Monday, September 08, 2014 by Andreas Marquart

Inflation, defined as an expansion of the supply of unbacked money, is an elementary evil, always and everywhere that it occurs. It is the ignored and core cause of numerous problems in the economy and in society, including:

1. Inflation Causes Booms and Busts

Increasing the money supply that involves the granting of more credit means that new money is created by credit that is not covered by savings. This causes interest rates to fall more than would be the case without an expansion of the money supply. The result is an artificial economic boom, which politicians and the general public *initially* welcome. Investments are triggered that would not have been carried out if the invested capital had to be saved up first, prior to such investments. Therefore, there are insufficient resources available to bring all the projects thus begun to completion. In addition, resources — which are by their very nature scarce — are not brought to bear where they are most needed — in the most urgent projects. When interest rates climb again, the malinvestment comes to light, and a crisis — a bust — results. To overcome the bust, the central bank then reduces the interest rate again. A crisis that would clean things up is thus not allowed to happen, because it is politically undesirable.

2. Inflation Redistributes Wealth and Purchasing Power

An un-backed expansion of the money supply causes the prices of goods and services to rise. The parties who first receive the newly created money profit. They are able to make purchases at goods prices that still have not risen, whereas the later recipients of the money will only enjoy the benefits of the new money when the goods prices have already risen. They are put at a disadvantage and lose relative to the initial recipients of the cash. In addition, some market participants don't gain anything from the newly created money. The initial recipients are the banks, the state, and large enterprises. This effect also occurs when the price of goods remains stable due to money expansion and would otherwise have fallen without an expansion of the money supply. In this instance, inflation is particularly nefarious.



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3. Inflation Prevents the Price of Goods From Falling

Higher productivity and a strengthened division of labor in a national economy allow the quantity of produced goods and services to rise. If the money supply were to remain unchanged, or would rise or to a lesser extent than the quantity of goods, this would lead to a falling overall price level. Expanding the money supply prevents such price decreases. The European Central Bank (ECB) has defined a reference value by which the most broadly defined money supply, M3, should ideally rise. This reference value is at present about 4.5 percent per year. The argument that is used is to always maintain price stability. Deflation, which is incorrectly interpreted as a sinking price of goods, is said to be broadly damaging to the economy. Broad swaths of the population are thus prevented from taking part in a just share of productivity increases and a strengthened (international) division of labor.

4. Inflation Causes the Welfare State to Grow

The expansion of the money allows the state to go into debt more easily and at lower interest rates than would be the case without monetary expansion. Due to that, expenditures can be financed that otherwise have to be financed by raising taxes. Politicians make use of this, particularly before elections. They thus can promise “benefits” that otherwise would not be able to be financed. People willingly take the bait and want to be the first in line, not knowing, or repressing the fact that they themselves are the ones financing the “big banquet.”

5. Inflation Destroys Families

No one has formulated this better than the economist and philosopher Hans-Hermann Hoppe in *Democracy: The God That Failed*, writing:

Every form of government welfare — the compulsory wealth or income transfer from “haves” to “have-nots” — lowers the value of a person’s membership in an extended family-household system as a social system of mutual cooperation and help and assistance. Marriage loses value. For parents, the value and importance of a “good” upbringing (education) of their own children is reduced. Correspondingly, for children, less value will be attached and less respect paid to their own parents.

6. Inflation Corrupts People

Placed before the choice of allowing a crisis that would clean things up after a boom and kicking the can down the road, the majority of the populace accepts the latter option. The debt of most market participants is too high to shoulder the burdens of a deflationary crisis. The fear of the loss of one’s job is just too much. Many people are also too dependent on state money transfers, state subsidies, and/or state projects.

7. Inflation Expands the State Bureaucracy

Every recession that comes after a boom makes bad investments evident. The citizens demand that the state “make things right.” The state is called on to intervene and fix things. Politicians gladly take up this call and can justify their positions in that way. But every intervention results in further state intervention and creates a veritable “thicket” of interventions. In the end, state regulations penetrate and strangle the economy and society in the form of a multiplicity of laws and regulations.

8. Inflation Makes People Materialistic, Envious, and Egotistical

Inflation reduces the purchasing power of incomes and of assets that are saved up. Thus, for example, when people invest their assets, a lot of time has to be used to compensate for the loss caused by the expansion of the money supply. This only happens with great time and effort, but mostly doesn’t. Purchasing power falls through people’s fingers like sand. .



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Everyone literally chases every cent, envies their neighbor and his possessions, not knowing that the neighbor himself is up to his neck in debt. Charity and the willingness to help out falls among people, who are themselves just barely making it. Meanwhile, the sentiment “we already pay enough in taxes, so the state should do the charity work,” becomes more common.

