

Online Profiles of the 2012 U.S. Presidential Candidates

John D Haywood: Eclectic Democrat with Detailed Plans

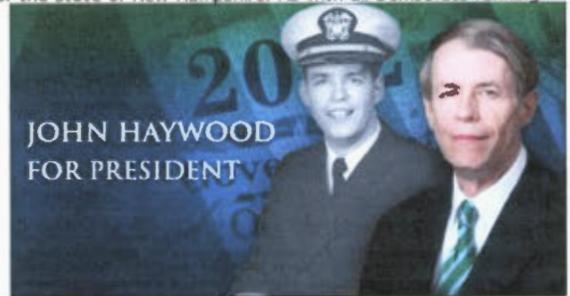
By: [Chris Hardy](#) and [Logan Spillane](#)

John D. Haywood is one of 13 campaigning against Barack Obama for the Democratic Nomination for the state of New Hampshire. As with all Democrats running against the incumbent, Haywood's campaign faces real struggles in the effort to unseat Obama, a task that is historically very difficult for even members of the opposing party. The Haywood campaign has also had to face issues of fundraising, as all major Democratic contributors are placing their fiscal support firmly behind Obama.

According to several of his friends, who chose not to be named, Haywood's presidential bid was not well-received by many around him. They attributed this due to the fact that he is running as a Democrat in a traditionally Conservative area. A couple of them also mentioned that some of his policies were "downright ridiculous and unrealistic." In an interview, Haywood says he is lacking support, from those around him due to his liberal platform.

Early life

John D. Haywood was born in Charleston, SC following World War II, although he was resided in Durham, NC for the majority of his life. His interest in politics was fostered by a High school friend who was friends with Kenneth Royal an advisor to John F. Kennedy during his campaign for office. This afforded him the opportunity to see John F Kennedy's famous "Ask Not" speech, an event Haywood says, "jump started my interest in politics". He graduated from the law school at UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in Political Science, went on to study law and after serving in the Navy JAG Corps for three years, became an associate and eventually a partner at the same law firm as his father. Interestingly enough, for a twenty-year span, from 1980-2000, Haywood was a Republican, despite the fact that his father was a lifelong Democrat and Haywood himself had been raised as a Democrat. Reagan's belief in low taxes and low government spending might have been the primary reason that Haywood switched from the left to the right, as stated on his website: "In 1980 when Ronald Reagan campaigned against 'high taxes' and 'big spenders,' I switched to the Republicans and remained so through the 2000 election of George W. Bush". This attitude extends to his tax policies which are very Reagan-esque in design. However, after Bush was elected, Haywood became a Democrat once again due to his opposition of Bush's income tax policy. Haywood has few nice things to say about Barack Obama as well, and believes that he is merely a "copycat successor" to Bush who gave into Republicans by continuing the previous administration's tax policy.



Haywood now spends most of his time on his campaign. His days are spent on drafting letters and long issuances of newsletters he calls "broad sides" on his website. This is very apparent in the impressive depth and breadth of the site, one of the largest political websites of this season. His posted policy on health care for instance, drags on for 1500 words as compared to Romney's 500 words on the subject. During the interview Haywood seemed proud that the woman he commissioned to create his website was surprised that a political website was opening with over 20 pages of typed content.

Estate Tax

One of Haywood's policies is the proposal of a raised estate tax. Haywood proposes a lifetime 1.65 million dollar exemption from tax after which a complex system of percentages come into play. Haywood sees a problem in a common loop hole used by those who inherit assets. When a person dies and bequeaths an asset the person who receives that asset is exempt from paying capital gains taxes. Haywood would like to see this loophole closed. Haywood is in favor of using these taxes to fund social programs that he believes will revitalize the country. However according to Professor Robinson of William Patterson's College's economics department, "the tax revenue gained from strict estate taxes will not amount to enough to make any difference that the American people can feel. Even if all new money goes directly into programs".

Abortion

Haywood is a strong supporter of abortion rights. He mentions, in characteristically lengthy piece titled, "A Message to Abortion/Gay Rights Opponents" that he feels pro-life supporters "punish the pregnant woman" due to the fact that they oppose abortion. Haywood goes on to exclaim that "Raising a wanted child is a labor of love. Raising a child that is not wanted is akin to slavery". Haywood would like to appoint justices whose pedigree shows a long history of supporting abortion, and is indeed the only mention of the Supreme Court he makes on his website.

