

## The perfect storm for New Mexico conservatives

And the outlook for the next four years in New Mexico? Two-thirds of the state will experience a warming trend which has started in Santa Fe and which will be accompanied by a wave of giddy optimism while one-third of us will be covered by a depression that will rapidly turn into a perfect storm of discontent and be felt in every conservative area of the state.

Indeed, conservatives can expect a cooling trend that will rapidly develop into a four-year long deep arctic freeze. Republicans should move all their perishable values, hopes or dreams indoors and keep them under lock and key as the political weather gods in the Roundhouse will surely be calling for their destruction with a new radical upheaval of the 'old' Land of Enchantment. New Mexico's political weather system will be strengthened by hurricane force winds of change moving from California on the west and from Colorado to the north.

The new system will dominate all weather for the foreseeable future and will provide a huge blanket of protection for NM lawmakers to completely make over the state in their own liberal image. New Mexico will be *Californiafied* and *Coloradoed* with new laws that will make us a sanctuary state by refusing cooperation with the Federal Government on immigration; embrace assisted suicide; take up and tune out with legalized marijuana; confiscate or severely limit the sale or use of firearms; remove parents from the decision-making process when it comes to their daughters' birth control; increase taxes for the ordinary citizen and more.

Like the real weather, there is little we can do about the new political hegemony of the Left in New Mexico. We conservatives can, however, choose to adopt a bunker mentality, subordinate our disagreements, suppress our anger or we can move away to other more conservative-friendly states. Overt resistance is futile. The Democrat machine will crush any and all dissent.

The odds against winning the fight on an open playing field are too great with a Democrat governor, Democrat-controlled Legislature, all-Democrat NM Washington lawmakers and the Democrat municipalization of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The only real option is to go 'off the political grid' and try to weather this perfect storm by working underground and behind-the-scenes to build-up a conservative voter base that might be large enough to recapture some seats on the local, state and Federal level two or four years hence.

This will require a significant commitment by those remaining here to dedicate themselves to the task and to pull together as one group to fight the good fight. Republicans will also need support from their own national organization to sustain the battle. A national pushback is the only way to offset the resources of the Democrats in New Mexico and turn some of the tide conservatives' way. Absent that help, Republicans face extinction. The existential threat comes through the urban/rural 'Balkanization' of many states where the cities have become the power bases for Democrats while the Republicans maintain a foothold in the exurbs of America. Colorado is a perfect example: Democrats control state government through support in Denver and Boulder while conservatives have retreated to Colorado Springs and the exurbs beyond.

This geographical political divide isn't new; it has existed in New Mexico for many years. Liberals control Santa Fe and Taos in the north while Republicans still hold sway in the four corners area around Farmington and Brookfield. In central NM, Albuquerque has definitely turned 'Blue.' There is still a strong conservative presence in Las Cruces eastward, but the 2018 election saw that change with the election of Xochitl Torres-Small in CD2. Because New Mexicans don't move households that often compared to other states' populations, it would seem that their politics is changing, instead, and that won't make the move towards Balkanization occur, quickly. However, it may happen sometime during the next two decades, especially if the hard-core conservatives throw in the towel, pull up stakes, leave their formerly conservative neighborhoods/districts and head for more conservative-friendly states. THAT will tip the scales for good.

So, while the political weather report does not bode well for New Mexico's Republicans or conservatives during the next four years, it might be wise to remember what that famous Danish writer, Hans Christian Andersen, said about the weather. To paraphrase the old boy: "There is no such thing as bad weather; only inappropriate dress for weather." Put on your galoshes and open your strongest umbrella, friends. The storm is upon us.

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