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The Myth of the Republican Mandate

If you believe Jan Brewer or John Boehner, you would think the 2010 election was a ringing endorsement of the tea-flavored Republican Party agenda for America. They claim to listen to the people in their calls for tax cuts for the super rich, repeal of health care, cutting unemployment insurance, education and other social programs.

The reality they are trying to manufacture, however, is not supported by facts. A recent Pew Research Center poll found that less than 50% of Americans knew who would control Congress in January. Fewer than 1 in 4 knew Boehner would be the Speaker.

Other polls show the public holds Republicans more

responsible for the nation's economic malaise than Democrats.



It is clear by these and other measures that people were not endorsing Republican positions. They protested their frustration with the economy. They voted against the party in power ironically aiding those who caused the problem to begin with.

After millions of PR dollars spent by the insurance

industry and willful scare-mongering by the right, the country is evenly split over healthcare. There is no mandate to repeal it.

Poll after poll shows that Americans do not favor tax cuts for the rich. We don't favor privatizing Social Security or reducing the minimum wage.

Arizona voters have clearly supported public education at every turn. We do not support the massive cuts proposed by Arizona Republicans.

So, Democrats, there is still work to do. After a tough election, we need to redouble our efforts to see that the needs of everyday Americans are not trampled by the myth of a Republican mandate.

Lessons Learned

In politics, painful experience often produces the most valuable and lasting lessons. If so, then Election 2010 will be a blessing for Democrats. We should gain far more from it than the Republican Party. Now is the time to reflect on the last two years and glean what wisdom we can.

Some observations:

Politics is not a spectator sport. Too many Democrats stood on the sidelines in 2010

waiting to run on the field and spike the ball if we completed a Hail Mary pass. Whether complacent after 2008 or depressed by right wing harping and intransigence, many Democrats sat out this cycle.

It's clear in Ann Kirkpatrick's race. Gosar got only 3,000 more votes than the 2008 Republican candidate. Ann got 56,000 less this time. The outcome was not determined by Republican enthusiasm but by Democratic

depression. The Democratic Party must be the party of high level citizen participation.

Communication is key. The coin of the realm of right wing politics is misinformation. The Right's success results not from superior policy ideas but from appeals to anger and fear. The combination of Fox News, the fringe's Internet-based message system, and declining consumption of mainstream

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From The Chair ...



Ben Furlong
Yavapai County
Democratic Party Chair

“The first truth is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself.

That, in essence, is fascism -- ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or by any other controlling private power.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

The results of the 2010 election are in. In my opinion those with less money and therefore, less power, are the most notable victims. Consider the following.

Significant reductions in unemployment benefits are already being pushed. This is being done despite the facts:

- One of eight bread-winners is out of work.
- Family income is down.
- The accumulated wealth of most working Americans is in home ownership. Yet the value of homes has dropped, the delinquency rate on loans is rising and banks won't refinance because these families-in-distress are deemed risks.
- Health insurance costs for employees are going up.

Arizona's senators, McCain and Kyl have the dubious distinction of being on the forefront of this move to gut unemployment benefits. They have consistently voted against the extension of unemployment benefits.

President Obama's deficit commission has tentatively proposed an increase in the retirement age and decreased annual income increases for Social Security recipients. There would also be cuts in Medicare. The elimination of interest

on mortgage payments has been proposed. This would result in a tax increase affecting beleaguered middle and lower income Americans. Reductions have also been proposed for farm subsidies, the Pentagon and foreign aid.

In Arizona, the machine is working day and night. New Senate President Russell Pearce has pledged to refuse federal funds for AHCCS. Several hundred thousand needy Arizonans have already been cut from the program. Pearce simply proposes that churches and communities pick up the care for these folks. His church may be able to do that for its own, but most cannot.

Republican lawmakers have already proposed replacing Arizona's progressive income tax system with a flat tax. A year and a half ago the same proposal was considered by the Arizona Legislature. At that time it was estimated that between \$450 million and \$1 billion would be lost in state revenues. But Republican Representative Frank Antenori of Tucson insists that the tax is equitable. Not so says George Cunningham, former legislator and member of Governor Napolitano's staff. He maintains, "Most flat-tax proposals that have

been presented place a greater burden on middle and low income families by reducing the rate for those on higher incomes."

