



Quail Creek Republican Club



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Quail Creek Republicans

Officers

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John Chernoski

Vice President:

Roger Williams

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George Norcross

Program Chair:

Darren Venters

Membership Chair:

Wanda Claflin

Meeting Information:

September 15, 2006

Madera Club House

Silver Room

3-5 pm

**(Please plan on attending
and bring a fellow Republi-
can)**

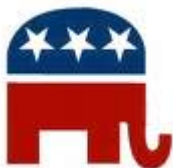
Precinct 314: Republican Precinct Committeeman:

Richard Casey

David Werth

George Norcross

Charles E Claflin



Quail Creek Republican Club President's Message

Hopefully you all had a great Thanksgiving and had time to heal after the election. Our next meeting will be Friday, December 15 commencing at 9 AM in the Gold Room of the Clubhouse. The agenda will be light; including dues, gathering a slate of Board officers for 2007, and discussing how often we should meet for the next few months. **If you are interested in seeking a position on the Board for 2007, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Roger Williams, 399-2950, willgig@cox.net.**

We had a bit of a silver lining in regard to the elections. Our GOP Precinct committeemen reported that 542 of the 650 registered Republicans in Quail Creek voted. That is an 83% turn-out!! A very good job performed by our PCs and those that helped them. It is interesting to note that our current QCR membership is about 63, so about 10% of the registered QC Republicans are members of the QCR.

We need to remain involved and vigilant. Earlier this week, our new Democratic Congressional representative-elect was shown on the evening news shaking hands with the Raytheon strikers. I guess now that the election is over; she can show her true colors. On the other hand, I wonder if the majority of the citizens in Congressional District 8 are happy to be draped in those colors. 2008 is a long time away in political terms, but we need to keep an eye on Gabby and continually remind our neighbors and friends of her every step as she drifts to the left.

November News Recap

November 13, 2006 - Winning the Future - Newt Gingrich

Raising a Banner of Bold Colors: Republicanism Lost, but Conservatism Did Not when it comes to the lessons of the 2006 elections, it's very important to set the record straight. I traveled throughout the country this election year. I met with Americans in all the key states. And what I now understand is this: Republicans lost, but conservatism didn't. Many of the Democrats who won this year ran as non-liberals -- in some cases, as out-right conservatives. A number of them, including some incumbents, explicitly disavowed liberal Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) and San Francisco values. Many repudiated Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John Kerry's smear of American troops in Iraq. Remember, he was effectively driven off the campaign trail for the last 10 days by his own party. The result was that, by Election Day, Democrats were seen as better at controlling government spending and at reducing taxes.

In Two Short Years, Republicans Lost the Advantage of Reform

Republicans, in two short years, gave up the advantages on taxes, balancing the budget and controlling spending that they had spent three generations earning. On Katrina, controlling the border and Iraq, Republicans gave up the advantage as the party of management that could get things done -- an advantage they had held since the 1950s.

And here's the key: The elite media, liberal Democrats and establishment Republicans will do everything they can to portray this election as a repudiation of conservatism. Their game plan is to panic Republicans into selling out their grassroots base and adopting a series of really bad ideas which will -- in their words -- "salvage" the Bush Administration. In fact, such a strategy would be an absolute disaster for the Republican Party, guaranteeing a division within the Republican ranks by sparking a revolt by the conservatives.

The last time Republicans had an electoral disaster (and make no mistake, that is what 2006 was -- in the Senate, the House, the governorships and state legislatures), California Gov. Ronald Reagan had some straightforward advice for the Republican Party. In 1975, he came to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) and said: "Our people look for a cause to believe in. Is it a third party we need, or is it a new and revitalized second party, raising a banner of no pale pastels, but bold colors, which make it unmistakably clear where we stand on all of the issues troubling the people?" Again and again, Reagan would come back to this theme of bold clarity. In his impromptu speech at the 1976 Republican National Convention, Gov. Reagan again said: "There are cynics who say that a party platform is something that no one bothers to read and it doesn't very often amount to much. "Whether it is different this time than it has ever been before, I believe the Republican Party has a platform that is a banner of bold, unmistakable colors, with no pastel shades." We have just heard a call to arms based on that platform, and a call to us to really be successful in communicating and reveal to the American people the difference between this platform and the platform of the opposing party, which is nothing but a revamp and a reissue and a running of a late, late show of the thing that we have been hearing from them for the last 40 years."

