

The Living Room Times



Election '94 Special Edition

“Well, I think what’s been exciting is that nobody had any idea it would turn out like this. At first, it seemed like John Rowland had it in the bag, no question. And Curry has come up, and Groark has ended up doing better than people expected. So, whereas a few weeks ago, nobody was placing any bets because they assumed it was Rowland, we’ve got people in the newsroom who are placing bets and trying to figure out who it’s gonna be. So, I think it’s really been interesting from a reporter’s point of view.” —WFSB Channel Three political reporter Duby McDowell, in an exclusive interview with *The Living Room Times*.



Above: Ted Kennedy, the Democratic incumbent U.S. Senator in Massachusetts, is surrounded by supporters of his Republican challenger, Mitt Romney.

Voters cynical about mid-term elections

NEW YORK (AP) -- The political party labels in Tuesday's election might as well be D for Disgusted and R for Revolted, based on a poll in which many said the vote outcome makes little difference.

The Associated Press poll taken Oct. 28 through Wednesday found 42 percent of all adults and 38 percent of voters think it wouldn't matter much which party controls Congress.

Among voters, 30 percent wanted the Republicans to take control and another 30

percent wanted the Democrats to keep

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LR Times endorsements: Curry, Lieberman, others

In deciding which candidates to endorse for the offices of Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, and all the other positions being contested this Tuesday, the editors of *The Living Room Times* must weigh several factors:

- 1. Which candidate's political views most closely resemble the opinions of the editors?**
- 2. Which candidate's promises are most honest and goals are most realistic?**
- 3. Which candidate is most qualified?**

In the race for Governor of Connecticut, the candidate who comes

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Voters' moods cynical as election nears

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their reign on Capitol Hill.

However, 45 percent said they personally would vote Democratic, compared with 38 percent who said Republican. This 7-point advantage is an improvement over a statistically insignificant 1-point edge for the Democrats in an AP poll taken three weeks earlier.

Democrats seem to have made strides too in some individual races where incumbents were in trouble. But if the GOP's share in a national poll is running close to the Democrats' among all registered voters, "the numbers suggest a historic opportunity for the Republican Party on Election Day," said Bill McInturff, a Republican pollster.

The reason, he said, is the profile of voters who turn out -- older, more white, affluent and more Republican than the cross-section in a poll.

The AP poll of 1,006 adults, including 782 registered voters, is based on random sampling by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pa., part of AUS Consultants. Results have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points overall, 4 points for voters.

Eight in 10 voters said they believe their individual vote makes a difference on Election Day. And asked to choose a priority for the next Congress among four issues, 98 percent of adults have an opinion.

The most popular priority is cutting government spending, at 35 percent, followed closely by health care reform at 30 percent. Welfare reform runs third at 19 percent.

Many surveys indicate that crime is the issue Americans personally care about most. But this poll asked more specifically about which issues Congress should address. "Building more prisons and making sentences tougher," the sort of anti-crime action Congress has taken recently, ranked last at 15 percent.

Many analysts have observed that the public this year seems uninterested in what politicians claim to have accomplished, such as anti-crime legislation, and has fixated on unkept promises.

House Republican candidates have signed a contract that pledges a balanced budget amendment, increased defense spending and tax cuts. Only 18 percent of those polled said this platform sounds realistic and achievable. Fully 74 percent said it is "just another campaign promise."

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Living Room Times endorsements

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closest to meeting all these standards is Democratic candidate Bill Curry.

Curry's goals are worthy ones, and his plans are more realistic than those of Republican candidate John Rowland. Although Curry's honesty and integrity may be slightly less than that of A Connecticut Party candidate Lt. Governor Eunice S. Groark, he is far more realistic and trustworthy than Rowland.

Why not Rowland? The Republican candidate for Governor for the second straight year, John G. Rowland is considered the front-runner in this race. From the beginning, he has been the man to beat. And, he has continued in his usual campaign style—dirty politics, unrealistic promises, and dishonest claims. Rowland's television ads have distorted Curry's record, but when Curry's ads fight back, Rowland suddenly gets very defensive and launches a new advertising campaign claiming that Curry is being unfair. Rowland will indeed do anything to win, and that includes waffling on as many issues as necessary, such as the income tax and abortions, as well as constantly shifting his opinion about certain special interest groups, such as the state employees. The bottom line reason why *The Living Room Times* cannot endorse John Rowland may have been summed up best by Independence Party candidate Tom Scott—Rowland is a dishonest man.