A flat tax system is considered to be regressive. Arizona increasingly relies on regressive taxes such as sales taxes and has consistently reduced income taxes on the rich, businesses and corporations. Reductions on businesses and corporations are supposed to stimulate the economy but the data indicate otherwise. Consider that taxes on businesses and corporations have been reduced consistently at the state and national levels, but Arizona and the United States are in the greatest economic recession since the 30s. The fact that something doesn't work is apparently immaterial.

I cannot close without again mentioning my concern for democracy, for the will of the people in America. Increasingly the power of wealth determines the course our nation. Couple this with the fact that money gleaned by wealth through tax reductions have not gone into building more American factories and businesses to employ people. The money is being invested overseas with the promise of a greater return. Forget that the wealth was gained in these United States. How's that for patriotism and a sense of obligation to one's own country?

The top 74 wealthiest Americans have more money than the 19 million poorest Americans. (And the gap is widening.)

Thanks to Phyllis Roth for her contributions to this newsletter.

Lessons Learned . . . continued from Page 1

news is resulting in an electorate more easily aroused by passion than thought. Democrats must always take on the tougher job of informing people rather than enflaming them. There is no substitute for being informed.

A minority can dominate - if we allow it. We have seen it happen in other places and times. America is not immune to extremism. The viral attacks to the body politic by Sharron Angle, Joe Miller, and Christine O'Donnell were fended off but not those of the equally radical Allen West, Rand Paul, Michele Bachmann and others. Our elections are vulnerable when party primaries are hijacked by organized extremists and when only a minority of the electorate votes. Organized efforts to turn people

off to politics are an intentional and effective strategy to limit citizen participation. Democrats must be the antidote to cynicism in America.

Moneyed interests are overwhelming our politics. Money has always been the mother's milk of politics. But the Citizens United case decided in favor of the corporations by the current Supreme Court was an enormous tipping point away from government of, by, and for the people. Attacks on the Clean Elections laws of Arizona and other states have to be combated not only legally but by the sheer weight of citizen involvement in the electoral process. Reform of our election system and connecting people to their government has to be a high Democratic priority.

Being a Democrat has to mean something. Political litmus tests are unproductive and undemocratic but being a Democrat must mean sharing a core set of values. Every American has to know that a Democrat is committed to putting people first. Democrats believe in government. We want government to provide opportunities; to protect the weak from the strong; to build community among all people; and to build our material and spiritual infrastructure. Our government's primary focus is people, not business.

If Democrats embrace these principles; fight for them rather than run from them, we will be a stronger party and 2012 will be a better year.

The Triumph of Politics of Division

Governor	Terry Goddard - 733,933 - 42.5%	3.1%	Jan Brewer - 938,931 - 54.3%
Sec of St	Chris Deschene - 694,129 - 41.8%		Ken Bennett - 966,931 - 58.2%
Attny Gen	Felecia Rotellini - 807,101 - 48.1%		Tom Horne - 870,482 - 51.9%
Treasurer	Andrei Cherny - 685,863 - 41.4%	6.8%	Doug Ducey - 859,669 - 51.9%
Pub Instr	Penny Kotterman - 740,990 - 44.7%		John Huppenthal - 917,758 - 55.3%
Mine Insp	Manuel Cruz - 687,307 - 42.9%		Joe Hart - 916,044 - 57.1%

Things I Don't Understand

Why do Republicans who profess strong admiration for Israel and use it as the measure of how to approach military and diplomatic matters not look to the Israeli example when it comes to universal compulsory healthcare, allowing gays to serve in the military, in promoting public service, or in having a strong social safety net for our citizens?

Why did local Taxed Enough Already Partiers support Steve Pierce for State Senate and Andy Tobin for the House? Pierce and Tobin recently spoke to the Arizona Tax Research Association and called for reducing taxes on business 28% and passing them on to homeowners. I guess it is easier to vote Republican than to think.

