

RHINEBECK REPUBLICAN REFLECTIONS

Rhinebeck Republican Committee Newsletter - January 2017



NEWSLETTER CONTENTS:

- A Busy Year in Rhinebeck
- Announcements
- Keeping In Touch
- Question of the Month
- Seems Like 1981 All Over Agian
- Democracy vs. Republic
- Term Limits
- Get Involved!!!

"You and I are told increasingly we have to choose between a left or right. Well I'd like to suggest there is no such thing as a left or right. There's only an up or down: man's old, aged-old dream, the ultimate individual freedom consistent with order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism." – Ronald Reagan

A BUSY YEAR IN RHINEBECK

Your Republican committee has a full plate this year. Here are some events on the political calendar:

- January - Village GOP caucus to nominate candidates for mayor, justice and two trustees.
- February – County GOP convention to nominate county comptroller and supreme court judge.
- March – Village elections.
- August – Town GOP caucus for supervisor, highway superintendent and two board members.
- September – 9th judicial district convention to select candidate for supreme court judge.
- October – Election of the 14 Rhinebeck Republican Committee election district delegates.
- November – Town elections.

We're working on tentative events so you can get to know and support the candidates:

- February – Village GOP candidate meet & greet and possibly a candidate forum
- March – GOP rally for our candidates
- May – Spring GOP rally
- September - Town GOP candidate meet & greet.
- October – Town candidate forum
- November – Fall GOP rally

Check our website or facebook page for new announcements and details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two of our own have announced that they are seeking office:

- Jim Coughlan is seeking re-election to Dutchess County comptroller.
- Linda Murray is seeking election to NYS 9th Judicial District judge. Her kickoff event is Thursday February 9th from 5:30 to 7:30 at River Station Restaurant (1 North Water Street, Poughkeepsie)

Please give your support to these two worthy candidates!



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our website is:

www.rhinebeckrepublicans.com

Our Facebook page is:

www.facebook.com/RhinebeckRepublicans

Your Election District Representatives:

DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT	REPRESENTATIVE
1	Wayne Rifenburgh	4	Pete Blevin
1	Frank Intervallo	5	Joyce M. Maier
2	Kimberley Williams	5	Herman H. Tietjen
2	Bruce Washburn	6	Thomas Traudt
3	James Coughlan	6	Ryan Dowden
3	Jeffrey Cotter	7	Richard Murray
4	Elijah Bender	7	Marie Ferrell

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Is America today, an unjust, racist, sexist place?

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2017: Seems Like 1981 All Over Again!

From time to time, we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. But if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else? All of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden. The solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price.

It is no coincidence that our present troubles parallel and are proportionate to the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government. It is time for us to realize that we are too great a nation, (too great a state, too great a county, and too great a community) to limit ourselves to small dreams.



We are not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline no matter what we do. This fate will fall on us if we do nothing. So, with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal (of state renewal, of county renewal, and of community renewal). Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope. – the above paraphrased from Ronald Reagan’s first inaugural address 1/20/1981

<u>Democracy</u>	<u>vs.</u>	<u>Republic</u>
<i>In a democracy, all eligible citizens can vote and the majority can impose its will on the minority. An individual and any groups of individuals in the minority have no protection against the unlimited power of the majority. Thus, tyranny of the majority over the minority is possible.</i>		<i>In a republic, all eligible citizens can vote and the inalienable rights of all individuals are protected by a constitution. The power of the majority and the government are limited by the constitution and laws that are consistent with that constitution. Thus, tyranny of the majority is impossible.</i>

The above paraphrased from http://www.diffen.com/difference/Democracy_vs_Republic

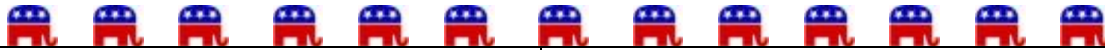
The USA is a republic with a representative democracy. We have senators and congressmen representing our interests in Washington, senators and assemblymen in Albany, and legislators in the County. The cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie and the towns of Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie preserved the republican structure through their ward systems. The remaining towns and villages in the county do not have ward systems. This is probably due to sparse populations long ago.

