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## **DONALD TRUMP: POLICY AND BEHAVIOR COLLIDE**



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 14, 2017

*Here's what provoked me:*

*Hey SB! I've been wondering what sense you can make of one aspect of the political climate today. Specifically, there is a support base for Trump that is determined to remain faithful to their votes in the primaries and the general election. What forces are at work, for and against, their continued support? And what do you think this means? I bet I've stumped you this time, SB! – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go-to guy."*

*Here's my response:*

### **Donald Trump: Policy and Behavior Collide**

There's clearly been a shift in morality standards in America. Consider the last election. Was a de-emphasis on moral standards somehow reflected in the selection of Clinton and Trump? Swirling around them both were feelings that they had a high level of ethical and character issues, individually and combined.

Trump won and negative references abound – some false, some speculative, some earned: boor, misogynist, chauvinist, boastful, abuser, reckless, arrogant, bully, egomaniac, indignity, nasty, dysfunctional tantrums, unhelpful squabbles, and immune to embarrassment, etc.

Trump is driving people crazy and conservatives are confused. They can't figure out whether Trump is a "breath of fresh air" or a "puff of bad breath." He's an enigma within an enigma.

Obviously, there's a conflict between popular conservative policies and questionable Presidential behavior. So, why does Trump's conservative base continue to support him? First, they are resolute in their opposition to the Democrats' policy priorities. Also, running through their heads is the likelihood of another Supreme Court vacancy, and they still seek an end to existing abortion laws.

There's been a collision between behavior and policy, and policy is winning. Trump supporters simply see no acceptable alternative other than staying the course on their policy preferences.