



**OPINION**

# Why I ran for president: Peter Jedick

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Republican presidential candidate Peter Jedick, right, a retired Cleveland firefighter, and his campaign manager, Ken Young, left, campaigning in front of the New Hampshire State Capitol Building on Jan. 22, 2024, the day before the New Hampshire primary election. Jedick received 25 votes. Courtesy of Peter Jedick



By [Guest Columnist, cleveland.com](#)

*"Only in America, can a kid without a cent, get a break and maybe grow up to be President."* -- Jay and the Americans.

CLEVELAND -- I guess it's down to me and Donald Trump. Wait. What?

Let me explain. I have a confession to make. I ran for president in the New Hampshire Republican primary election on Jan. 23, 2024. I tried to keep it quiet back in my hometown of Cleveland because I knew my friends and family would think that I was crazy.

But I have some ideas about saving our great country from the mess that it's in that weren't being discussed anywhere else. What better way to publicize your ideas than to run for president?

I even had an inside connection. My campaign manager, Ken Young, was a good friend from high school who transplanted to New Hampshire 40 years ago.

Well, our game plan didn't quite work out as planned, but it was an educational experience. For instance, I was invited to [a debate for the lesser-known candidates at Saint Anselm College](#) that was nationally televised on C-SPAN, an honored tradition since 1972. And I was the only Republican quoted on NPR's "Morning Edition" coverage of the debate.

Plus, I was [interviewed the day before the election](#) on the same New Hampshire radio program, Jack Heath of WTPL-FM's "The Pulse," that President Trump used to promote his campaign on Election Day.

I was also interviewed by CNBC, by a Russian journalist representing the Voice of America and by radio stations from France and Italy. Quite the heady experience.

So, here's my platform that I shared with anyone who would give me a listen:

First: As president, I would forgive all student loan debt and give a rebate to anyone who already paid theirs off. This program has turned an entire generation into indentured servants to the federal government. When I went to college you could pay your tuition working a summer job. We need to make college affordable again.

Second: I want to replace our federal income tax with a flat tax that is much more fair and equitable. Our present tax laws are riddled with loopholes and punish anyone who wants to better themselves.

Third: We need term limits for the members of Congress just like we have for the president. We don't need any more professional politicians like [Joe Biden](#) and [Nancy Pelosi](#) who spend decades in Washington and are now multimillionaires.

Fourth: We have to move the president, Congress and the Supreme Court out of Washington, D.C.'s corrupt East Coast beltway into the middle of the country where people still understand the value of a dollar. Then we can finally begin tackling our massive [\\$34 trillion national debt](#), a debt bomb that is going to blow up in our faces one of these days.

My goal was to gain enough votes to send a few delegates to the Republican National Convention in July, where I hoped to shake up the party's establishment. But alas, it was not to be.

I came up short, but I was in good company. Only Donald Trump and Nikki Haley were awarded delegates to the convention after the New Hampshire vote.

So, I returned home with my tail tucked between my legs. And my secret New Hampshire campaign was out. A number of my friends heard my name mentioned during the early Election Day voting results on CNN and Fox News.

However, my 7-year-old grandson, Luke, has not given up on me. He's been telling his friends to tell their parents that they should vote for me for president.

"You could be number 26," is his campaign line. Yes, I only received 25 votes.

But I told him not to worry. I'm demanding a recount.

*Peter Jedick, a retired Cleveland firefighter, is the author of the self-published 2016 book, "[Why America Is Bankrupt: Who Did It and How to Save It.](#)"*

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