The Problem Has Not Been With Conservatism or Our Voters

For the next four years, Gov. Reagan would continue to be bold, clear and decisive. In 1980, he won a landslide election for the presidency and brought with him a Republican Senate and a 33-seat increase in House Republican numbers. Today, some Republican leaders will advocate that we steer a different course. They will insist that we find a way to be appealing to Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid. They will be wrong. We should appeal to the Blue Dog Democrats who claim to be conservative. We should appeal to their voters and their supporters back home. Even more, we should appeal to the majority of the American people by returning the Republican Party, once again, to the party of reform, ideas, solutions and common-sense conservatism.

Make Your Voice Heard Today

The federal government must do more to develop a logical energy policy that effectively alleviates high consumer energy prices and reduces our reliance on imported oil. Consumers, industry and businesses throughout the nation are struggling with rising energy prices, tighter supplies and increased reliance on imports from politically unstable areas.

Time is rapidly running out for you to weigh in on this critical issue.

We should rebuild the grassroots conservative movement. From the Reagan Revolution of 1980 through the Contract with America in 1994, it was this movement from outside Washington that carried us to the first center-right majority governing coalition in more than 60 years.

The problem has not been with conservatism or with our voters.

The problem has been with Republican leaders who forgot who elected them and what values their supporters expected to see implemented in Washington. Over the next few weeks, I will report to you directly and clearly about the proposals that are coming forth and the strategies that are being recommended. I will be your eyes and your ears in this time of profound challenge and opportunity for our movement and, as always, I will not be afraid to speak out. In the meantime, I hope you will let your congressman and your senators know where you stand on these vital concerns. This was not a realigning election as 1994 was. Voters did not vote "for" the Democrats but "against" Republicans. Now, it will be up to us to see that the results of the 2006 election serve as a temporary but necessary corrective interruption in our goal of getting to a conservative governing majority. Take heart, while there is much to be done, I believe if we are focused, disciplined and we work together, we will Win the Future for America.

Blame Game --Victor Davis Hanson, Hoover Institution, *National Review Online*

What is written about Iraq now is exclusively acrimonious. The narrative is never how many terrorists we have killed, how many Iraqis have been given a chance for something different than the old nightmare, or how a consensual government has withstood enemies on nearly every front. Long forgotten is the inspired campaign that removed a vicious dictator in three weeks. Nor is much credit given to the idealistic efforts to foster democracy rather than just ignoring the chaos that follows war--as we did after the Soviets were defeated in Afghanistan, or following our precipitous departure from Lebanon and Somalia.

Iraq is seen only in the hindsight of who did what wrong and when. All the great good we accomplished [is] drowned out by the present violent insurgency and the sensationalized effort to turn the mayhem into an American Antietam or Yalu River. Blame is never allotted to al Qaeda, the Sadr thugs, or the ex-Baathists, only to the U.S., who should have, could have, or would have done better in stopping them, had its leadership read a particular article, fired a certain person, listened to an exceptional general, or studied a key position paper.

Robert Novak November 15,2006

All eyes are on Sen. **Joseph Lieberman** (D-Conn.). Nobody takes him seriously when hints he is considering whether to join the Republican caucus. He is only teasing Democrats, since he would flip over control of the Senate if he switched. The real question is how cooperative he will become on key issues such as Social Security. Republicans are about to test him.

RNC Chairman: Sen. **Mel Martinez** (R-Fla.) will take over for **Ken Mehlman** in January as chairman of the Republican National Committee. This represents a departure from both parties' recent modes of operation. In the last few years, both parties have avoided putting sitting office-holders in as chairmen. Martinez will be aided by **Mike Duncan**, a Kentucky Republican political leader who will run the committee's day-to-day operations. Martinez is a strong fundraiser with ties to trial-lawyer money and an attractive, relatively conservative Hispanic face whose home base is one of the most politically important political states. Republicans suffered badly with the Hispanic vote in the 2006 congressional vote (taking just 30 percent) after performing relatively well in 2004 (with 44 percent), and they would like to reverse that trend.

