

HENRICO REVIEW

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRICO GOP
MARCH 2019

"Unity is strength, division is weakness." -- Swahili Proverb



A REASON FOR UNITY

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Above is a still photo from the video of the House committee hearing testimony given by Delegate Kathy Tran (Dem. House 42) in support of her bill, HB2491. Del. Tran's bill would have loosened restrictions on late-term abortions to such a degree that would allow them up until moments before birth. In a recent radio interview, our current Governor Northam went so far as to condone policy under this bill that would expand its terms to cover and protect certain "post-birth" abortions.

Henrico Democrats are united in this vision. One need only look to their delegation. Henrico's Del. Debra Rodman (Dem., House 73), showed her support as a co-patron of Del. Tran's bill and then by standing by Tran during her hearing testimony as shown in the video. Del. Tran's bill was also supported by Henrico's Del. Schuyler VanValkenberg (Dem., House 72), who took the extra step of becoming a co-patron along with Del. Dawn Adams (Dem. House 68). They were joined by many other House Democrats and Socialist Delegate Lee Carter from Manassas (Dem. House 50) along with Henrico Senator McClellan (Dem. Senate 9).

Del. Tran's bill is just one reason for GOP Unity. There are many others. They will be discussed in future issues of our newsletter.

NOMINATIONS UPDATE

Thursday, March 28, 2019, was the candidate filing deadline in primaries around the Commonwealth. As I mentioned in my Friday email to members, I have submitted the Party Certification of Primary Candidates ELECT-527 forms to the Henrico County Registrar and the State Board of Elections for our Board of Supervisors and Constitutional Officer races and to the State Board of Elections for Senate District 12.

Unopposed for the GOP nomination are Senator Siobhan Dunnivant for Senate 12, Delegate John McGuire for House 56, GayDonna Vandergriff for House 72, Mary Margaret Kastelberg for House 73, Supervisor Pat O'Bannon for Tuckahoe Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Dan Schmitt for Brookland Board of Supervisors, Bob Matson for Sheriff, and Owen Conway for Commonwealth's Attorney.

There will be contested primary races for the GOP nomination in House 68 between Henrico's Garrison Coward and Chesterfield's Lori Losi and in Henrico's Three Chopt Magisterial District between Supervisor Tommy Branin and Dr. Dishant Shah.

The Democrats will be having primaries for Sheriff and Fairfield Supervisor on the local level. The Democrats will also have a primary to nominate their candidate for Senate 12. Del. Debra Rodman is competing in the Senate 12 primary.

Primary day is June 11, 2019.

TALKING TO SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS

By Tyler Scott

One Sunday last June my husband and I drove to Blackstone to go antiquing and meet a distant relative. We had been exploring small towns to move to; when we mentioned this, our cousin said, "Why not Blackstone?" That afternoon we looked at real estate, finally signing a contract on an 1896 Queen Anne Revival in mint condition. The house had only had two owners in 100 years so many Victorian details remained. Granville and I are both born and bred Richmonders: we had lived in the same house for 18 years - but it was time to move on. We also wanted to live in a red county.

Last fall we sold our home and by mid-November rented a house in Blackstone while we renovate the Victorian; we hope to move by late spring. Blackstone is about 50 miles south of Richmond, so Granville can still commute to work. You can imagine how unhappy I was to move to Nottoway County only to have Abigail Spanberger be my representative.

TALKING TO SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS

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Now that I'm living Southside I've begun to wonder just how red these counties are. The good news: this is still a Republican stronghold. Several dozen activists who work for the Republican Party are an impressive, well-informed group. I decided to introduce myself to some of the local leaders, asking about issues and what challenges face the Republicans.

Few know Blackstone politics as well as Billy Coleburn; he's been mayor since 2006. He said Nottoway is still red, though it gets purple from time to time. "If everyone in Blackstone voted, we would be Democrat."

The town's population is 3,397 (2017 census). About 48% are African-American; 46% are white, and 6% are Hispanic. The main issues facing locals are public safety (with a rash of crime lately - mostly assaults and robberies); what to do with the old armory; how to improve street conditions; fighting residential blight; and keeping downtown vibrant.

