Best of the Rest: The Other Election Map

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If you eclipse the Sun, you see its corona: a wild aura of plasma loops, arcs, and jets, where gravity no longer holds sway. And so it is in American politics, where beneath the red and blue hides a polychrome menagerie.

The map below shows which candidate and party received the most votes in each county in last week's U.S. Senate election, excluding Democrats and Republicans. None of the candidates shown actually won.

[ map ]

The Libertarian Party received the third most votes nationally, collecting 846,000 of the 45 million total votes cast for Senate candidates. No Libertarian candidate received more than 4.3% of the vote (that was Randall Batson in Kansas).

The Green Party shows up prominently on the Mexican border, across Arkansas, and in Delaware, with local affiliates West Virginia Mountain Party and Oregon Pacific Green Party also placing 3rd behind Democrats and Republicans in some counties.

The rhetoric of these minor party candidates is defiant. “Most laws are a form of violence,” reads Batson’s campaign website.\* In

Delaware, Green Andrew Groff promised, “We will not be slaves to corporate political party manipulation.”\*\* Independent Curt Gottshall of Wyoming ran on [a platform](http://www.curtgottshall2014.com/about-1.html) of returning “honor and integrity” to Washington.\*\*\*

The complete published platform\*\*\*\* of Bob Baber of the West Virginia Mountain Party is impressively concise: “Federally I am for a balance budget, shared duty, and shared sacrifice. Environmentally I support transitioning, over time, from coal to alternative energy sources, primarily solar. (Updates and revisions forthcoming.)”

\* http://batson4senate.weebly.com/

\*\* http://www.andrewgroffforsenate.us/?page\_id=2

\*\*\* http://www.curtgottshall2014.com/about-1.html

\*\*\*\* http://www.baberforoffice.com/platform.php