

Allow me to introduce myself: My name is Barbara Holwadel and I have served as the Republican Ward Chair here in Madeira since 2010. Wards are groups of precincts throughout the county and the Ward Chair represents their precincts to the Executive Committee of the county party. Each precinct has an elected Precinct Executive who is responsible for GOTV efforts each fall. Also, it is our responsibility to decide on endorsements at election time and to provide the traditional pink slips to voters on Election Day.

Madeira has been a majority Republican Party community and hopefully will remain that way. Serving on city council is a non-partisan position. However, the GOP has historically endorsed candidates that most align with the stated values of the party in an attempt to secure sound decisions coming from city hall. So what are the values of the Republican Party? One need only read the Republican Party Platform of the 2016 convention. Contrast that with the platform of the democrats (which has been called the most progressive in history) and it is easy to see why it is important to keep an eye on who is elected to city government. All politics is local so there is no public office too small for beliefs, values and policies to be important.

The City of Cincinnati illustrates my point. It has been and remains in the top five poorest cities in the nation. Coincidentally, it has not had a Republican mayor since 1984. Cities run by republicans tend to run in a more fiscally responsible manner. Balanced budgets, lower taxes, and less regulation, help citizens prosper who are then able to help care for the poorest among us through charitable giving. Prosperity also contributes to a thriving workforce leading to more business activity, which is a good thing for everyone. True capitalism and limited government allows businesses to grow and thrive providing jobs and paying taxes into the city coffers.

D'nesh D'Souza's film "Hillary's America" reveals the Democrat Party has clearly been the party of the KKK, Jim Crow, and resistance to the civil rights act. And the website Numbers USA quantifies in factual terms the true price all Americans are paying for rampant illegal immigration.

Our forefathers created a beautiful system of government represented by the constitution and upheld by the precinct system of representation on Election Day. We are always looking for people to serve in party positions and public office and the policies being adopted are only as good as the people who are willing to stand up and serve their local communities. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty". So, of course I believe it matters what party someone identifies with as they run for public office. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment for your article.

Barbara Holwadel
Madeira Republican Ward Chair
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