

Gary Johnson addresses Freedom Fest crowd in Las Vegas

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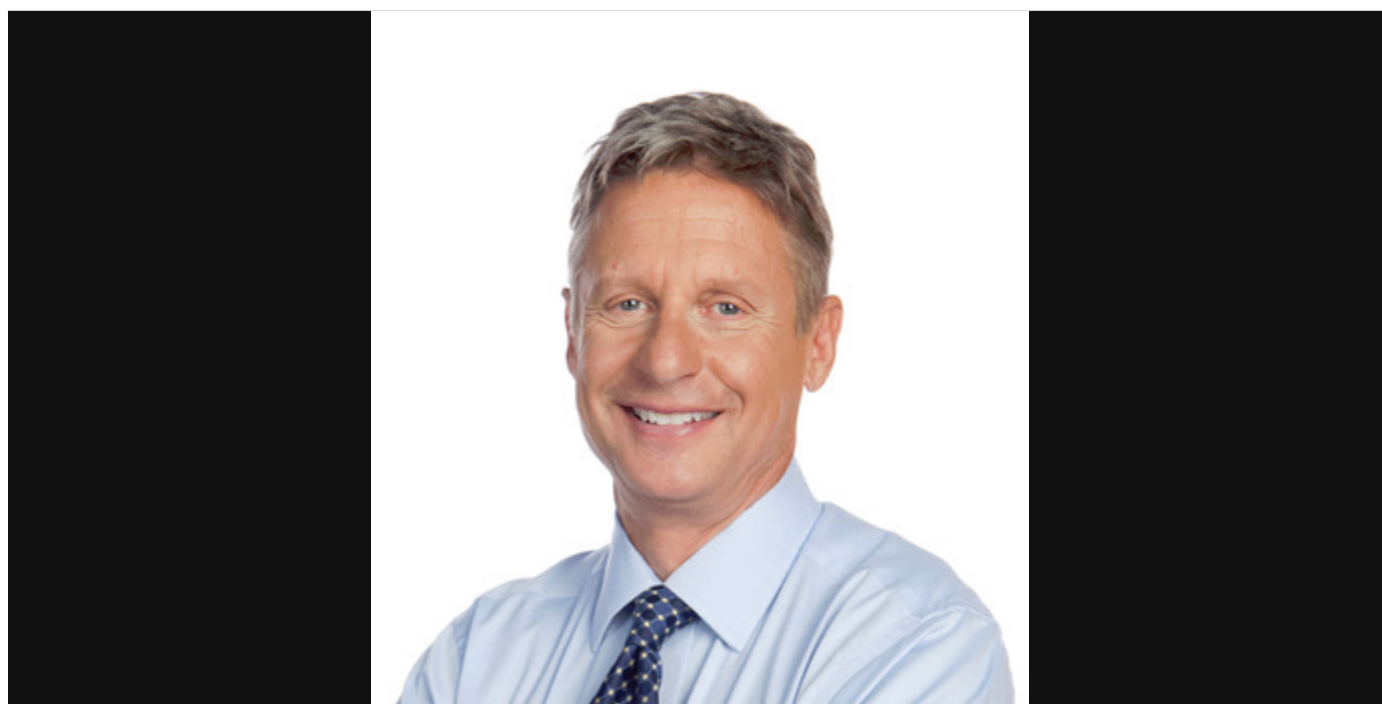
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Speaking Saturday at the annual [Freedom Fest](http://www.freedomfest.com) (<http://www.freedomfest.com>) in [Las Vegas](http://www.examiner.com/topic/las-vegas) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/las-vegas>), [Libertarian Party](http://www.lp.org) (<http://www.lp.org>) presidential candidate and former New Mexico Governor [Gary Johnson](http://www.garyjohnson2012.com) (<http://www.garyjohnson2012.com>) charged that the greatest threats to freedom in the U.S. today are not foreign aggressors, but the federal government itself. The crowd is full of Libertarians, Republicans, Democrats and Independents who are interested in networking and learning what they can do to find freedom in an unfree world.

Johnson's speech follows:

“We have reached a sad point in history at which Americans’ freedom is not being threatened from outside, but rather from our own government and the politicians who run it. Yes, there are many around the world, whether they be terrorists or nations who harbor them, who would do us harm if given the opportunity, and who would love to rob us of our liberties. But with a national defense that represents almost half the entire world’s military spending, we are well-equipped to deal with those external threats.”

“What we are failing to deal with is the fact that Congress and the past several Presidents have systematically done to freedom and liberty what no foreign enemy could do. If another nation robbed us of hundreds of billions of dollars of wealth, it would be an outrage we would not tolerate. Yet, we have watched helplessly as the politicians and the Federal Reserve have done precisely the same thing by racking up trillions in debt, devaluing our currency with wrong-headed monetary policies, and placed our dollars on the verge of collapse.”


“If a foreign aggressor threatened to take away our rights to privacy, due process under the Constitution, or the fundamental liberties granted in the Bill of Rights, it would be an act of war. Yet, we need the government’s permission and must endure its probing to board an airplane, we can be stopped and frisked for simply walking down the street in New York, and we have government drones flying over farms in the Midwest to make sure manure is being disposed of legally.”


“We can be detained indefinitely by our own government under the guise of protecting us. Our cell phones and internet can be monitored. And even our reading habits can be examined at our public libraries.”

“If Iran actually acted to do those things to us, we would be launching missiles in an instant. But, in reality, Iran nor any other foreign aggressor has done anything to us – and probably can’t – to rival the loss of freedom and rights we are suffering at the hands of Washington, D.C.”

“To a former Republican, the sad irony of these realities is that it is impossible to lay the blame for the destruction of our liberties on one of the two major parties more than the other. They are equally guilty, and equally willing to continue to spend, tax and legislate freedom into oblivion.”

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Report



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Karl Dickey has been a resident of Boca Raton since 1979. During his early years and throughout his life he always had an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong commitment to the environment. Karl has worked on various libertarian committees. Send comments to karldickey@gmail.com.

