



REPUBLICAN PARTY
OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

WHY NOT JOIN THE PARTY?

At one time, I would no more join the party than I would generate my own electricity or pick up my own garbage. I did my part. I always voted; although I confess sympathy with P.J. O'Rourke's recommendation, "Don't vote; It just encourages the _____s." It was the job of our elected representatives to take it from there and keep the machinery of government oiled. Our constitutional checks and balances should be able to keep the blow dried politicians and megalomaniac bureaucrats under control and off our backs. The parties were pretty much the same, anyway. A lot of things were more important than party politics: family, church, home school, job, local volunteer organizations, hobbies, sports . . . , almost anything.

While I, and most Americans, indulged in a healthy disregard for the political system, something had gone seriously haywire in the land of the free. Candidates were spending billions of dollars to get their hands on the levers of power. Elections had become gigantic, black Friday sales events. Democrats had gussied up the old Marxist class warfare rhetoric. Trotting it out as identity politics, they were busily redistributing the wealth to their aggrieved supporters, the more aggrieved, the better. Our once proudly classless American society was becoming a seething cauldron of "marginalized" victims. Unfortunately, Democrat policies also were destroying wealth faster than it could be distributed.

But the problem wasn't just Democrat class warfare hustlers. Recent referendums suggests that the general public, especially millennials, really did believe that they can vote their way to a socialist paradise. Generous Californians happily voted for free food, free housing, free health care, free mass transit Why be cheap? free goods and services for everybody who manages to drag themselves across the border into the "sanctuary" of their bountiful cities or state. In Wisconsin, voters were all in favor of a free gym or two for the local public school. It's for the kids, you know. A free bike trail or two wouldn't hurt either. The Washington gravy train knew no borders. Several hundred years ago, John Adams explained that all democracies commit suicide. We were experiencing it.

I comforted myself with the idea that it can't get too bad because the founders had built a republic, not a democracy. At least we elect representatives to take the responsibility to actually pay for the stuff they promised during each campaign cycle. But it looked like our representatives, Democrat and Republican alike, had become little more than people who go off to Madison or to Washington to bring back the booty. Regardless of party, they reached across the aisle, "I'll vote for your pork if you vote for mine. . . ." People seemed to have forgotten that Santa Claus wears black, storm trooper boots for a reason. Somebody has to pay for his ample diet and endless supply of beads and trinkets.

Even worse, maybe the whole elective process had become irrelevant. Now that Congress had empowered the administrative state to make up whatever laws they thought necessary to force people to hand over the loot, we didn't need Congress except to sooth the masses with sounds of democratic white noise. If our elected representatives had given up control over the 220,000



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professional regulators in Washington, not to mention what was going on in Madison and in county and city government, who needs representatives? Recently the WSJ carried a full page ad for a compliance service firm promising to” keep up with 20,000 new or modified regulations a year and 200 revisions a day.”

While people like me slept, we had shifted from a nation of 10 commandments to one of 10,000 regulations, a place where every citizen inadvertently commits several felonies a day and only stays out of prison because the regulators are regulating faster than they can enforce. Ironically, “documented” citizens had begun to hide under the regulatory radar right next to illegal aliens. (“undocumented immigrants” now “immigrants”)

When survival becomes a matter of staying under the radar of omnipotent government regulators and, even worse, popular cultures’ all-encompassing, mindless political correctness, who would be dumb enough to join the GOP and make even the slightest blip? Bad things happen to people who stick out their necks in our brave new politically correct regulatory state. Your kids walk to school, and Lois Lerner knows where you live. If even Mike Flynn can be railroaded, what chance does the average deplorable have?

Why join the party now?

Like most people in Wisconsin, several years ago I was not surprised to hear talk radio announce that department heads in Milwaukee had been caught giving each other multi-million dollar retirement bonuses in addition to outrageously “generous” retirement packages. Clearly Milwaukee aldermen, like those in Detroit whose municipal workers were giving each other raises while the city was self-destructing, were not playing on the taxpayer’s team. But that was Milwaukee.