9. Inflation Depresses People

Particularly for those who don’t earn much, inflation makes it increasingly hard or even impossible to accrue assets by saving. Prices, for example for energy and groceries, climb continually. Climbing the social ladder becomes harder and harder. Purchases become, for many, only possible by taking on credit. And paying off the credit becomes more and more of a burden. People are frustrated by their often hopeless situation. Frequently, this path leads to heavy debt and bankruptcy.

10. Inflation Leads to Waste and (Natural) Resources Becoming More Expensive

Resources and time are scarce. The artificial boom caused by inflation leads to investments that otherwise would not occur, or would occur at a later time. If projects have to be interrupted due to insufficient savings and/or rising interest rates, then scarce resources are used up, and — in many instances — can never be recovered. This means that more natural resources are used up than would be the case otherwise. The price of raw materials will tend to rise. In addition, the environment is damaged unnecessarily. Also, for inflation-induced infrastructure projects for which there is no real need, when viewed realistically, the environment is unnecessarily burdened.

Note: The views expressed in Daily Articles on Mises.org are not necessarily those of the Mises Institute.

Andreas Marquart is executive director of the Ludwig von Mises Institute Germany. He has been an independent financial consultant for more than 15 years and is a proponent of the Austrian School of economics.



Homeschoolers Outnumber Private-school Students in North Carolina

Written by Bob Adelman Tuesday, 09 September 2014 15:06

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/education/item/19085-homeschoolers-outnumber-private-school-students-in-north-carolina>

News from North Carolina marks another milestone toward developing an informed, politically active citizenry familiar with the basic fundamentals of the American Republic.

Homeschooled students now outnumber private-school students in North Carolina. This represents an increase of more than 14 percent from the year before, and a 27 percent increase from just two years ago. The state estimates that there are nearly 100,000 homeschoolers in North Carolina, while private school enrollments have been dropping ever since the beginning of the Great Recession. According to the *Charlotte News Observer*, this extraordinary growth is due to parental concerns about school violence, the lack of a religious focus in public schools, and the large classroom size.

But it also has to do with the accelerating pushback against the Common Core nationalized curriculum. Beth Herbert, the founder of Lighthouse Christian Homeschool Association, said, “Common Core is a big factor that I hear people talk about. They’re not happy with the work their kids are coming home with. They decided to take their children home.” This

concern is bleeding over into the state's General Assembly, which just passed legislation in July to create a commission to recommend a strategy to replace the Common Core curriculum in the state.

Noted Kelli Swinney, a former homeschool mom and blogger:

Common Core is a big factor nationwide. As a retired homeschool mom and a member of an education advocacy group, I have learned a lot of what's going on in the education world. Common Core is bad, plain and simple. It's a one-size-fits-all program and kids just aren't that way.

There is plenty of dissatisfaction with public schools in the United States, which explains the virtual explosion in homeschooling from just 13,000 students in 1973 to well over two million at present. When asked to define that dissatisfaction, parents have expressed concerns about the school environment, the quality of the academic instruction being offered, the curriculum being followed, classroom bullying, and with the inability of public schools to cater adequately to their child's individual needs. When pressed on the matter, many were concerned about the lack of religious or moral instruction being offered, along with student safety, availability of drugs, and the ever-present negative peer pressure to conform.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 91 percent of parents quizzed expressed a concern about the public school environment, while 77 percent of them expressed a desire to provide more moral instruction, with 64 percent of them wanting to provide more religious instruction for their children. Seventy-four percent expressed dissatisfaction with the academic instruction in public schools.

Two Supreme Court cases, *Meyer v. Nebraska* and *Runyon v. McCrary*, opened the floodgates to allow homeschooling to gain a foothold against public education. In *Runyon*, the court stated that it had "repeatedly stressed that ... parents have a constitutional right to send their children to private schools and a constitutional right to select private schools that offer specialized instruction," while in *Meyer*, a majority stated that the "liberty" protected by the Due Process Clause "denotes not merely freedom from bodily restraint but also the right of the individual to contract, to engage in any of the common occupations of life, to acquire useful knowledge, to marry, establish a home and bring up children, to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and generally to enjoy those privileges long recognized ... as essential to the to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men."

Since 1999, the number of children who are being homeschooled has increased across the country by more than 75 percent. Part of the increase is driven by the continuing proof that homeschooled students are receiving a superior education. According to Education News, "Homeschooling statistics show that those who are independently educated typically score between the 65th and 89th percentile on [standardized assessment] exams, while those attending traditional [public] schools average at the 50th percentile."

Such education carries over into college as well. A 2010 study by Dr. Michael Cogan of the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota found that college students who have been homeschooled fare better than those who have attended public school on a number of levels: They achieve a higher first-year GPA than the other students, their fourth-year GPA bests the overall average, and they have a higher college graduation rate compared to the rest of the graduates.