Mayor Coleburn also publishes the Courier-Record, which his family has owned since 1946. The good news is we can know where the mayor stands when he's the editor of the local newspaper. He calls himself an independent, "A conservative, America First Independent." He doesn't run as a Republican; however, since he's a conservative I can agree with him most of the time.

He praised local activists as being dedicated. He thinks the biggest problem is voter apathy. He would like to see Republicans work harder in the black community by planting seeds, building relationships and "focusing on the issues we have in common."

Bill Outlaw has been the chair of the Nottoway County GOP Committee for the past three years; he too says this area is reliably red. With an overall population of 15,434 (2017 census), Nottoway has the largest number of minority residents in the 7th District. Over coffee at the Farmer's Café in Blackstone, Mr. Outlaw said Republicans have a successful working relationship with Democrats, "a good atmosphere for working together."

He added that Republicans have been strong supporters and diligent in getting out the vote for state and local elections. He agrees that the next election will be very telling, hoping more Republicans will run as Republicans and not as Independents.

Two of the biggest challenges are turnout and voter apathy. This angers Mr. Outlaw as much as Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi do. "We have to continue working together to galvanize people. Many are apathetic and complacent, and stuff has to hit them personally before they wake up."

His advice to Republicans: "Keep working."

TALKING TO SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS

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On another day I drove over to Kenbridge, a town in Lunenburg County about ten miles from Blackstone. I met Mike Hankins, Chair of the Lunenburg Republican Committee and the District 2 representative on the Board of Supervisors.

Lunenburg is in the 5th District which touches 28 counties and has a high rate of poverty. With a population of 12,500, the county is reliably red, though the Democrats are trying to make inroads – usually to no avail. Most voters, according to Mr. Hankins, are concerned with jobs and taxes. (Curiously, a family having lunch next to us at Mildred's Café had moved here from San Diego. Perhaps the residents of Southside will be seeing more of this as people flee high-tax states.)

The Board of Supervisors is currently working hard to bring business to Lunenburg. One main focus is bringing an inland port to Keysville where freight can be moved from the coast to inland towns for dispersal. The port could also lead to other major developments such as distribution centers, which could have a great impact on the Southside economy.

There are many challenges in Lunenburg County including poverty and a declining population, but the county also has the lowest taxes in the state. A landfill covers 30% of Lunenburg's costs.

“As much as we don't like to talk about it, dollars equal votes. In the 5th District of Virginia a modest campaign for Congress costs about \$1.6 million,” Mr. Hankins said. “As leaders we have to be good fundraisers. We also have to remember we are the example of the Republican Party that our neighbors see. How we live our lives and conduct business is how the Republicans are seen locally.”

These are just a few of the individuals who are working to spread the conservative message and elect our candidates in Southside Virginia. I plan on getting involved with both the Nottoway and Lunenburg Committees. I would encourage all members of the Henrico Committee to reach out and work with their Southside colleagues.

Working together means we can return our wonderful state to the foundations our forefathers envisioned rather than the current inert bureaucracy and disgraceful behavior of some of our elected Democrat officials. It's embarrassing to go from a model of individual freedom, responsible government and democratic principles to fodder for Saturday Night Live skits.

(A retired journalist, Tyler Scott was a Henrico Republican Party Committee member before moving to the Southside.)

PRESERVING LIBERTY AND KEEPING THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

By Eddie Whitlock

For the past eight months we have been discussing LIBERTY. Last month I wrote about ten basic principles that can have an effect on societies and how the five political ideologies influenced these principles. This month we will look at how these principles and political ideologies shaped the founding and subsequent history of America.

