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Conservatives should establish common ground

By Steve Bakke  November 18, 2021



It's been suggested that I re-establish my credentials as a "rational" republican/conservative by temporarily supporting democrat/progressive candidates. By joining forces with democrats, I could be part of redeeming our country from the clutches of past republican administrations. Then I could return to help resurrect what was once the "Grand Old Party."

That would be a foolish display of false virtue, and I'd be forsaking my personal conservative ideals and principles, in favor of much I don't believe in. I and many other honorable conservatives have sincere and principled ideas about our country and policies that aren't reflected in the left's goals and objectives.

There are divisions throughout our society, not the least of which is the bickering within the republican/conservative voting base. The mocking disrespect directed at conservatives has been immense, and from the very start of Trump's administration, some acquiesced to constant pressure and succumbed to the democrats' siren call to join them.

Fortunately, the voting base has hung together on most important conservative policies and principles. It behooves us to immediately set aside controversial issues that don't require immediate answers. Rather, let's identify what we can agree on, clarify our differences, and work to solidify the voting bloc.

This will start with putting 2020 behind us. We learned a lot about election controls and how they can be manipulated, voided, or avoided, but election results won't be changing. Fortunately we know what type of secure, honest elections we should support, and we should faithfully insist on those policies. We learned a lot about how divisions and cracks in a voting base inhibits achieving political goals. The place to start is with the glue of any political organization, i.e. reaching agreement wherever possible.

So where do we find that glue of agreement that will hold us together. I'll use my own belief profile as an example. Consider these republican accomplishments in recent years that I am proud of: Abraham Accords between Israel, UAE, and Bahrain; ending the toothless Iran nuclear agreement; exiting the misrepresented Paris accords; funding 8,700 "opportunity zones;" strengthening NATO financial support; strengthening immigration and border controls; quality Supreme Court replacements; and reduced taxes for 80% of Americans.

I'm pro-life, with a vision for bi-partisan compromise agreement. I have conservative tax and spending opinions. I support a physical barrier as part of a modern system for bringing order to the border. I believe the electoral college process is valuable.

I could go on, but you add your own ideas.

Past and present progressive/democrat policies and outcomes provide many examples of things I'm resolutely opposed to. For me there is no alternative to standing in firm opposition to many progressive goals. These include: reckless, embarrassing and dangerous conduct of the Afghanistan withdrawal; ever more aggressive pro-abortion laws; appointment of whom I consider weak cabinet members; and foolish neglect of reasonable border control.

I disagree strongly with other recent issues such as: democrat reaction to destructive civil unrest and rampant crime; increasing aggressive inflation producing economic stimulus policies; reticent attitude toward China and our commitment to Taiwan; and the recent developments regarding the fraudulent Steele dossier and phony Russian collusion charges against President Trump. Think about it. That fraudulent dossier led to two foolish and unsuccessful impeachment trials. .

The progressive's energy policies are irresponsible and have caused the U.S. to forfeit energy independence with its positive economic and national security implications. And why do we insist on ignoring the importance of establishing uninterrupted base energy sources? We shouldn't employ energy technologies that aren't ready for prime time. I'm convinced that any green energy solutions must employ a nuclear energy component and reasonable exploitation of clean natural gas. Anything else is irresponsible.

Again, add your own items to those lists.

We have difficult choices, but those things we conservatives can readily reach agreement on will eventually come shining through. We don't need to agree on everything, but sincere efforts will bring significant progress. We can build on that, and later, candidates will be competing in the context of our well-established common ground.

The left's perceived "parade of conservative deplorables" lives in the hearts of many on the left. We should rise above irrational feelings and get on with some clear thinking. The decisions we make now should be about principles and policy preferences. One should ask no more of anyone than to decide on that basis. And conservatives should commit to deliver nothing less.