

Become a Voting Patriot

Small is not necessarily beautiful; Government Right-sized to Govern is Beautiful.

Steven Blumrosen | Bonita Springs, FL | 1/9/2019

A patriot is someone who stays focused on their concerns and those of their neighbors.

A voting patriot recognizes that, for centuries, we have gotten along without a monarch, accepts the responsibilities of exercising the rights of self-protection and competition that have made this Union strong, and uses the protections of our current Constitution to organize and vote.

Voting patriots are not easily distracted.

Now is the time for calm cool consideration of How We Can Win.

We can leave it to Mueller.

Maybe the President will be impeached and politely leave the White House in disgrace or maybe he would, as he suggested recently, declare a national emergency and stay.

Maybe the President will get the money he wants for border security and re-open the government, or maybe he'll get the money he wants for border security and make more demands – despite the long-standing policy of the Federal government not to pay ransom for hostages.

As the Speaker of the House, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, last night said:

“The fact is: President Trump has chosen to hold hostage critical services for the health, safety and well-being of the American people and withhold the paychecks of 800,000 innocent workers across the nation – many of them veterans. He promised (threatened) to keep government shutdown for “months or years” – no matter whom it hurts. That’s just plain wrong.”

Yes, it is blatantly wrong to hold the American people and civil servants hostage. We see that. We who have a conscience. We who can still recognize right from wrong. We who know there is evil in the world and are willing to listen when reporters try to describe it. ¹

To Trump and his Republican Party, there is no right or wrong – there is just their own winning or losing.

The Art of the Deal for Trump and his Republican Party is to have so much happening that he can benefit no matter which way things seem to go.

For them, this is not necessarily about a wall on the border with Mexico. As Nancy explained last night:

“We all agree that we need to secure our borders, while honoring our values. We can build the infrastructure and roads at our ports of entry; we can install new technology to scan cars and trucks for drugs coming into our nation; we can hire the personnel we need to facilitate trade and immigration at the border; and we can fund more innovation to detect unauthorized crossings.”

For Trump and his Republican Party, it is not even about who wins that issue.

If Trump gets funding for his wall, that will be a fine victory for him. He will get what he wants, and he will make it obvious that he can hold government workers hostage for ransom.

If he does not get funding for his wall, he will “proudly” (to use his word) keep the government shut down and get what he wants – smaller government.

Smaller government has been a goal of Karl Rove and his funders since Reagan took office and their allies, the Iranian government, released U. S. government workers they were holding hostage.

“Reagan’s budget advisor, David Stockman ... revealed that cutting taxes and creating a deficit was a conscious effort to ‘starve the beast.’”²

In 2001, Grover Norquist said to Mara Liasson on NPR, “Our goal is to shrink government to the size where we can drown it in a bathtub.”³

More recently, in 2011, Norquist told Steve Kroft on 60 Minutes that, “We functioned in this country with government at 8 percent of GDP for a long time and quite well.”

Kroft pointed out, “That was before Social Security. It was before Medicare. It was before welfare assistance, unemployment assistance.”

Kroft followed-up with “Do you feel the government has any obligation to the poor or the elderly or the unemployed?”

Norquist retorted, “Yeah. It should stop stepping on them, kicking them and making their lives more difficult.”⁴

That is so wrong, on so many levels. Money for retirement, healthcare, assistance when you’re down, and continued income during times when you are unemployed does not mean you are stepped on, kicked and challenged. It means you may survive with greater dignity and have more opportunities to turn your situation around.

“The ultimate endpoint of the pledge is to create a debt so huge that we will have no choice but to eliminate or severely restrict popular government programs such as Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, student financial aid and many more.”⁵

The same year Norquist displayed his arrogant alexithymia⁶ on 60 Minutes, Donald Trump (considering a run for the presidency) signed Norquist’s pledge not to raise taxes.⁷