Why not Groark? Eunice Strong Groark, Lowell Weicker's lieutenant governor, is the A Connecticut Party candidate for Governor. Her campaign has been very honest, and she has not gotten into the intense negative campaigning between Rowland and Curry. Unfortunately for Mrs. Groark, a vote for Groark will end up being, in effect, a vote for John Rowland. If Groark and Curry split the liberal and moderate vote, Rowland will win the election. The idea that Groark cannot win is a self-fulfilling prophecy, because it would not be true if people did not believe it. But, people do believe it, which means one thing: the more votes Eunice Groark gets, the less votes Bill Curry gets, and the better the chance that John Rowland will be elected. This is why *The Living Room Times* cannot endorse Eunice Groark.

Why not one of the other candidates? The other two candidates on the ballot are Tom Scott of the Independence

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For Governor: Bill Curry (D)

Ross Perot unpredictable as always



Above: Ross Perot, whose run for President as a third-party candidate in 1994 was unsuccessful.

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Ross Perot is scrambling the final week of the midterm elections in characteristic fashion. He's promoting a Democrat in one state, a Republican in another and an independent in a third.

Even in a year notable for cross-party endorsements, the Dallas billionaire's eclecticism stands out. And since he's sticking his neck into some neck-and-neck races, the effect may be more than negligible.

"It's vintage Perot," said Perot-watcher Bruce Buchanan, a political scientist at the University of Texas. "He likes to be influential and to be noticed. What better

time than right at crunch time, when the chances to have an impact in a close race are good?"

On Tuesday, Perot endorsed Texas Gov. Ann Richards, bestowing momentum and perhaps some badly needed votes on the Democrat struggling to survive a challenge by Republican George W. Bush, the former president's son.

Friday Perot was switching allegiances to stand beside George Nethercutt -- the Republican lawyer trying to unseat a Capitol Hill institution, House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash.

But there'll be consternation in a Republican camp Saturday

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Voters cynical about elections

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"It is a very cynical electorate, and it does not surprise me that a plurality of Americans would answer that it doesn't make any difference" which party prevails, said Peter Hart, who is polling for Democrats in a dozen statewide races.

McInturff, who is polling for Republican candidates in 15 statewide races and 75 congressional contests, says there is cynicism and lack of enthusiasm for both parties, but it is hurting the Democrats more.

"If you are fed up with the status quo, you vote the party of power out. But it doesn't mean we are seeing a stable Republican renaissance yet, because the voters are not convinced that the Republicans are going to keep their word on the fundamental changes we have promised," he said. If the Republicans do get in power and deliver on their agenda, "then we're going to be in a very powerful position" in future elections, he said.

However, time may be working against them. According to the poll, the alienation from the major political parties is lower among older generations and highest among those under 35.

Living Room Times endorses Democrat Bill Curry for Governor of Connecticut

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Party and Joseph A. Zdonczyk of the Concerned Citizens Party. Both candidates are running basically on single-issue platforms—Scott's is to eliminate the income tax and Zdonczyk's is to outlaw abortions—and single-issue candidates do not generally make good governors.

Why Bill Curry? Curry, who has been the state's comptroller for the last four years, and had previously served in the state senate, has experience working in state government. He completely reformed and improved the comptroller's office in his years there, and will improve the governor's office in the same way. His proposal to cut the property tax by 25% is more important—and much more realistic and feasible—than Rowland's proposal to eliminate the income tax. *The Living Room Times* endorses Curry because he is the best candidate with the best ideas, and also because he

is the best bet to keep John Rowland out of the governor's office.

In the race for United States Senate in Connecticut, *The Living Room Times* endorses incumbent Democrat Joe Lieberman over his Republican challenger, Jerry Labriola, and Concerned Citizens Party candidate Gary R. Garneau. Lieberman's actions as Senator, since he ousted Lowell Weicker from the Senate in 1988, have been very beneficial for Connecticut. He introduced a bill to make Members of Congress live by the laws that everyone else must follow. He helped save the Groton sub base, helped write and pass the Student Loan Reform Act which makes going to college more affordable, supported the Brady Bill/Brady Law and the crime bill, helped pass legislation to preserve Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River, and

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LR Times endorsements for Congress

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co-sponsored a plan to cut spending by nearly \$100 billion. Lieberman's record speaks for itself, and he is the right choice for Connecticut.

