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ABOUT THE EDITOR

Cape May County Page

THIS STUFF IS BETTER THAN SPORTS

After the success of the Tea Parties on April 15, 2009, the liberal media began calling it “astroturf” as opposed to “grassroots.” The implication being that the activist movement was synthetic and not real. In the 2009 election cycle a new generation of political activists may have been born in Cape May County. Our Facebook group had over seven hundred members. Our “Moms” group got up to about sixty members. Our “Students” group passed fifty members. And our private “volunteers” group had seventy-nine members who were out there working and coordinating the hundreds of people who wanted to help the campaign. Given our roots, most of these folks were in Cape May County. This was a new phenomenon.

In the midst of the organized chaos of the campaign, one of these volunteers said to me, “Dude, this is better than sports.” Another victim of the disease of politics.

The combination of the frustration of a loss on the legislative level and the exhilaration over the huge win for Chris Christie at the top of the ticket has fueled continued interest by this new group of grassroots activists. They are being driven by this dual desire to avenge a painful loss and help to realize the potential for reform created by a cataclysmic win. They want an outlet as they watch a liberal cabal in Washington seek to reconstruct American into something unrecognizable.

Most interestingly, these are not just kids. These people come from all walks of life. Veterans, older ladies, Knights of Columbus, college and high school students. You name it. Not a day has gone by that I have not been contacted by someone who never had any involvement in politics before 2009. They are people who did little more than tell their co-workers to vote, or walked their neighborhood in support of the ticket, or forwarded emails to their friends and family. They are calling or emailing or stopping me in Church to know how they can stay active. They want to be a part of the process. They want their country back and they want to be part of The Movement.

The challenge now is to keep them engaged. 2010 will be full of local elections, county races and a congressional race. We need to continue to build The Movement and show that this is not astroturf. Let's water the grassroots and help the grass grow deep and wide.

The New Jersey Page



KILL THE LAME DUCK – CREATE THE STEWARD

I have a proposal for my friends in Trenton: Kill the lame duck. And not figuratively either. Kill it. End it. This is an ex-duck! How? Pass one simple piece of legislation. Designate the period of time between the election of a new Governor and that person's swearing in (or the beginning of a new legislative session) as a period of stewardship. In so doing, disallow any activity of the legislature or sitting Governor that is not necessary to the day-to-day operations of state government or for the effective dealing with some serious emergency.

Lame duck is the most dangerous time for the people. During the lame duck session in December 2007, the legislature repealed the death penalty in New Jersey. This, in spite of the fact that about 70% of New Jerseyans did not want them to do so. In this lame duck, the effort to make gay marriage legal in New Jersey is still alive and being pursued with haste. If the bill passes before Jon Corzine (who lost to Chris Christie by 100,000 votes) leaves office, he will sign it into law. These types of actions ignore the will of the electorate. They are done at a time when the politicians making the decisions are either on their way out the door or won't have to stand for re-election for a number of years.

Lame duck appointments might be even worse. During the next 50 days or so, the Governor that the people of New Jersey overwhelmingly rejected at the polls on November 3rd will retain the power to appoint people to all kinds of positions. Only during a lame duck period could such a defeated politician manage to continue to reward those who were the architects of his failed administration.

So somebody up there put the bill together. Very simple: Be it enacted that from Election Day in November until the swearing in of the next Governor and/or the beginning of the next legislative session, the sitting Governor and legislature shall be stewards of the state and shall retain only those powers necessary to effectuate the day-to-day activities of state government; and shall not have the power to pass any new legislation or make any appointments, unless a state of emergency is declared by the state or federal government and then only such actions necessary to specifically deal with such emergency shall be allowed.

Ding dong, the lame duck is dead.

National Page



PURELY RIDICULOUS PROPOSAL (- OR - I GOT YOUR PURITY RIGHT HERE!)

The Republican National Committee is considering a proposal that would require Republican candidates to pass a “purity test” in order to obtain support from the RNC. Um. Whiskey-Tango-Foxtrot?? Purity test? What are we now, Henry the Eighth’s new Church of England? All subjects required to take a loyalty oath or have their heads put on stakes outside the Tower of London?

No one can challenge my conservative credentials. Unlike most Republicans who profess to be conservatives, I have had to put my positions on the record, in print, for all the world to view. I’m anti-tax, pro-small government, in favor of the death penalty, pro-life, pro-gun/hunting. I’m opposed to gay marriage and believe we need to secure our borders ASAP. But I sure as heck don’t need some pointy-headed RNC member setting up an inquisition to determine if my conservatism is pure enough.

How about this, let’s open the gates of the party and then win the battle of ideas internally first. Let’s practice the old art of democracy within the party and create a platform that we expect Republicans to follow. And when certain Republicans choose not to follow portions of that platform, then let’s allow the democratic process to move forward within our own ranks. If such a candidate is unacceptable to the people necessary to sustain that candidacy, then so be it. But if that candidate can garner the support necessary from Republicans to be viable and carry as much of our platform forward as possible, let us not cut off our nose to spite our face. I have seen that approach and it results in the election of Democrats who are much more liberal than the impure Republicans. The great ultra-conservative day of deliverance is not coming. And the more we eat our own to try and achieve it, the greater damage we do to our own cause by withholding our support from Republican who would work with us on most things and ensuring the election of liberals who will work with us on nothing.

As Sir Thomas More said when England was awash in purity tests and loyalty oaths,

“The nobility of England would have snored through the Sermon on the Mount, but you'll labor like scholars over a bulldog's pedigree.” A Republican “purity test” is a purely ridiculous idea.