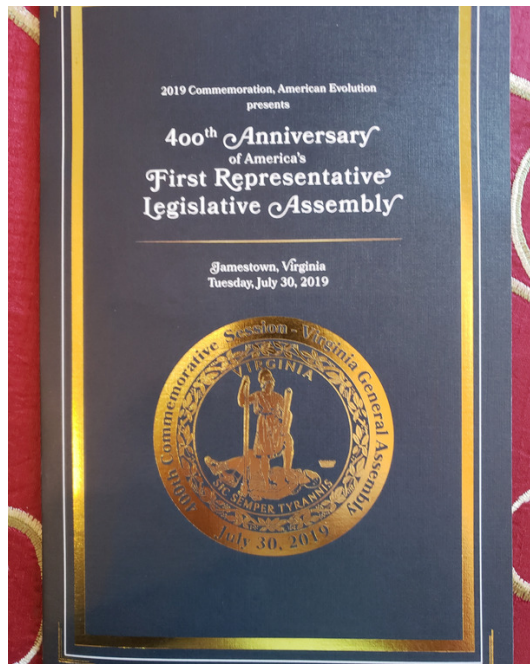


HENRICO REVIEW

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRICO GOP
JULY 2019

"The people are watching and waiting. They don't demand miracles. They do expect us to act.
Let us act together." -- Ronald Reagan



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YET ANOTHER REASON FOR UNITY

Four centuries ago today, on July 30, 1619, the first legislative assembly was held in the New World at Jamestown, Virginia. That legislative body was charged with "establish[ing] one equal and uniform government over all Virginia" and passing "just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people there inhabiting." It was an important task to say the least and one that would require some concerted action on the part of its members.

Under the Preamble of the State Party Plan, we, as Republicans, are charged with the purpose of "electing duly nominated or designated Republican candidates to public office" among other things. In fulfilling that purpose, it is necessary for us to act. We cannot do this individually and on our own. Instead, we have to act and act together.

November 5th is only 98 days away. Each of our candidates is working very hard and needs our help. Pick one or more and pitch in. Knock doors, make calls, donate, find donors, help in the campaign offices or however else you can. Not only is acting together expected of us, it is something that I know can be done and I am confident will be done.

PRESERVING LIBERTY AND KEEPING THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

By Eddie Whitlock

We've been looking at LIBERTY for over a year now. Two months ago, we began discussing the American system of government. I stated that I believe there must be a limited, responsible, strong-party system. Each term has meaning. Over the next few months we'll look at these terms, exploring the strengths and weaknesses in our American system. Last month we discussed limited government and the strengths in our system. This month we look at limited government and the first two of five weaknesses.

There Must Be Limited Government

Current Weaknesses in the American System of Government.

Problem One: We have moved from having citizen-leaders to having professional politicians.

From the onset it was clear that American government would be "of the people, by the people and for the people." I believe the Founding Fathers recognized the pitfalls of having "professional politicians" run the government. Professional politicians develop their own mindset (such as an "inside the beltway mentality" at the federal level). They lose touch with "the people back home" whom they represent, establish their own elite class, and rely on the government for their income and economic stability. They become so concerned with ensuring they can keep their position in government that decision-making is affected by their position.

On the other hand, except for a limited period of time when Congress or a legislature is in session, citizen-leaders should understand their constituents because they live, eat, sleep, work and worship with the people back home. Citizen-leaders know what these people think because they interact with them almost every day. Citizen-leaders are part of their community, not part of a distant political elite. They must be economically self-reliant and know how to run a business, or they cannot take care of themselves and their families. Citizen-leaders make their decisions based on the best interests of their constituents.

While our federal system of government began as a part-time citizen government, as time passed and the American experiment continued, our federal government moved to a full-time professional politician government. Unfortunately, some state governments have followed the same representation as well.

A full-time professional politician government leads to an increasingly large government in violation of basic principle six: "The governing structure should be limited to the minimum size necessary to perform its required tasks." A full-time professional politician government also leads to a government powerful enough to violate basic principle seven: "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."

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Solution One: We must return government to citizen-leaders.

If you agree that citizen-leaders are better suited to run our government at all levels rather than professional politicians, then you will agree: we must find ways to return our government to citizen-leaders. How? By doing the following:

1. Impose term limits. Term limits ensure that no one person can stay in any one elected position for too long. If the term is limited, the tendency toward professional politicians is limited, and “inside the beltway” political mentality is limited. The length of time elected officials are away from their constituents is limited; development of a political elite class is limited. Elected officials can no longer rely, long-term, on the government for income and economic stability. Term limits minimize many of the concerns that elected officials will subordinate the interests of their constituents in favor of gaining re-election. Term limits limit re-elections.