Here are the principles and ideologies again:

My ten basic principles for society:

- 1.. Each person is born free to choose his own lifestyle and beliefs, including the right to form a "society" and become a citizen of that society.
2. When a society is formed, those citizens agree (either expressly or by virtue of agreeing to be part of that society) to limit their liberty to some degree so that all may benefit from the collective advantages of that society.
3. Once formed, a society may:
 - a. Elect a governing structure;
 - b. Make laws necessary to protect its legitimate interests;
 - c. Make policies necessary to effect the laws; and
 - d. Take actions necessary to enforce the laws.
4. Citizens do not have the right to take the property of others for the purpose of redistribution to other citizens.
5. Citizens have the right to express their views in the governing structure of that society, which is representative government.
6. The governing structure should be limited to the minimum size necessary to perform its required tasks.
7. In making laws and policies and in enforcing the laws, a society may limit personal liberty only to the extent necessary to protect the legitimate interests of that society.
8. Citizens have the duty to support that society through compliance with its laws and to provide service.
9. Those who fail to adhere to the laws of that society are subject to punishment.
10. Each citizen has the right to advocate change by peaceful means. Each citizen has the right to advocate change by force only when their system of government is violating one or more of the other nine basic principles of society, and enforcement cannot be achieved by peaceful means.

The five political ideologies: Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, and Fascism

PRESERVING LIBERTY AND KEEPING THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

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In a sense, basic principle 10 could have been used by to justify revolt from the British Monarch in the Revolutionary War for becoming American citizens. The British system violated one or more of the other nine basic principles (3, 4, 5, 6 & 7). In a sense, this could have been used to support the Southern Secessionist theory in the Civil War; that system of government violated principles (3, 5, 6, 7 & 10).

Once again, it is important to emphasize that the Constitution of the United States was written by men who all adhered primarily to European/Classical Liberalism. Although all were exposed to European/Classical Conservative ideas, and some were influenced by the same. As a result, the American range for political debate was narrow from the onset. This narrow focus, combined with the fact that American politics was largely sheltered from subsequent world political debate until the twentieth century, provides a basis for understanding why the American political debate has never fully developed competitively.

I do not state this in a lamenting way; I am very happy that it is so. As a side note, it is ironic to me that American conservatives use the word "liberal" as a bad label for left-leaning political opponents, when, in fact, American conservatives are Classical Liberals (the difference being in using "l" or "L"). What American conservatives really mean to use as a bad label is social democrat. Labeling someone as a liberal has worked for a long time, so much so that many American liberals now prefer the label "progressive." Progressive, liberal, or social democrat, whatever the label, these American leftists are all rapidly becoming European Socialists.

Unlike the American experience, focused almost exclusively on European/Classical Liberalism, world politics (especially European politics), has experienced many conflicts between Classical Conservatism, Classical Liberalism, Socialism, Communism, and Fascism. The lessons of the political debate have not come without pain, however – remember the countless revolutions in the seventeenth through twentieth centuries, along with global conflicts such as World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Cold War. It could be argued that the rise of Islamic Fascism is yet another example.

Many Islamic states, such as Iran and Iraq, transformed from imperial, Conservative, states to Fascist states. Islamic Fascists stress the religious nature of the conflict between Western democracies and Islamic Fascism to hold their people loyal

PRESERVING LIBERTY AND KEEPING THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

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ro their state. Some nations in the West have attempted to provide the people of Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries with an opportunity to form their own democratic government under a European/Classical Liberalism model; other Western nations have chosen to stay away from the conflict. When we compare the events before World War II with events now, does a similar fate (world war) await us? Are those Western nations that choose to not participate in the Middle East following the same failed World War II policy of Nazi appeasement?

I believe that, at various times, changes in political, social and technological conditions have prompted American citizens to rethink policies within the ideology of European/Classical Liberalism; however, only on one occasion did American citizens change ideologies. I believe it was a change in political ideology, from European/Classical Conservatism to European/Classical Liberalism, which led this country to rebel against British governance -- establishing the United States of America as a Republic and become American citizens. It was only a change in policy within European/Classical Liberalism when American citizens moved from a loose confederacy under a very weak central government with the Articles of Confederation to a more centralized approach under our present Constitution, with a stronger federal government.

