

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**  
**HAVE CONSERVATIVES  
DRASTICALLY  
CHANGED?**  
**That depends on  
what the meaning  
of "change" is!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  May 28, 2015



*Here's what provoked me:*

*After my earlier letter about liberals causing "polarization" appeared in the paper, another letter writer tried to twist my real message. Here is how I decided to respond. I just hope the paper decides to give me the opportunity to make these important points – but they publish what they want to, not necessarily what I want them to.*

*Here's my response:*

**Have Conservatives Drastically Changed! That depends on what the meaning of "change" Is!**

Thanks to Paul Rozycki for his response ("Polarization – OK, then, here's my list" – May 28) to my May 27 letter on "polarization." Rozycki refers to me as "that social conservative," but he's wrong on some issues he probably has in mind. He believes I'm trying to convey the idea that liberalism "has gone bonkers"! Absolutely not! I actually believe that conservatives SHOULD change a few of their positions.

My point was that liberals have been the ones changing most on many issues, and this is an important contributor to what is popularly referred to as "polarization." This "conservative" (me) actually takes little serious issue with some liberal goals. Our differences often deal primarily with implementation.

Rozycki provides his own list of issues, implying these were once common priorities for liberals and conservatives. He believes conservatives have changed drastically on these. I'll deal with just a few:

- Minimum wage – Conservatives agree with the goal of minimum wage i.e. raising the poorest out of poverty. But increases in the minimum tend to NOT benefit those it's intended to help.
- Social Security – Conservatives and liberals want a financially sound system, but Social Security is not sustainable and must be fixed.
- Abortion – Conservatives have remained fairly consistent on this.
- Gay marriage – I think most conservatives have evolved quite a bit.
- I could go right down his list (education funding, union rights, taxes, regulation, gun control, etc.) but I have limited space.

Now, Mr. Rozycki, please reread my original letter.