

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Today, August 16, 2007, Dr. Steven Porter announced his candidacy for Congress in the 3rd district of Pennsylvania.

“A few weeks ago,” Porter began, “I left the Democratic Party and re-registered as a non-affiliated independent. It is as an independent that I will run.” Porter went on to explain.

“No one tried harder than I to change the Democratic Party from within, and it is with a great deal of sadness that I have come to believe that both major parties no longer represent the people of this district or this nation.

“I remember speaking with former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley soon after he declared that he would not run for re-election. ‘When I first ran,’ Bradley told me, ‘people asked what I believed in. Now the only thing they care about is how much money I have.’

“Since the Buckley vs. Valeo decision of the Supreme Court in the 1970s which declared that money was the equivalent of free speech—a decision which I believe has destroyed the ‘one-man, one-vote’ principle of our Constitution—both major parties have deteriorated into machines whose primary purpose is to serve the special interests which finance their campaigns. I can no longer be a part of that process, and I believe it is that process which has created America’s distrust of its government and prevented the Democrats from ending the war in Iraq, even after they were given a clear mandate to do so by the 2006 elections.

“Einstein’s explanation of insanity was for people to do the same thing over and over yet expect different results. We keep electing the same corrupted politicians and expect them to act for our welfare. It is time to try to end that by offering the public a clear, un-affiliated, un-owned choice.

“Having conducted two congressional campaigns in this district, I am well aware of the political tactics of the area, and they aren’t pretty. I will not engage in any rhetoric which involves personal attacks on opponents or waste the public’s time responding to personal attacks or lies circulated about me and my positions. You all know that I have instituted a law suit to respond to such attacks, and I will let that law suit do its work in our courts. Rather, in my campaign for election in 2008, I will stress my programs for the people of this district and this nation, and I would like to start right now.

Iraq and global terrorism

“I begin with the war in Iraq which, as you know, I have opposed from day one. I believe that only a political solution in Iraq will end the slaughter and bring our troops home. That is why I support an immediate end to the use of our soldiers in an offensive capacity. I would give the government of Iraq six months to establish autonomous zones in their country: one for the Kurds, one for the Shiites, and one for the Sunnis (with Baghdad as perhaps a fourth divided city along the lines of Berlin after World War II). The zones would share equitably in Iraqi oil revenue, and the re-building of Iraq would be open to all international efforts—not just those of

Halliburton and the four big oil companies (Exxon, Shell, Chevron, and BP). US forces could aid in securing these autonomous zones, but after six months they would be re-deployed, mostly back home, and it would be up to the Iraqis to defend their own zones against any terrorist or civil aggression. Having accomplished this, I would re-invigorate our failed alliances so that the eradication of terrorism is internationally undertaken with all nations sharing in the burden instead of leaving the United States to carry it virtually alone. Finally, I would work to end the cycles of poverty and despair which have created global terrorism and made the United States as hated a colonial intruder as were France, England, Spain, and others in the age of Imperialism.

Health care

“I will campaign for universal health care in America and specifically for the passage of HR 676, the enactment of the Physicians National Health-care Program.

Environmental action

“I will campaign to save our planet from what may be its permanent destruction by immediately mandating significant improvements in automobile gas mileage by putting resources similar to the billions wasted in Iraq into the immediate development of clean, renewable, American-produced energy.

Restoring democracy

“I will campaign for the public funding of elections so that our government representatives are beholden only to the people and not to the special interests which currently buy them off.

Social Security

“I will campaign for the solvency of Social Security by requiring all people to pay their fair 6.2% of all wages earned.

Tax reform

“I will campaign for the end of Bush’s tax breaks for the wealthy and for the powerful corporations, many of which pay nothing while the burden of taxation is shifted more and more to a weakened middle class.

Job outsourcing

“I will campaign against the outsourcing of American jobs by insisting that trade deals are mutually beneficial and that wage, environmental, and monetary standards in the nations with which we trade are compatible with those of the United States.

Immigration

“I will campaign against illegal immigration and against the economic forces in our nation which encourage it by hiring illegals and paying them substandard wages. I will campaign against amnesty for illegals and begin by providing better border security and by requiring that all illegals and their employers register subject to both fine and imprisonment. I will not, however, campaign for this in a way which treats illegal aliens in any cruel or inhumane manner, particularly those who are children.

“These are the major issues of our time, though I am sure others will be mentioned in the course of the campaign, and as they come up, I will comment on them.

“I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.”