

80,000 Votes To End the Party System, with Kesha Rogers

by Alicia Cerretani

Nov. 12—Now that the general election has finally come to a close, the American people were greeted with the harsh reality on the morning of Nov. 7, that we are still faced with the existential threats we faced coming into the campaign season: the breakout of general warfare and the threat of global hyperinflation. Both U.S. Presidential candidates malignantly avoided any serious discussion of these threats, and the nation was rendered politically crippled throughout the entire election campaign season, leaving the bulk of the work to a handful of patriots running for Federal office in different parts of the country, and those in unelected institutions of government.

One of those patriots is U.S. Congressional candidate for the 22nd District of Texas, Kesha Rogers, who, despite the cap Obama and the gutless Republican Party put on any serious discussion, ran a nationally and internationally recognized campaign that soared high above the partisanship that has trapped any legitimate discussion of the nation's interests into arbitrary camps of Republican vs. Democrat.

Rogers, running as a LaRouche Democrat on the LaRouche National Slate, challenged Republican incumbent seat-warmer Pete Olson for a second election in a row, again winning a third of the vote in the 22nd C.D. With a fraction of the money Olson spent, an active campaign *against* Rogers by the Democratic Party, and both parties running a virtual voter-suppression campaign by refusing to engage their constituents with anything of relevance, 80,025 voters came out to show their support for Rogers and her platform.

Stacking the Deck

Neither the Republican nor the Democratic Party was taking any chances that Rogers would “break out”



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LaRouche Democrat Kesha Rogers campaigns in Houston, Nov. 12. She won a third of the vote for Congress in her strongly Republican district, and is now forging ahead to fight to restore NASA to its former greatness.

to win the 2012 election.

On the Republican side, the state GOP majority, as part of a statewide deal, imposed a redistricting scheme that dramatically transformed the 22nd District, taking out NASA's Johnson Space Center, the working-class areas of Deer Park and Pasadena, and a large section of the black population in Missouri City and Stafford. These were replaced with Republican neighborhoods, in hopes of creating an even more “secure” seat for Team Republican. (Tom DeLay had held the seat for 30 years, before Olson.)

When Congress left Washington, to return to their districts to campaign, it became clear that not only was the Republican plan for Olson to stay as far away as possible from Rogers, but also from any public engagements! He didn't show up for any forums or debates,

nor did he host any public events. According to many of the voters whom Rogers' campaign workers reached going door to door, at traffic intersections, or on the phone, people weren't voting for Olson because of anything he stood for. The majority of the people in the 22nd District voted for Olson because he was a Republican and Obama is a Democrat.

However, Rogers' campaign delivered a dossier on Olson in our door-to-door organizing, highlighting the similarities between Olson's and Obama's voting records—including Olson's support for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Section 1022 of which allows Obama to permanently detain U.S. citizens, without charge or trial, on secret evidence, when secret courts deem them suspect of being affiliated with al-Qaeda. Republicans who received the dossier were shocked that somebody in their own party could possibly be working alongside Obama on such egregious violations of our civil liberties.

As for the Democratic Party, locally it was determined to commit suicide by rejecting Rogers' candidacy—and even organizing against her. After all, the party had counted on defeating her in the May primary, and were hysterical when they didn't succeed.

The Rogers campaign's challenge became reaching enough people in enough time before the plague of party politics got the best of them. For those whom we did reach, Rogers' unique platform, "Impeach Obama, Restore Glass-Steagall, and Build the North American Water and Power Alliance," an evolution of her 2010 rallying cry "Save NASA, Dump Obama," resonated profoundly, with both those who remembered Rogers from 2010, and who were hearing about her for the first time.

Reshaping the Environment

To get a sense of the final weeks of the campaign and Rogers' intervention into what many Americans recognized as a hopeless Presidential election, imagine yourself at an early morning intersection in Southwest Houston: It's 7:30 a.m., the traffic is busy and nearly at its peak. As commuters approach an intersection on their way to work, Rogers' latest 18 x 4 foot banners catch their attention. Our provocative and proven record throughout Houston, be it on Obama's shutting down of NASA or his coverup of the attacks in Benghazi, has earned more and more support from commuters, grateful that we maintain a high-visibility presence, focusing on the real issues affecting the nation that they know no other candidate or party will discuss.

Typical of Rogers' intervention and how each of the 80,025 votes was won in the heavily Republican district, is an exchange between an irate Republican just before the election, who rolled down the window of his pick-up truck and told Rogers that her party had turned the nation into a mess, and that he was going to vote a straight ticket against Obama and the Democrats, whom he was convinced had no way of winning the election. However, not a week after the election, while Rogers was organizing in downtown Houston, a man approached her and asked if she recognized him, saying, "I'm the man who tried to pick a fight with you just before the election, in Cinco Ranch. I wanted to tell you that after our exchange, I thought about what was on that banner and what you had said about the failure of the party system and the need for people to work together towards the national interest. For the first time in my life, I didn't vote straight Republican; I broke my ticket and voted for you for Congress."

Such exchanges were repeated more frequently as the elections grew closer, and are indicative of the impact that Rogers and LaRouche's three-point platform is having on the population; they also illustrate the failure of both Presidential candidates and their parties, that most voters went out to vote *against* a candidate and believed that they could use the parties to do it.

Rogers and the other LaRouche Democrats across the country warned that voting along party lines and falling into the trap of believing that the Republicans' arch-nemesis is the Democratic Party, and vice versa, is exactly what has gridlocked Congress, rendering it completely incapable of implementing one of its most important constitutional mandates: checking an out-of-control Executive branch. And until there exists a strong enough grouping of patriots who hold the interests of the nation more sacred than their party affiliation, Obama and his Administration's campaign to save the planet's monied interests, even at the risk of starting World War III, will prevail, and both parties will be equally to blame for it.

What the Rogers campaign demonstrates is that where there is bold, creative, and unflinching leadership, during what might seem to be an insurmountable crisis, the American people will respond. However, if we are going to survive as a nation, patriots from around the country are going to have to take a page from Kesha Rogers' book and stand above party, and on principle, and that soon.