The states created the federal government. The states also created cities, counties, towns and villages as political subdivisions of a state. These are all governed by the rule of law. That is, the powers of government officials and government employees are limited by law. Thus, officials or employees who exceed their authority or shirk their duties are betraying the public trust.

The republican structure provides for an elected official who is accountable for representing and protecting the interests of a given district or ward. Problems can arise when a town with one or more villages lack the republican checks and balances. For instance, a portion of the town levy on village properties may be for services that they cannot receive. Another problematic area is keeping focus on constitutional intent of intergovernmental cooperation. When focus is lost, the productivity can decline while redundant functions (and therefore costs) grow. We'll look at some facts on this subject in a future newsletter.

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TERM LIMITS = ROTATION IN OFFICE

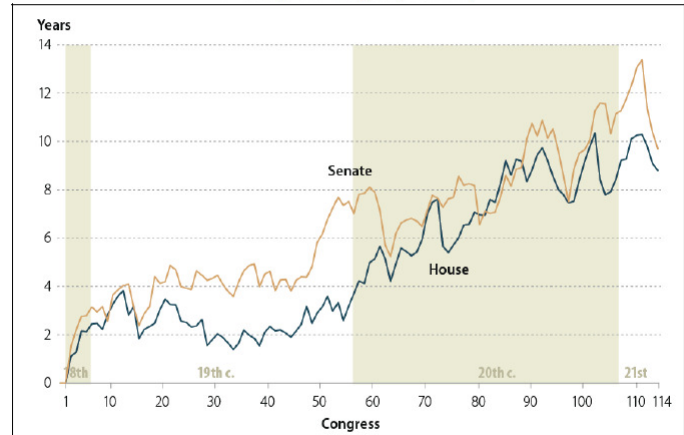
An article about term limits that is worth reading is by Jarrett Stepman in the Daily Signal. The URL is listed below.

Stepman covers the topic from the Articles of Confederation to the present and pros and cons, as well as touches on the bigger problem of bloated, unelected government bureaucracy. One of the references contains a link to a congressional report. The chart to the right is from that report and depicts the trends in congressional careerism.

Stepman ends with *"Perhaps limits on this system—which is neither constitutional, nor democratic—should be the next step for those who want to return to the Constitution and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."*

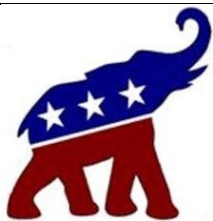
Congressional Careers: Service Tenure and Patterns of Member Service, 1789-2013

Figure 1. Average Service Tenure, Senators and Representatives
1st through 114th Congress (1789-2017)



Source: CRS analysis of ICPSR and proprietary data. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, and Carroll McKibbin, *Roster of United States Congressional Officeholders and Biographical Characteristics of Members of the United States Congress, 1789-1996: Merged Data* [computer file] 10th ICPSR ed. (Ann Arbor: MI: Inter-university for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1997).

<http://dailysignal.com/2016/12/16/heres-what-the-founders-thought-about-term-limits/>



"Get involved. The world is run by those who show up."
– Ron Nehring

There are many ways to get involved:

- Attend a fundraiser
- Put up a lawn sign
- Hand out literature at events
- Help with phonebanks
- Host a meet & greet
- Be a neighborhood captain or district leader

Americans have civic responsibilities. Americans get involved in their community and their government. Why? Because our system of government is of, for and by the people. Our system of government depends on citizens voting in elections and running for office.

Have you ever thought about running for office? There will be many opportunities to do just. County, town and village legislative seats are up for election in 2017 as well as many elective departmental positions. If you are the least bit interested in running for office, please contact:

- Resource Committee – Elijah Bender, Dennis McGuire, Knick Staley, OR
- RRC Chair – Bruce Washburn



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