

MR. LESZYNSKI: Hello, my name is Jim Lesczynski, and I'm the Libertarian candidate for Public Advocate. I am running for Public Advocate to be the voice of freedom in the wilderness of New York City statist politics. If you like your liberty straight-up and your politicians rare, as in rarely messing with your life or your money, then I'm your candidate.

Running a campaign for public office is a lot of work. Moreover, in all of New York City, there is perhaps no more worthless, stupid elective office than that of Public Advocate; which is saying a lot, because they're all worthless and stupid.

So why put myself through it? Here are the top issues that my campaign is advocating:

First, I want to eliminate the position of Public Advocate. You heard me correctly. I am running for Public Advocate to bring attention to the fact that this is a position that badly needs to be eliminated. Want to save the taxpayers of New York City millions of wasted dollars every year? Simply eliminate the position of Public Advocate.

The Public Advocate is a \$150,000 a year, do-nothing job that was designed to give empty suits a

place to grandstand. It's a vestige of the old City Charter, evolved from the former position of City Council President. The Public Advocate is little more than a figurehead, a poor man's Queen of England.

If I am elected Public Advocate, I promise to report to work just long enough to fire the staff and padlock the office. That's my top issue.

But I have other issues and proposals for city government that I care deeply about. In the time I have remaining, I would like to discuss two of them.

I want to turn public housing into private homesteading. The biggest landlord in New York City is the City itself, and by all accounts it does a lousy job. While the real estate boom spurs new investment in formerly decrepit private buildings and rejuvenates even the worst neighborhoods, the stock of public housing continues to fester and stagnate. The taxpayers hate paying for this mess, but the government can't very well throw tens of thousands of families out on the street.

My solution is simple: We privatize all the public housing by turning each building over to its current tenants. Each occupant will be the owner/shareholder of his or her unit. Instead of paying

rent to the city, they'll just pay maintenance. They can keep their units or sell them on the open market.

Meanwhile, the city gets out of the landlord business once and for all, and the taxpayers save tens of millions of dollars a year going forward.

Finally, I want to abolish matching funds.

Although the original intent of the Campaign Finance Act may have been to provide fairer, more competitive elections, it's proved to be nothing more than a welfare program for politicians. In a municipality that has effectively become a one-party town, the program serves no other purpose than to entrench the majority party, while marginalizing all opposition.

In 2001, for example, when there was a full slate of citywide races, the Campaign Finance Program distributed \$42 million in taxpayer funds to candidates, \$40 million of that was to Democrats and only \$2 million to Republicans. In the 2003 elections for City Council, the races were so uncompetitive, either despite of or because of the Campaign Finance Program, that not one incumbent lost, yet the taxpayers were still coerced into \$5 million of political speech, often for candidates who faced no opponent.

I'm so serious about getting rid of this horrible welfare program for politicians that I filed a lawsuit against the city to overturn it on Constitutional grounds. That lawsuit is slowly working its way through the courts.

To summarize, I want to eliminate the useless office of Public Advocate, privatize public housing by turning current tenants into shareholders, and get rid of matching funds for greedy politicians.

I'm Jim Lesczynski, Libertarian for Public Advocate, and I thank you for your time.