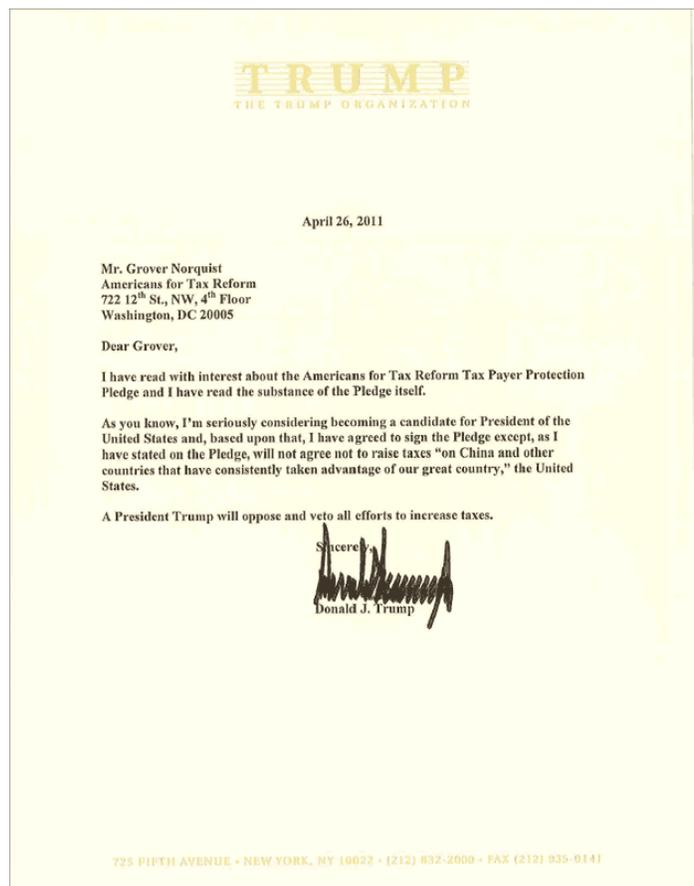
He told us what he would do.

Now he is doing it.

This Republican President is starving the beast and drowning the government in debt and military spending by cutting taxes, reducing regulations, and attacking the security of civil service workers.⁸

In his first State of the Union message, the Republican president demanded Congress:

“empower every Cabinet Secretary with the authority to reward good workers — and to remove Federal employees who undermine the public trust or fail the American people.”⁹



How wrong is that! This Republican President is saying he wants his appointees, who sit at the pleasure of the President, to fire workers they feel do not fit the culture of their department, **regardless of the department's contractual obligations to the workers.**

When hard-working self-sacrificing civil servants, empowered - with the protections of contract - to question authority, leave government service in order to feed their families, Trump wins.

How do we win?

We win when we become voting patriots.

We become voting patriots when we utilize the Constitution of the United States to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution by exercising our Constitutional rights to Free Speech, organizing our neighbors in our precincts, and getting out the vote in our own backyard.

We can only hope that the Washington Democrats are correctly analyzing the national voting data and are already pushing to get the most votes where it matters, so our own political pros in DC will not be the ones who pull an October Surprise on us by moving our donated money around at the last moment - as they did with Alison's campaign in Kentucky to replace Mitch McConnell in the U. S. Senate.

Imagine a political landscape without Mitch McConnell. Now, imagine replacing Trump and his Republican Party in 2021.

Happy New Year!

References below.

References

1. At the beginning of his book, *Night*, Elie Wiesel creates a portrait of someone who leaves the village, sees what is happening, returns to report back, and is considered nuts because he tries his best to accurately describe what he saw, but what he saw was so incredible the townsfolk thought it must be fake.
“I wanted to return ... so that you might ready yourselves while there is still time.”
“This was toward the end of 1942.
“Thereafter, life seemed normal once again.”
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=d2ZzZC5rMTlubnkudXN8bXNsbW9ycHVyZ298Z3g6MzYyMjhIN2MzOGMxMjM5Yg>
In the next few months, when you hear someone say “They’re killing us.” Will you still have to organize? Now is the time to ready ourselves.
2. Douglas J. Amy, Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College
(<http://governmentisgood.com/articles.php?aid=14>)
3. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1123439>
4. Tom Goergen on ThePilot.com, 2012, http://www.thepilot.com/opinion/norquist-s-goal-drown-government-in-the-bathtub/article_690850c8-9bb9-5ade-a77b-03bdd116dfa6.html
5. Ibid.
6. “Alexithymia” is defined by:
 1. Difficulty identifying feelings and distinguishing between feelings and the bodily sensations of emotional arousal
 2. Difficulty describing feelings to other people
 3. Constricted imaginal processes, as evidenced by a scarcity of fantasies
 4. A stimulus-bound, externally oriented cognitive style.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexithymia>
7. <https://www.newsmax.com/InsideCover/trump-signs-no-tax/2011/04/26/id/394194/>
8. “Trump plans to fire feds faster,” Joe Davidson, Washington Post
(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/11/21/trump-plans-to-fire-feds-faster/?noredirect=on>)
9. White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address/>