



NELSON

U.S. CONGRESS

PRESTON NELSON FOR CONGRESS

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INTRODUCING NELSON

[LEBANON, ILLINOIS, 01/16] – Please allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Preston Gabriel Nelson. I was born in Centralia, spent my early years in Mount Vernon, graduated high school in Benton, and studied Information Technology at Rend Lake College of Ina. Today, I live in Lebanon, which is about 9 miles from my office in Mascoutah where I direct a solar installation company that I started last year. I am a patented inventor, holding numerous patents (pending) in both the medical orthopedic domain and now solar technology. Do not assume that I am a genius, though; the first inventive streak came after falling 15 feet from a roof. I must have hit my head just right! Falling off that roof also led to my first candidacy for congress, running from a wheelchair.

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I challenged Mike Bost for his own Republican nomination in 2018.

Numbers-wise, the results were a landslide not in my favor, but the campaign yielded considerable fruit. I gained invaluable experience, having the opportunity to prepare my own legislation and present to Congressman Bost, in order to protect public schools from gun violence. He made his own changes to the draft, it passed congress, and was signed into law shortly after. I also spoke publicly about our nation's failure to care for its military Veterans, especially victims of Agent Orange who were still being denied care. Congressman Bost quickly addressed that issue as well.

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Two years prior, I had co-founded the Southern Illinois Libertarian Party.

In a nation where nearly half of the electorate does not even bother to vote, it only makes sense to allow more candidates and their ideas onto ballots in order to increase public interest and participation. In fact, what compelled my involvement was not Libertarian ideas; it was justice and support of democracy in our nation.

I could not believe it when I learned that Libertarian candidates are required by law to gather five, ten, sometimes twenty-times the number of petition signatures in order to appear on an election ballot. To this layman, these lopsided ballot access laws seem as a blatant violation of the First Amendment's guarantee to freedom of speech, assembly, association, and to petition the government. Once I learned about the unfair situation posed to Libertarians, Greens, other 3rd-parties, and Independents, I could not help but get involved. I wanted to tell everyone about the unfair system, and create public pressure in order to change the situation and level the playing field. I had no idea how difficult that would be.

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Two years after that first candidacy, in 2020, I challenged Raja Krishnamoorthi in Illinois' 8th congressional district. The Republican Party had given up on that district, and offered no candidates, and so I ran for the first time as a Libertarian. I received just shy of 70,000 votes, finishing one of the most successful congressional campaigns in Libertarian Party history.

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Today, I stand as a candidate in the Democratic Party. I am no respecter of political parties, but I do respect people. When I learned that the Democratic Party had no intention of fielding a candidate in this year's 12th district congressional election (due to losing so heavily two years ago), I rose to offer another option for voters at home. No race should be uncontested. I am not afraid to lose, and I will fight sincerely to win, even if the odds appear taller than I am. We have a few intangibles on our side, and intend to leverage them to create a movement.

Political parties have changed so much. They have abandoned Democratic and Republican principles in favor of political expedience. It is time for everyday Americans to rise, and reclaim Democracy for our Republic. I will champion real, fair Democracy to an extent that the 12th district has not seen in at least a decade.

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