There's Another Way Arizona

While some states have vowed to embrace Arizona's harsh approach to cracking down on illegal immigrants, others are running in the other direction. In Utah, a coalition of political, business, and religious leaders have joined forces to back a declaration of principles called "the Utah Compact," which highlights the economic contributions of illegal immigrant workers in the state and emphasizes that immigration enforcement is predominantly a federal issue. Utah's Republican Attorney General, a conservative Utah think-tank, and the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce are among those that have signed onto the compact. The Mormon Church has also come out in favor of it, and Democrats such as the Salt Lake City mayor have also signed on. The compact declares immigration a federal issue, not one that should be handled by Utah. It also says scarce law enforcement resources should focus on crime, not on civil violations, such as illegal immigration.

- from an article in *Mother Jones* magazine by Suzy Khimm

Thank You, Ben



On December 9, Yavapai Democrats will elect a new leadership team for the 2012 election cycle. For the last four years the top spot, County Chair, has been held by Ben Furlong. Ben has chosen to step down. He will be hard to replace.

Ben has spent countless hours strengthening the Democratic Party organization. He has shared the reins of leadership broadly and effectively. He has reached out to all who share the Democratic vision of a fairer and more just society. He has been a stalwart defender of a middle class under siege in America. A resident of Arizona for more than 60 years, Ben has a vast knowledge of our state’s political history and an ability to keep events in perspective. He is a deeply intellectual man and yet has a common touch with people, and a joyous view of life. These are rare and valuable traits in our political leaders.

Ben, thank you for your service. You have made Yavapai County and Arizona a better place through your leadership. You have enriched all of our lives by sharing yours.

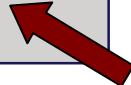
Arizona Ballot Initiative Outcomes			
Prop 106 - So called AZ Health Ins Reform	Passed	55.3%	44.7%
Prop 108 - Eliminate AZ affirmative action programs	Passed	59.5%	40.5%
Prop 109 - Hunting and Fishing Amendment	Failed	43.5%	56.5%
Prop 110 - Preserve St. Lands & Military Installations	Failed	49.7%	50.3%
Prop 111 - Lieutenant Governor	Failed	40.8%	59.2%
Prop 112 - Arizona Signature Filing Amendment	Recount	50.0%	50.0%
Prop 113 - Secret Ballot for Union Elections	Passed	60.5%	39.5%
Prop 203 - Arizona Medical Marijuana Act	Passed	50.1%	49.9%
Prop 301 - Arizona Land Conservation Fund Transfer	Failed	26.0%	74.0%
Prop 302 - Repeal Early Child Dev & Health Programs	Failed	30.1%	69.9%

Mark Your Calendar

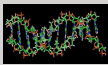
Dec. 3 – DWPA Holiday Party -
Wyndham Garden Hotel - Hiway 69 -
Prescott - Reception 5-6 pm - dinner

December – DORR Movie Nights
“9500 Liberty” - Dec. 4
“Jesus Camp” - Dec. 7
6:00 pm - Sedona Public Library

**Dec. 9 – Yavapai County Democratic
Organizational Mtg**
5:30pm - Prescott Senior Center



Things You Won't See On Fox News



Researchers say they have found a gene that predisposes some to be liberal. They theorize the liberal DNA leads a person to seek out new experiences and to be more open to the point of view of others. **The liberal gene** also correlates to having more friends when growing up. Researchers will probably seek a conservative gene if they get anyone to cooperate and find one who believes in science. [OK, I made this last part up.©]



Go figure. **Tea Partiers** are still angry about the TARP program. Yet Bloomberg News reports we have earned more than \$25.2 billion on the investment, a return of 8.2% - more than treasury bonds, CD’s, or money markets.



Fox constantly quotes Republicans claiming **public sector employees** make twice as much as their private sector counterparts [ergo government is expensive and inefficient). This claim comes from a debunked report from the Cato Institute (funded by the Koch brothers). Honest research finds public sector employees are better educated than the average private sector employee. (That’s a good trait in financial regulators, FDA scientists, etc.) and are being compared with private employees who sometimes earn below the poverty line. Compared apples to apples, public sector employees make 2-7 % less than the private sector.



Former GOP Senator and UN Ambassador, **John Danforth** (R-MO) says the increasingly radical nature of the Republican Party and its uncompromising tone is a sign that the GOP is now “beyond redemption.” He also criticized the GOP for “transform[ing] our party into the political arm of conservative Christians.” These are welcome words but they would have been more helpful if the good Senator had spoken them while still in office.