Homeschool graduates, in addition, are more involved in civic affairs and vote in much higher percentages than their peers. According to the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), "76% of those surveyed between the ages of 18 and 24 voted within the last five years, compared with only 29% of the corresponding US populace. The numbers are even greater in older age groups, with voting levels not falling below 95%, compared with a high of 53% for the corresponding US populace."

The momentum behind the homeschool movement continues to grow. According to Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute (NEHRI), the number of students homeschooling in the future will increase because "a large number of those individuals who were being home educated in the 1990s may begin to homeschool their own school age children and [because of] the continued successes of home educated students."

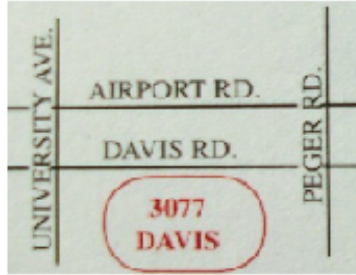
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All that being said, however, the biggest impetus driving parents toward educating their children at home is the Common Core agenda being pushed by educrats interested only in homogenizing and dumbing down America's students. In an interview with *TNA*, Alan Scholl, director of Freedom Project Education (FPE, an online "classical" homeschooling program), noted that his school has grown from 22 students just three years ago to more than 700 students currently. Scholl added, "We had to turn down 130 students after the final enrollment date ended in August. That means we're likely to have more than 1,000 students starting in the fall of 2015." When asked how much the opposition to Common Core was adding to the momentum at his school, Scholl responded: "At least half!"

When asked about the dangers of Common Core, Scholl referred to the FPE website (<https://fpeusa.org/>), which explains:

In brief, each of the 50 states has been bribed by the federal government to accept the copyrighted and thus unalterable common core standards — even though most Americans have no idea what they entail — by offering those states millions....

To date, 46 states have accepted common core money, ceding curricular control to the federal government and taking it away from parents, teachers, and local school boards. Beyond the educational mediocrity the Common Core standards will further enshrine in public schools, there are elaborate plans to use the required national assessments within the Common Core standards as a tool to institute massive data collection about American schoolchildren that has nothing to do with education, and everything to do about government intrusion and control.

As the pressure mounts to implement the Common Core curriculum across the country, so does the pressure not to conform. This is being reflected in the massive growth of homeschooling in North Carolina, and the exponential growth at FPE.

A graduate of Cornell University and a former investment advisor, Bob is a regular contributor to The New American magazine and blogs frequently at www.LightFromTheRight.com, primarily on economics and politics. He can be reached at badelmann@thenewamerican.com.

Editor's Note: Private Educational Institutions receive public monies so their performance is evaluated based on the State Common Core Standards.



ALASKA CONSTITUTION PARTY & MYERS/ RENSEL 2014 CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

In a statement to the press, Alaska Constitution Party (ACP) founder and 2014 gubernatorial candidate J.R. Myers commented on the Walker-Mallott merger, "The people of Alaska have just had a huge bait and switch pulled on them. Ambitious egos have corrupted the Alaska political system in a desperate attempt to get elected. We have just witnessed a cynical manipulation of our electoral system which in essence has disenfranchised thousands of Alaskans."

For the first time in Alaska's history, the Constitution Party will have candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor on the November 4 ballot. In the same year the Democrats won't have candidates in the race. In an unprecedented move, Alaska

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Democratic candidates, chosen in a publicly financed primary election just a couple weeks ago, have resigned.

“Switching the candidates after a primary and a signature gathering campaign, does not honor the party members who voted in the primary and does not honor grassroots Alaskans who signed the Walker/Fleener petitions, said Maria Rensel, ACP candidate for Lt. Governor. “They are really taking their supporters for granted.”

The Democrat’s central committee voted 89-2 to endorse what they’re calling the ‘fusion’ or ‘unity’ ticket. In a recent interview Walker, who personally opposes abortion, pledged that under his watch he would not allow new restrictions even if it meant vetoing anti-abortion legislation. In order to be endorsed by the Democrats, Walker dropped his Republican registration to become Undeclared.

The sanctity of human life is the primary motivating force behind the creation of the Alaska Constitution Party. This paramount issue is addressed by the Constitution party in Alaska as well as in every other state and is a guiding principle in the Declaration of Independence.

“Our unalienable Right to Life was given to us by our Creator, God who made us. It is unacceptable that any of us should sweep this under the rug for political allegiance or political gain. We must not allow governments to deprive any one of us of his natural right to life or we all relinquish this right” Rensel said. “All other rights are meaningless without the right to life.”



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- Big I** 122 N Turner St
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