

RHINEBECK REPUBLICAN REFLECTIONS

Rhinebeck Republican Committee Newsletter - December 2016



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Village Caucus & Elections

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS:

- Election Wrap-up
- 2017 Reality Check
- 2016 Activity Report Summary
- SCORECARD: State Transparency and Accountability
- We Need You!
- Seasons Greetings

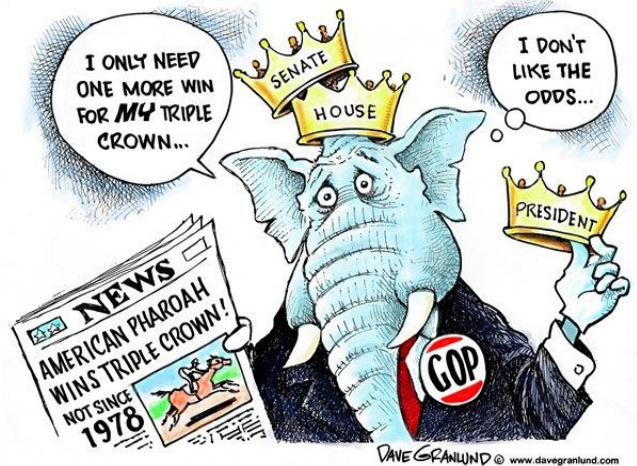
"Liberals are concerned with inequality. People in the lower-middle class are simply concerned with making enough money to live a decent life. They are two very different things." – George Friedman

2016 ELECTION HURRAY!!! But much more to do...

Republicans have both chambers in 32 states, 33 governors, Congress and the presidency. Republicans will shape the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts for a generation.

Democrats control both legislative chambers in 13 states. They have been losing ground in all levels of government since 2010. With the progressive agenda in shambles, Democrats can either help Republicans to make America great again or they can waste time and money by trying to obstruct progress.

We've done what we could to get our candidates elected. Now comes the hard part. We must keep our officials informed, focused, motivated, humble and accountable. We must help them to get the country, state, county, town and village headed back in the right direction again.



2017 REALITY CHECK

The politicization of government and media has masked the severity of the problems that our officials must deal with in 2017.

PUBLIC DEBT is about 120% of the GDP and the generally accepted limit is 90% for a developed country.

COST OF GOVERNMENT is roughly 54% of the GDP nationwide and 58% in NYS. Economists generally agree that developed countries are in decline when the ratio exceeds 15-25%.

BLUE STATES (17 or 34%) have 39% of the U.S. population, 15% of above average public education, 35% of crime, 44% of GDP, 47% state/local cost, 48% of homeless veterans, 50% of state/local debt, and 59% of all homeless.



NEW YORK STATE has 6% of the U.S. population, average public education, 4% of crime, 5% of homeless veterans and 16% of the homeless as well as 10% of the state/local cost and 12% of debt.

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2016 Rhinebeck Republican Committee Activity Report:

- ☐ Helped to elect several candidates
 - Village Trustee
 - NYS Senator and 3 NYS Supreme Court Justices
 - US Congressman
 - US President
- ☐ Developed and deployed mechanisms to improve representation and accountability
 - Communications – website, [facebook](#), newsletters, email list
 - Accountability - scorecards, position papers, legal panel, and public safety panel
 - Events – family outing, BBQ, pancake breakfast, 3 community coffee
 - Representation – monthly open committee meetings, county caucus and convention, judicial district convention, village caucus, and town-wide coverage strategy, district petitions, as well as local, county, state and federal campaign meetings

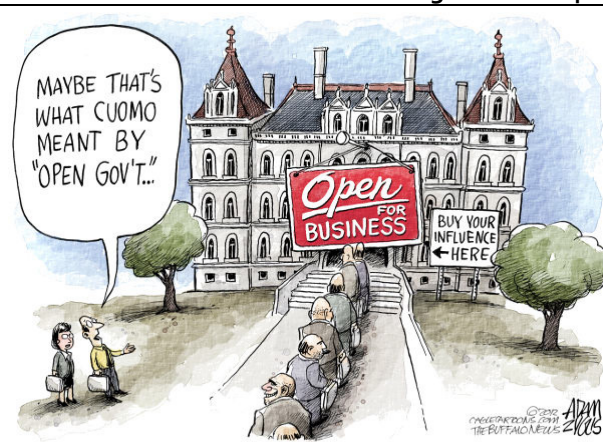


"SOCIALISM is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtues is the equal sharing of misery." – Winston Churchill

SCORECARD: State Government Transparency and Accountability

The Center for Public Integrity, winner of a 2014 Pulitzer Prize, investigates transparency and accountability in all 50 state governments. New York had a D rating and was ranked 37th out of 50 in 2012. In 2015, the rating dropped to D- but the rank improved to 31st. So it seems that even though things got worse in NYS, other states

You can learn more about the investigation at <https://www.publicintegrity.org/accountability/state-integrity-investigation>



CRITERIA	2012	2015
Public Access to Information	D+	F
Executive Accountability	D	D+
Judicial Accountability	D	F
State Civil Service Management	D-	C-
Internal Auditing	B+	B+
State Pension Fund Management	F	C+
Political Financing	D-	D-
Legislative Accountability	D+	D-
State Budget Processes	F	F
Procurement	D	F
Lobbying Disclosure	B-	C+
Ethics Enforcement Agencies	F	F
Redistricting / Electoral Oversight	F	F

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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

From the Rhinebeck Republican Committee to **YOU** –
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