For House of Representatives from Connecticut, the *Living Room Times* endorses the following candidates:

District One (Greater Hartford Area): Incumbant Barbara Bailey Kennelly (D) over challengers Douglas T. Putnam (R) and John F. Forry III (CC).

District Two (Eastern Connecticut): Incumbant Sam Gedjenson (D) over challengers Edward W. Munster (R) and David Bingham (ACP).

District Three (Greater New Haven Area): Incumbant Rosa L. DeLauro (D) over challenger Susan Johnson (R).

District Four (Lower Fairfield County): Incumbant Christopher Shays (R) over challengers Jonathan D. Kantrowitz (D), Irving Sussman (L), and Terry M. Nevas (NL).

District Five (Northern Fairfield and New Haven Counties): Challenger James H. Maloney (D) over incumbant Gary A. Franks (R) and challenger Rosita Rodriguez (CC).

District Six (Northwestern Connecticut and Greater New Britain Area): Incumbant Nancy L. Johnson (R) over challengers Charlotte Koskoff (D) and Patrick J. Danford (CC).

(Note: Party Designations: ACP=A Connecticut Party, R=Republican, D=Democrat, CC=Concerned Citizens, L=Libertarian, NL=Natural Law)

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Perot's endorsements: important or irrelevant?

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when Perot campaigns with Tom Golisano, the independent candidate for New York governor. Republican George Pataki's challenge to Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo is fading, in part because Golisano is draining some of his support.

Perot captured a record 19 percent of the vote in his self-financed 1992 presidential bid. He did particularly well in the West and his home state, including a 23 percent showing in Foley's district and 22 percent across Texas.

During a brief timeout in his maverick campaign, Perot was effusive about candidate Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party. But this fall he's been sharply, personally critical of Clinton and down on Democrats in general.

Give the Republicans a chance to run Congress, Perot said recently on CNN's "Larry King Live," even if the Democrat in your state or district is a superior candidate. "There are bigger things at stake here," he said, referring to overall control of

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Mid-term elections important for President Clinton



Above:
President Bill Clinton

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) -- President Clinton's prestige and capacity to govern are at stake along with the careers of the endangered Democrats he is embracing in the closing days of the midterm campaigns. In many ways, Clinton's presidency is on the ballot -- and his campaigning shows he is

mindful of this.

Clinton's political efforts over the past week have been frantic, as is his schedule for the next few days -- covering two or three states a day as he crisscrosses the nation.

Preparing to spend a weekend campaigning in California -- a state crucial to his own 1996 reelection bid -- the president on Friday sought to capitalize on a new unemployment report to trumpet his economic policies.

"We have delivered what the American people have long wanted," he said after the Labor Department reported that the unemployment rate had dropped to 5.8 percent in October -- its lowest level in four years.

He was clearly ready to play his economic card in California, whose long-stagnant economy is finally beginning to come out of the doldrums.

It was no coincidence that Clinton's first stop in southern California on Friday was at the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station, where he was to formally announce the signing of a \$1.6 billion contract between China and McDonnell Douglas for the sale of 40 aircraft.

Sometimes, for all of Clinton's campaigning, it's hard to tell who's on the ballot. Supporters of New York Gov. Mario Cuomo at a rally in Albany chanting "Four More Years" for Cuomo changed their chant to "Six More Years" when they saw Clinton walking to the podium.

Midterm elections are always indirect referendums on presidents, but Clinton raised

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LR Times endorsements for statewide offices

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In the other races for statewide office, aside from Governor and U.S. Senate, *The Living Room Times's* endorsements cross are split equally between Republicans and Democrats.