Health Care

Health care has proved to be one of Haywood go-to issues; he even includes a political cartoon on his homepage that comments on Europe's systems of state run healthcare. Haywood supports health care reform and proposes switching to a single-payer system that is similar to the one in Britain. He states that the British system is more efficient in four ways: It provides universal coverage out of tax revenues thereby eliminating the health insurance middleman. Also, a National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence made up of medical experts decides what tests, procedures and medicines the National Health Service will pay for. (If you want treatment not approved by the Institute, you must have insurance or pay out of pocket.) Finally, their medical practitioners are more into preventive medicine and medicines approved by the Institute are bought in bulk or so Haywood claims. However, Haywood would allow people to have private insurance if they so desired. Although Haywood criticizes the current health care system in our country, he still believes that the best and most efficient health care systems are domestic and the cost is the factor in need of control not quality. Haywood also claims that if his health care proposal were put into place, the country would save over a trillion dollars per year as compared to the ten year projection of the current health care bill. This claim was unable to be substantiated due to the fact that Haywood leaves out key elements of specifics in his health care pitch.

Economic Policy

Another major issue in our country currently is the economy. Haywood has a slightly unorthodox proposal when it comes to stimulating economic growth and creating jobs. He wants to return to the tax code of 1965 and have a steep, yet progressive income tax so that the super-rich cannot be "income-hoarders" anymore. Haywood believes that by having a steep income tax, the government will have more revenue, which it can then circulate to different programs. In his opinion, the increased funds will allow government contractors to hire more people, thus lowering the unemployment rate and increasing the percentage of middle class living in this country. On his website, Haywood cites a 1940 tax increase as a primary reason that, by the end of 1942, had caused the unemployment rate to drop from 14% to 2%. Professor Robinson, a member of the Economics department at William Patterson College, refutes Haywood's proposed economic policies, saying they are only effective during periods of expansion and would not work during the current economic recovery that the country is going through. Haywood correctly stated in our interview that the nation is technically in an expansion, however what he fails to realize, according to Professor Robinson, is that "we are not growing enough to merit introduction of increased taxes."

Foreign Policy

When it comes to foreign affairs, Haywood has a few different proposals. In regard to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Haywood says that he would withdraw all U.S. forces from both countries immediately and also end attacks by unmanned drones on specific targets. In Haywood's opinion the current wars are morally unjust and draining the nation's wealth. He also took great care to explain that funding a war with borrowed dollars was "irresponsible". A more controversial proposal of his involves the Guantanamo Bay Military Prison. Haywood proposes freeing all untried inmates who have been in Guantanamo for more than ten years, and for all inmates who have been in the prison for less than ten years, he has proposed either trying them within the first six months of his term or freeing them entirely.

Haywood is also vehemently opposed to Israel and what he calls the "Jewish Lobby." Haywood equates the Nazi oppression of the Jewish people in the 1930's and 1940's to the treatment of Palestinians in recent years by the Israeli's. This sentiment has become a pillar of Haywood's campaign. During an interview Haywood explained that he believed that Israel is forcing our involvement in the Middle East. He also says several times during the interview, that Israel was a primary factor in the American economic downturn and blamed the "Jewish Lobby" for distracting us from our domestic problems. He also accused key Republican members of Congress of taking bribes from this "Jewish Lobby" in return for favorable treatment.

Global Warming

Haywood fully accepts the theory of global warming and believes that this issue needs to be addressed aggressively and immediately. He proposes more lab and in-field research as a way to gain more knowledge about the issue. He also offers a solution to global warming which is to spray particles into the atmosphere as a way to reflect the sun's heat back into space, which, in his opinion, would cool the earth. Haywood also is a strong proponent of alternatives to hydrocarbons such as solar, wind, hydro, biomass and geothermal technologies. He believes that these could generate a significant portion of our electricity if they were utilized correctly.

Education

Another significant issue that Haywood tackles in his platform is education reform. He believes that children need to learn to read and write at young age, but are not afforded the opportunity to do so. Haywood proposes bringing the Comprehensive Child Development Act of 1971 (that gives poor children equal opportunities to learn in the same environment as their peers) back into Congress for a second vote. Previously, the bill had been vetoed by President Nixon after passing both Houses of Congress. A veto widely considered to be part of Cold War paranoia. Nixon said that the bill would implement a "communal approach to child-rearing," tying it to broad-based fears of Communism.

Publications

Haywood has authored several letters to the president highlighting what he feels are major mistakes of his presidency. Haywood has also been active in publishing advertisements in major New Hampshire that feature his policies and rhetoric. When we spoke Haywood alluded to the possibility of a television commercial, although it seems unlikely given the dry coffers of the Haywood campaign.

Campaign

The trademark of the Haywood campaign is efficiency. What Haywood lacks in a large staff room, Haywood employs no staff, he makes up for in passion. Haywood works around the clock to publishing and producing materials and ads for his campaign. However, this passion may be crippled by the fact that to date Haywood has failed to raise any substantial amount of money; a problem that threatens to halt the progress of his campaign which up until this point has been funded wholly by Haywood. However, his prospects look bleak as Professor Coughlin, a former political science professor at Rutgers, points out "it is very hard for fringe candidates who are being shadowed by big shots, in this case president Obama, to raise money. The main reason being that all party support is going into the rockstar, all the others are left out in the wilderness".



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