As a result of the American Civil War and Union victory, Congress moved American citizens and the American system of government toward more control and focus at the federal government level. Local government was sacrificed in violation of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution:

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution; nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

As a result, the federal government has grown and become more powerful.

Within the spectrum of European/Classical Liberalism, policies were rethought during the early 20th Century Progressive Era as well. It was not until Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" however, that some significant elements of another political ideology reached American government, that of Socialism. During the Roosevelt era, Americans struggled with social, political, and economic policies while trying to recover from the Great Depression. Although FDR was still classified as a European/Classical Liberal (of the reformist liberalism branch), many of his ideas "opened the door" for the Socialist ideology in American government.

PRESERVING LIBERTY AND KEEPING THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

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Socialism, by this name, has never taken hold in the American political main stream, perhaps because of American individualism, and because of the fear of Communism during the Cold War. I believe that FDR's "New Deal" dramatically changed American politics because the Democratic Party, at the national level, moved squarely into the camp of the reformist liberal branch of the European/Classical Liberal ideology.

Subsequently, over the course of time, the Democratic Party has cleansed its ranks of those who are not of this branch; or those not of this branch have elected to leave the party.

From the 1960's through the early 1980's it seemed that the only organized group within the Democratic Party not part of the reformist liberal branch were some remaining "conservative" Southern Democrats -- nicknamed "boll weevils" or "blue dog Democrats. Most of these migrated to the Republican Party in the years following Ronald Reagan's election as President in 1980. Those few remaining as Democrats migrated to the Republican Party by the time of the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994. As a result, the leadership and focus of the Democratic Party has become more and more Socialistic, which is accelerating in the 21st Century.

Similar to the move of Democrats to the Republican Party, though more slowly, liberal Republicans, called either "gypsy moths" or "RINOs" (Republicans in name only), have migrated to the Democratic Party. The result has been a more pronounced difference between the American political parties, and a more pronounced difference in American political debate and American voting.

Polls of the American electorate reveal an almost fifty-fifty split between the parties. The presidential elections of 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2016 were extremely close. This trend will likely continue unless there is a major realignment of the American electorate behind one political ideology, or until one candidate makes major mistakes in his or her campaign. We will explore this in more detail later.

Having fully studied these ten basic principles to society and the five political ideologies, in the next issue we will explore the importance of these basic principles. In the meantime, please think about it. I would like to hear your thoughts.

(Eddie Whitlock is an attorney in private practice and is a name partner in the firm of Lafayette, Ayers & Whitlock, PLC, located in Henrico County. He is the Immediate Past Chair of our Committee and volunteers on many boards and other civic organizations, including the Henrico Economic Development Authority and the Knights of Columbus. He is also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army. Eddie is a true servant leader who leads by example.)

UPCOMING HENRICO GOP EVENTS

No Business Meeting April 4

April 6, 2019

Breakfast

Atlas 42, 4032 Cox Rd - Suite A

Glen Allen, VA 23060

8am-9am

Speaker: Capt. Matt Pinsker

May 11, 2019

Breakfast

Atlas 42, 4032 Cox Rd - Suite A

Glen Allen, VA 23060

8am-9am

Speaker: Delegate Rob Bell

NOTE THE DATE IS A CHANGE



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Committee**

LOCAL & STATE

April 9, 2019

Meeting

Henrico Board of Supervisors

7:00 p.m.

April 18, 2019

Meeting

Henrico School Board Meeting

6:30 p.m.

April 23, 2019

Meeting

Henrico Board of Supervisors

7:00 p.m.

WHO WE ARE

The Henrico Review is the official newsletter of the Henrico GOP. The Henrico Review focuses on local, state and Federal political issues and matters affecting the citizens of Henrico.

SUBMISSIONS

We accept contributions from Republicans and Conservatives who are committed to journalistic integrity, political inspiration and rigorous critical thought. Submissions will be vetted by our editors and may be reserved for publication at a later date as space and circumstances permit. By making a submission, the submitter represents that he or she owns the copyright to such material and assigns said property rights unto Henrico Review.

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