For Secretary of the State, where incumbant Republican Pauline R. Kezer is not running for re-election, we endorse Miles S. Rapoport of the Democratic party over Republican Andrea Scott. Rapoport's experience in the Government Administrations and Elections Committee gives him experience in the type of work which the Secretary of the State's office does. Also, Rapoport's approach to increasing voter registration is more aggressive, and probably more realistic, than Scott's plan to teach awareness of the governmental and voting system in the schools. And Rapoport has a record to back him up—as a state legislator, he wrote the “motor voter” law, which allows people to register to vote while at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

For State Treasurer, we reluctantly endorse Republican challenger Chris Burnham. Burnham made a good impression on the editors in his unsuccessful campaign for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in 1992, and at the beginning of his campaign for treasurer, we were enthusiastically supporting him. Since then, however, Burnham seems to have severely distorted the record of Democratic incumbant Joesph M. Suggs, Jr. in his negative television ads. We, the editors, have been quite disgusted with this campaign method— almost disgusted enough to support Suggs or Concerned Citizens candidate Christopher C. Hebert. But, some of Suggs's ads have been rather negative as well, leading us to decide not to change our endorsement based merely on that factor. Therefore, *The Living Room Times* will stick with its original endorsement of Burnham.

State Comptroller, the job held by Gubernatorial candidate Bill Curry since 1990, is up for grabs on Tuesday as well. The race is between Democrat Nancy Wyman and Republican Gene Gavin. Again, we will give the nod to the Republican. Because the two candidates agree on most issues, the only major issue in this campaign is who is more qualified for the job. Gavin, who has served one term as a state representative, is an accountant, and claims that his experience as an accountant makes him more qualified for the job. Wyman, who has served four terms as a state representative, says her political experience makes her the more qualified candidate. *The Living Room Times* chooses Gavin because he has political experience—although not as much as Wyman—and he has knowledge about financing from his job as an accountant. We also like his campaign style, of talking

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Clinton needs Democratic victories

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the stakes -- and the political risks -- with his final week of campaigning.

"At least he's trying hard and working hard. He didn't hide. He's out there swinging. And Americans like that," said Thomas E. Cronin, president of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., and the author of several books on the presidency. "He didn't shrivel up or give up."

The president was confining his home-stretch campaigning to the West Coast and the Northeast and the upper Midwest -- including Friday's appearance here in behalf of Democratic Senate hopeful Ann Wynia and a planned return visit to Minnesota on Monday.

For the most part, he's been campaigning where White House strategists knew he would find receptive audiences and heavy local media attention -- and staying away from states like Texas and Florida where he remains unpopular.

"HE'S HERE!" screamed the banner headline on Friday's Duluth News-Tribune. About 5,000 people filled a gymnasium at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and chanted and cheered as Clinton and Wynia spoke.

The president's role "is to travel around the country and help define the country and help define the choice between Republicans and Democrats," said White House political director Joan Baggett.

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Perot's endorsements could have big impact

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Congress.

Call him unpredictable, inconsistent, erratic. Those very traits are integral to his anti-establishment appeal.

"He likes to show his independence, his lack of being able to be pigeonholed and typecast," said pollster Lee Miringoff of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "He wants to touch all the bases."

"He sees something he likes with a person and he goes for that person," said Buchanan. "We're not seeing an organization at work. We're watching

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More *Living Room Times* endorsements

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directly to the camera about why he is qualified and about the issues, better than Wyman's strategy of presenting herself as "one of us for a change" and not being straight-forward about what her qualifications and plans in elected are.

In the race for state attorney general, *The Living Room Times* endorses incumbent democrat Richard Blumenthal. Neither he nor his opponent, Republican Richard E. Arnold, have had much to say during this campaign, so we don't know very much about either candidate. But, as Attorney General, Blumenthal has done nothing which suggest that he shouldn't be re-elected, and therefore he gets the endorsement.

In the local races which affect the town of Newington...

For State Senate in the 9th Senatorial District, which includes all of Newington, we nominate Democrat Biagio "Billy" Ciotto over Republican Joseph A. Dinunzio. Ciotto's statement that "we do not need to make our schools private to make them better" is very true, and his ideas for improving education are good ones. Dinunzio's answer to the question about school privatization was not as impressive as Ciotto's, and Dinunzio dodged a question about a state constitutional

amendment by getting negative and partison, saying "The Democrat-controlled legislature has been playing a game of semantics..." Many of Dinunzio's answers have the tone of political statements made to get votes, not honest answers. It is for these reasons that *The Living Room Times* endorses Ciotto for State Senate.

