

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHRUP CALLS FOR REFERENDUM, BLASTS LEHRMAN-CUOMO PHONY TAX SQUABBLE

John Northrup, Libertarian candidate for Governor, called for an amendment to the state constitution to enable voter initiative referendums such as Proposition 13 which slashed property taxes in California in 1978. "Since the legislature is controlled by the same Republicans and Democrats who together have increased state spending more than 1,000 percent in the last 25 years, it is obvious that only if the voters take direct control of state taxes will spending be brought in line with economic reality," said Northrup.

Northrup does not expect the legislature to easily give up control of the budget since "without it, they will no longer be of value to the special interests which elect them. A substantial vote for a Libertarian governor will let the politicians know that New Yorkers will no longer stand for the outrageous spending programs which have given us the highest taxes in the country - 50 percent over the national average.

"Only the headline writers could refer to Lehrman's \$1.5 billion spending increase proposal as a 40 percent tax cut. He must have inherited his tax advisers from Nelson Rockefeller, the last millionaire Republican businessman from New York City who tried to buy the governor's mansion. Likewise, only a candidate like Mario Cuomo who is endorsed by every public employee union in the state would call the Lehrman tax increase plan radical tax cutting."

Northrup, who has pledged to repeal the state income tax during his first term in office, has already proposed specific state spending cuts of more than \$5.7 billion. "Unlike the other candidates, I want to slash taxes not just because they are too high, but because you have the right to keep your earnings and determine how you will live your life."

Northrup suggested that the proposed tax referendum take place on April 15 so that the voters could decide if they wanted to keep shelling out to pay for politicians' whims.

Northrup is a honors graduate of Princeton and a Syracuse CPA. If he polls 50,000 votes, the Libertarian Party, the third largest in the nation, will retain ballot status in New York through 1986 enabling voters across the state to vote for local Libertarian candidates who support drastic reductions in the size and scope of government.