I do not make such a recommendation without great thought and concern. One concern is limiting the citizen's choices. Basic principle three provides, in part: “Once formed, a society may: ... Elect a governing structure....” The Founding Fathers declined to impose term limits in our governing documents. Why? I am confident they believed that government should be composed of citizen-leaders serving for only a limited period of time, and that they would limit themselves.

We need to look no further than our first President, George Washington, who declined to run for a third term. His example was followed by every President thereafter until FDR. However, as time passed, the federal government became larger and more powerful. The federal government usurped more rights and duties from the state governments and from the people, in violation of the 9th and 10th Amendments.

Our part-time, limited federal government became year-round and less limited. Elected officials became less like citizen-leaders and more like full-time professional politicians who made rules and laws to benefit re-election and used public funds in “pork barrel” legislation as a benefit. Professional politicians wield power and influence. Citizens and special interest groups are willing to keep them in office so long as they benefit individually; apparently it does not matter that the Republic is harmed.

The problem of professional politicians exists not only at the federal level but also at both state and local levels. Professional politicians wear as a “badge of honor” that they have served twenty or thirty years in Congress or at the State House. This is not commendable; it is harmful to the Republic. Professional politicians have lost touch with the day-to-day life of their constituents because they are not living, eating, sleeping, working and worshipping in the community. They are living inside the beltway or in the local sphere of influence.

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I anguish over taking rights away from citizens (such as the right to elect anyone they want as part of their basic principle five right to “...express their views in the governing structure of the society, which is representative government...”). Clearly professional politicians have “rigged the game” in a way that the rules must be changed permanently. I submit that the only way to change the rules is to provide for term limits in federal, state and local governing documents (Constitutions). I see no reason for one person to serve more than ten years in any one office.

2. Return to part-time legislatures. Full-time legislatures are problematic; they allow elected officials to establish full-time residencies in a capital city (federal or state). As with term limits, if the length of a legislative session is limited, the tendency toward professional politicians is limited. This limits the possibility that government may become so strong that it can threaten basic principle seven: “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.”

3. Reduce the financial incentives for service. When the ability to earn a full-time living and full retirement (from elected service) is limited, most elected officials in the legislative branch will need to maintain employment in their home community. Most elected officials in the executive branch will need to earn an outside living and limit their years of elected service. Again, if professional politicians are limited, the possibility that government may become so strong that it can threaten basic principle seven is limited.

4. Increase citizen volunteerism. At its inception, American government was comprised of citizens who volunteered their time and service to the country with little compensation. Citizen-statesmen such as Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe helped shape the governmental framework toward what it is today. Citizens with the gifts of wisdom and leadership must volunteer service to the community, keeping the good of the community ahead of personal interests. Citizen-leaders are needed for federal, state and local governments, as well as in community organizations. Government must reflect the image of well-meaning, selfless, citizen-leaders dedicated to public service in accordance with basic principle eight: “Citizens have the duty to support that society through compliance with its laws and to provide service.”

Problem Two: We have strayed from our core principle of limited government.

The Founding Fathers clearly recognized that limited government at all levels is best, that it is essential to the preservation of Liberty. However, as time passed and the American experiment continued, our federal government’s scope and power has increased immensely; state and local governments have followed suit. Straying from limited government violates basic principle six: “The governing structure should be limited to the minimum size necessary to perform its required tasks.”

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Solution Two: We must limit the power of government.

If you agree that we have strayed from our core principle of limited government, then we must limit the power of government. We can do so by doing the following:

1. Strictly construe the United States Constitution. The Constitution was, and remains, a brilliant and insightful governing document. Adhering to its division of powers is essential to keeping the American Republic. Unfortunately, the trend is for the federal government to take, and the courts confirm, more power for the federal government. Limits imposed by the 9th and 10th Amendments to the Constitution are ignored. ("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." And "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."). By strictly construing the United States Constitution we will have a greater chance for government to remain in compliance with basic principle seven.

2. Adopt The Whitlock Test for Spending. By limiting government spending at all levels, government power and control is limited. With power and control limited, there is a greater chance that government will remain in compliance with basic principle seven.

The Whitlock Test for Spending:

- a. Is the proposed spending for a core function of government?
- b. Is the proposed spending for something that government can do better than the private sector?
- c. Is the proposed spending at a minimum level required to accomplish the required task?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then the spending should not be made.

Next month we'll explore weaknesses in the American system related to limited government.

(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

August 3, 2019

Breakfast

Atlas 42, 4032 Cox Rd - Suite A

Glen Allen, VA 23060

8am-9am

Guest: Clovia Lawrence

Next Business Meeting

TBA

September 7, 2019

Breakfast

Atlas 42, 4032 Cox Rd - Suite A

Glen Allen, VA 23060

8am-9am



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Henrico County Republican
Committee**

LOCAL & STATE

August 13, 2019

Meeting

Henrico Board of Supervisors

7:00 p.m.

August 22, 2019

School Board Meeting

6:30 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.

Please send proposed pieces in MS Word to:
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