For State Representative in the 27th Assembly District, which includes almost all of Newington (except the far southern part of the town), *The Living Room Times* endorses challenger Democrat Diane Matta over incumbent Republican Dom Mazzoccoli. Matta's answers are straight-forward and honest, while Mazzoccoli's sound extremely political. Mazzoccoli wants the voters to believe that he wants what they want, so he dodges the questions, and when he does answer, he is very vague. Matta's answers are simple and easy to understand, as well as honest. She says that education is "the building of social, living, and work skills so that the individual student becomes a contributing member of our society." We need someone like Diane Matta, with honest, sensible beliefs like that, representing our town in the legislature. This is why the *Living Room Times* endorses Diane Matta for state representative.

Endorsement article written by Chief Editor Brendan Loy

Perot's endorsements unpredictable

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Ross Perot making it up as he goes along."

Perot's campaign against Foley, a 15-term incumbent, does jibe with his exhortations for change in Congress. Polls show Foley and Nethercutt, a former local GOP chairman making his first race for office, locked in the mid-40s with about one in 10 voters still undecided.

Nethercutt's attacks on incumbency and congressional spending are right up Perot's alley. The two self-styled outsiders were appearing together Friday at a \$100-a-ticket reception and a campaign rally.

Golisano, a millionaire business executive, is pulling 5 percent to 7 percent in most polls, most of it from Pataki. He's already spent a personal \$6 million on a Perot-style campaign centered on his private-sector success and outsider status.

Perot and Golisano have scheduled a news conference in New York City at noon Saturday. The two travel later to a rally in Rochester, Golisano's home base and part of

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Bill Clinton watching Tuesday election closely

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Clinton faces a serious political setback should Democratic losses prove substantial.

"I think the stakes are enormous for him," said Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia political scientist. "It's going to affect his positioning for the next presidential election. It's going to affect what he may accomplish."

He is all but certain to confront larger Republican memberships in both chambers of Congress, even if Democrats retain control.

If Democrats lose one or both houses, much blame is sure to be directed at him -- further undermining his leadership capability just as momentum was finally turning after a successful few weeks in foreign policy.

"Clearly the president has tried and wants to turn this into a much larger message, this election," said Stuart Rothenberg, a Washington political analyst and newsletter publisher.

He said Republicans had already succeeded in turning

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Tuesday's mid-term elections critical for President Clinton

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the midterm elections "into a referendum on the status quo and Congress and Bill Clinton," and that Clinton was trying to change this.

In one of a string of interviews he did here Friday with California radio stations before his trip to the West Coast, Clinton confronted his low approval ratings.

"I think if you look at the time in which we live, the combative time in which we live and the frustrations people are going through, it's hard for any incumbent politician to be popular," he told Los Angeles' KABC radio.

Some strategists have suggested that a Republican takeover of Congress could actually help Clinton, allowing him to run against an opposition Congress.

But Clinton said: "Some people think it could work -- politically, personally -- for me. But I'm not interested in that."

Perot scrambles to have an impact on Tuesday's mid-term elections

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the upstate vote Pataki needs to win. "There are a lot of people out there who still don't know Tom very well, but they sure know who Ross Perot is," said an exultant Gordon Black, Golisano's pollster.

Perot earlier this year endorsed Colorado's Democratic Gov. Roy Romer and suggested he liked Richards. But his involvement with the Texan has been more active than many expected -- a formal endorsement at a joint appearance, prompt taping of four radio commercials, and a few TV ads in the can if they're needed.

Some attribute the Richards endorsement to Perot's well documented dislike of former President Bush. The younger Bush says he doesn't believe Perot has a grudge against him or his father or that his endorsement is anything more than "an interesting political event."

But for whatever votes it's worth, radio listeners across the state are repeatedly hearing Perot describe Bush as "a nice young man with no experience for the job."

Elections across the USA...



Above: The candidates in the heated race for U.S. Senate in Virginia; Chuck Robb, Democrat (left) and Oliver North, Republican (right)



Above: President Bill Clinton campaigning for Democratic incumbent U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein in California.



Above: Ted Kennedy, (Dem., left) and Mitt Romney (Rep., right)



Left: Bill Clinton and New York Governor Mario Cuomo

Right: Tom Foley

