

## Harwood wins mayoral primary in Charlotte

On Sept. 23, LaRouche Democrat Jim Harwood won the Democratic mayoral primary in Charlotte, North Carolina. With a low 6.4% turnout citywide, Harwood polled 3,675 votes, or 60%, to 2,454 for his opponent, Leonard Harris. Harwood will face one-term Republican incumbent Pat McCrory (who easily won the Republican primary) in the general election.

Harwood, in his initial campaign statement in August, said that it was his intention to “use the office of mayor to rally forces within the Democratic Party to actively revive and support those economic initiatives that are best expressed today in the person of Lyndon H. LaRouche and in keeping with the tradition of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.”

In the primary, Harwood distinguished himself by refusing to go along with various “privatization,” entertainment-oriented, low-wage schemes being peddled by the other candidates, which would sink, not save, what is left of Charlotte’s economy. He aggressively attacked the derivatives-driven financial bubble being inflated by Charlotte-based Nations-Bank and First Union Bank, and counterposed a plan to tax financial speculation. Harwood’s proposal would yield at least \$500 million per year for the state’s economy, funds that could be channelled into sorely needed infrastructure projects, including a system of magnetically levitated (mag-lev) trains running throughout the Southeast of the United States.

Although no LaRouche candidate has run in Charlotte since 1973, LaRouche has a strong presence in North Carolina. Nearly 50 elected officials in the state have signed the Open Letter to President Clinton calling for LaRouche’s exoneration, including several dozen current and former state legislators and numerous municipal elected officials. In the 1996 Democratic primary, LaRouche received almost 41,000 votes, outpolling all candidates save Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, including Republican candidate Pat Buchanan, in what was considered to be Buchanan’s stronghold.

Harwood received favorable press coverage, including a rundown in the *Charlotte Observer’s* profile of mayoral candidates. Asked to name “one original idea you would take to City Hall,” Harwood wrote: “It is certainly not original, but almost forgotten, and that is that we should base our policies around the idea that man is created in the image of God, and that each life is sacred on that account.”



*LaRouche  
Democrat  
Jim Harwood*

In a statement released after his victory, Harwood said:

“During the coming two years, the world financial and monetary system will continue a process of accelerated disintegration, as forecast by American statesman and economist Lyndon H. LaRouche. Dramatic shifts and changes are going to occur during this period, requiring proper leadership in order to navigate our nation and city through the storm.

“As mayor of Charlotte, my goal is to unite forces within the Democratic Party, labor, the civil rights movement, and other concerned citizens to call for and implement the economic proposals set forth by Mr. LaRouche. Adopting these economic proposals will not reverse the ongoing collapse in the monetary and financial markets, but return the economy to prosperity and increase the standard of living for all of our citizens.

“I will urge the state legislature to adopt a ‘transaction tax’ on the sale or transfer of financial securities such as stocks, options, bonds, etc. This would have the effect of drying up the excesses in the financial markets and also provide needed and substantial revenues for the state of North Carolina.

“This additional revenue will be used to create tens of thousands of well-paying jobs in industry and infrastructure, such as building schools, hospitals, transportation, infrastructure, etc.

“The change represents a positive alternative to the low-wage, low-benefit, dead-end jobs that are now called an ‘economic recovery.’

“As mayor, I would launch a crash program to rebuild our education and health care. I would work closely with my Congressional and Legislative representatives to ensure that these urgent measures are passed.

“We are in need of a Franklin Delano Roosevelt-styled economic recovery. To achieve such measures, it will require the mobilization of the Democratic Party, the civil rights movement, labor, and concerned educated citizens.

“Now is the time for each of us to act.”