It took Act 10 finally to get me off dead center and into the party. Like most vaguely aware Wisconsinites, I knew that Wisconsin was circling the drain economically, but it took the insanity following ACT 10 for me to realize that the Democrat party and the state government itself had become wholly owned subsidiaries of the public worker unions which believed that they were far too big to fail.

It took the hysterical public worker tantrums following ACT 10 to expose the extent to which the citizens of Wisconsin had somehow become servants of our public servants. We began to realize that our government employees really did feel entitled to better pay, better retirement benefits, and better healthcare than the serfs who paid the bills. Taxpayers began to understand why the state was going bankrupt while they were paying some of the highest taxes in the country. As Democrat public workers, especially teachers and professors, those whose job it is to teach the next generation about economics, history, and principles of government, rioted in Madison at the outrage of mere voters reducing the speed of the gravy train, Wisconsin citizens had had enough, They elected Republicans to put the service back into public service and get the whole state government enterprise onto a sustainable path.



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But the election wasn't enough. The Walker Recall reminded everyone that victory at the polls was a beginning not an end. The searchable Walker recall database exposed the extent to which, not just public union owned state representatives, but aldermen, supervisors, and school board members had become little more than rubber stamps for their various state agencies. The thuggery of the Madison protests convinced the public to stop kowtowing to their employees. The major media tried to dismiss the public outrage not as a grass roots reform movement but as "astroturf" made up of ignorant "teabaggers," sheep who mindlessly followed populist rabble-rousers like Scott Walker. But the media vilification of the grass roots just added fuel to the fire. When the grassroots revival joined the Republican Party, good things began to happen, fast.

The rapidity of the state renaissance after the infamous Recall gives us hope for the country. Without the Republicans limiting the size and expense of state government, our state would be following Illinois into insolvency. The Republican turnaround, more than anything else, showed us that the party system was still relevant, that the public, despite more than 50 years of public education propaganda, could still be inspired by the ideas of individual freedom, limited government, and the rule of law. . . . Or was it just a refusal to be pushed around any longer? Whatever it was, it also showed us that Republican promises were more than campaign rhetoric.

A republic if you can keep it

This is what Ben Franklin was talking about when he said that you have "a republic, if you can keep it." What hasn't been easy on the state level becomes almost impossible on the federal level. Our success in the last election cycle marks the beginning of the fight to save our constitutional form of government, not the end. As we experience the hysterical recall Trump stage, it is more important than ever that citizens support the people that we have elected to do the tough job of dialing back the administrative state.

At one time we had the luxury of limiting our involvement to voting. After each election those within the party could afford to wish our newly elected representatives well, close the GOP offices, shut down the party apparatus, and get back to our lives. Today, with an army of professional agitators and full time socialist bureaucrats working tirelessly to run up our tab and limit our freedom, we can no longer afford that luxury.

Even more important than supporting the conservative representatives who are doing the heavy lifting in Madison and Washington, the party has to reteach the underlying principles of our republic. This is no small challenge since most of the academic establishment and those of Hollywood and the major media not only fail to teach these principles, they preach the limitless expansion of the state. For them to label themselves "the resistance," is as perverse as Nazis labeling themselves "the resistance" to the Jews or for fascist thugs too claim the name "antifa."

To say "yes" to freedom is to say "no" to the limitless power of the state. The Republican party must reclaim, in no uncertain terms, its role as the party of no. If the Republican Party, the real



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party of no, does not teach the great unifying principles of liberty, religious freedom, and equal justice under the law, who will? At a time such as this, it is the number one job of the GOP to promote the vision without which not only the party, but the people perish.

A dynamic Republican party cannot create, “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” but it can create the space for free people to make that happen. Everyone who joins the party helps the cause. When the history of this battle for the soul of the nation is written, let it not be said that we sat out the battle on the sidelines and then mourned its loss or celebrated a victory for which we had not fought.

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