

Election 2016:*A third-party choice? You choose...**Writers Caleb Albert and Tristan Jackson voice their opinion about why the "other" presidential candidates are the better choice*

•Caleb Albert

@thecalbert17

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•Tristan Jackson

@tristan_jackso

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google

Almost all of the media coverage focuses on the two infamous candidates of the 2016 election: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

Because there is so much attention being given to them, other candidates, such as Gary Johnson and Jill Stein, have been forgotten and left out of the race. In fact, many people think not only that only Trump and Hillary are running now, but that only Democratic and Republican candidates are capable of being elected in November.

However, Gary Johnson, a Libertarian and the former governor of New Mexico, is still eligible for the presidency, and has persevered through his campaign, despite the lack of media coverage.

Johnson is the perfect blend of conservative and liberal -- he is fiscally conservative, but socially tolerant. This means that while he plans to cut spending in a lot of ways, he is more liberal with social issues, such as marriage rights and religious freedoms. He is also in favor of implementing term limits, which will help create balance of Republican and Democratic representation in our legislation.

Many voters want political experience in a presidential candidate, which is something Johnson has to offer in abundance. Serving as governor of New Mexico, Johnson inherited an incredibly tragic economy: in 1995, he began with a \$4.397 billion budget. However, he left with a \$7.721 billion budget, and a surplus of roughly \$1 billion. He averaged a 7.29-percent budget increase per year.

All of his budgeting was done by vetoing 750 proposed bills, more than any other New Mexico governor combined. Although this seems unfavorable, the increased budget allowed for new schools, roads, highways, and hospitals. He cut taxes 14 times and never raised them. This type of political and business administrative experience is exactly what America needs in a chief executive officer.

Some people might be wondering why the media isn't covering Johnson as much as the Democratic or Republican nominees.

Andrew Gustafson, a senior at Jeffersonville High School, said, "Clinton and Trump are running campaigns that are focused on scandals and personal attacks, while Johnson is focused on the issues. Scandals make better news stories than a qualified candidate discussing policies."

Major media outlets understand that controversy makes for more interesting news, which could be why Johnson has been left out of the presidential debates, and why so few people know of his campaign.

Although, according to recent Quinnipiac polls, Gary Johnson is currently polling at 35-percent for voters under the age of 40. Young people are not only the voice of the future, but are the future, and we're inheriting it quicker than some thought we would.

Don't let your voice be persuaded by the same two political parties that have run this country for too long. You have other options.

The 2016 presidential election process is winding down, and some people are basing their decision on who they think is the least awful out of the two candidates at the top, rather than what they find positive about them.

My question is, why are we not seriously considering a third-party candidate? More specifically, why not a Green Party candidate like Jill Stein?

Stein got her start in politics when she ran for governor of Massachusetts in 2002. Her experience came from her time working as a doctor, where she saw how broken the health care system had become.

She got into politics because she feared for the future of her children, and other children, because of preventable epidemics, such as diabetes and cancer. On top of that, she feared for the irreversible damage being done to the environment.

Being a Green Party candidate, one of Stein's main focuses is the environment. She plans on moving towards clean renewable energy, such as wind and solar, to conserve the earth we live on, and hopefully reverse damage already done from the overuse of fossil fuels and coal.

The plan she has laid out would create millions of jobs in the United States, and if all goes according to plan, Americans would be 100-percent transitioned to renewable energy by 2030.

She wants to cut defense spending by 50-percent, where the United States spent a whopping \$598.5 billion in 2015 alone. To put that number into perspective, defense spending accounted for 54-percent of all federal spending, while education received just under \$70 billion, or just 6-percent.

Stein also has big plans socially, as she wants to strengthen women's rights, protect the LGBT community, and make sure corruption within our police system is stopped.

This may leave one wondering: why is Jill Stein not on top of the polls? She's never been labeled a racist. She's never put our national security at risk. She's never said anything demeaning about someone because of their gender, or any other physical quality.

Voters can blame many things, but if Jill Stein was in the news more, she'd probably stand a better chance. There's not a lack of news produced by Stein herself -- the problem is she hasn't been in the news enough for most people to even know what she stands for.

Jill Stein, a candidate for president, was forced to leave the site of the first debate for holding an interview. That doesn't sound like a lack of media coverage to me, but rather media corruption.

Thanks to the media in our country, Jill Stein will lose. It's really a shame that a woman who's main focus is making sure our world is livable in the future, can't even get her foot in the door of the race or a debate.

We should be looking at our first female president in the United States come next January, and it shouldn't be Hillary Clinton. If change and sustainable growth are what you're looking for, Jill Stein is the way to go.