

SAINT LOUIS, MO -- St. Louis resident and local entrepreneur Blake Ashby, who appeared on the 2004 Republican Primary ballot for Missouri and New Hampshire as a protest candidate, is announcing his candidacy for the 2008 election as an Independent.

Ashby, a fiscal conservative of the Barry Goldwater mold and committed Republican from the age of 16, recently ended his nearly 20 year marriage from the party he believes has abandoned the ideals of “caution and prudence” it once based itself upon. Running as now as an Independent, Ashby will highlight the widening gap between fiscal and social conservatism and the damage that adherence to the “culture of life” has inflicted upon the fabric of the Republican Party and the American political system.

The core of Mr. Ashby’s opposition platform is to confront the fiscal irresponsibility of the Bush Administration’s tax cuts and the disastrous effects of its deficit spending on the economy. At the 2004 New Hampshire Primary debates for the Republican nomination, Ashby asserted that the “budget deficits are stealing from our children. . . My Republican Party knows that the *only* way to cut taxes is to cut spending. . . But this President, our President Bush, will go down in history as the Republican President that most increased the tax burden on U.S. citizens. By any measure, this administration has abandoned the prudence and caution that were the hallmarks of my Republican Party.”

Adding to what he believes has split the Republican Party is a “fascination with an ideology, Neo-Conservatism” and its basis for “how we have fought the war on terrorism,” the Blake Ashby 2008 campaign aims to charge the Republican leadership that its Iraq policy is based on “fantasy”. He also affirmed at the 2004 debates, that “when our country first began debating the possible invasion of Iraq, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff predicted that several hundred thousand troops would be required for the invasion and occupation, and that we should expect a significant number of troops to remain in Iraq for an extended period of time. The Neo-Cons disagreed.” Ashby, like most Americans, knows that Bush and the Republican leadership should have listened to reason and “reality”, not fiction and “fantasy”.

Ashby worked with US Senator Jim Talent while he served as U.S. Representative for Missouri in the 1990’s. Prior to that, he worked with Mac Holekamp to challenge Dick Gephardt in the 1990 House of Representatives election. Blake co-penned a book with Holekamp, “The Battle for America”, tracing the evolution of Liberalism and its impact on the Federal Government.”

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For more information:

<http://www.ashby2008.com>