President 2008

Election 2006 produced both winners and losers in the 2008 presidential field.

Winners

John McCain: Naturally, McCain's willingness to stump for Republican candidates -- even those with whom he strongly disagrees on key issues -- will stand him in good stead as he works the field. He was able to make up for the "kiss of death" that his endorsement represented in many Republican primaries across the U.S. But even more importantly, the disastrous result in Michigan means that his allies may get the upper hand in the state party from a faction more sympathetic to Massachusetts Gov. **Mitt Romney** (R). His ally, Sen. **Mel Martinez** (R-Fla.), is the new RNC Chairman.

Hillary Clinton: She was easily re-elected, she has \$14 million in the bank already and she's everyone's frontrunner on the Democratic side. Her challenge from the left appears to have thinned out with the exit of Sen. **Russ Feingold** (D-Wis.) from the Democratic contest. Her challenge from her right has been diminished with the exit of former Virginia Gov. **Mark Warner** (D).

Brian Schweitzer: It's a bit of a stretch, but this little-known governor of Montana may be a Democratic dark horse. Thanks to a massively corrupt state GOP, Schweitzer came back from a close loss in 2000 to Sen. Burns to win the governor's race, install narrow Democratic majorities in both the state House and the state Senate and to elect **Jon Tester** to the U.S. Senate over Burns. He is just a first-term governor, but now that there is a vacuum to Hillary's right, he would be a fool not to look at a run at President or at least Vice President.

Barack Obama: He showed up when Rep. **Ben Cardin** (D-Md.) needed him in his Senate race, and an email from him was all it took to raise enough money for the campaign of Sen. **Robert Byrd** (D-W.Va.). He gave away \$500,000 this cycle to Democratic politicians, which adds some real substance to his hyped-up media image. As long as nothing too embarrassing comes out of a land deal he made with a corrupt Chicago fundraiser, he will continue to be the media star he has been since the 2004 convention.

Tim Pawlenty: The Republican governor of Minnesota survived the Democratic high tide against a serious and well-funded opponent. He is a McCain ally, but a conservative, a winner in a blue-purple state, and a Midwesterner. That is a winning formula for future Republican presidential candidates. The GOP convention just happens to be scheduled for his town in 2008. Like all other conservatives, he benefits from the defeat of Sen. **George Allen** (R-Va.), which narrows the competition for the conservative vote. Even if he's not ready for the big game yet, he's vice-presidential material. If McCain bows out of the race, he could get backing from him and from many conservatives as well.

Losers

Mitt Romney: Republicans were creamed throughout the Northeast, and his governor's mansion was handily lost to the Democrats for the first time since **Michael Dukakis** (D) inhabited it. But Romney's toughest blows came in Iowa and Michigan, where the candidates (outgoing Rep. **Jim Nussle** in Iowa) and party leaders (State Republican Chairman **Saul Anuzis** in Michigan) in whom he invested either lost big or presided over losses.

John Kerry: His ill-considered last-minute remarks on education and the military did not cost Democrats the election, but they did upset a great number of military people and many Democrats who wish he would shut up and go away. Kerry stoked the flames of the culture war at just the wrong time, and Democrats won't forget it. Ideally, Kerry would be just now emerging as a statesman after spending time as a late-night joke line. Unfortunately, Kerry has just now gone back to late-night joke line.

Immigration Hawks: Rep. **Tom Tancredo** (R-Colo.) is out of the running for President anyway, but his immigration issue turned out to be a total non-starter. A single-minded fixation on the issue, at the expense of everything else, probably cost Rep. **J.D. Hayworth** (R-Ariz.) his seat. Immigration hawks tell themselves the lie that Hayworth's opponent, state Sen. **Harry Mitchell** (D), was also a border hawk, but he supported the McCain-Kennedy immigration reform bill. If immigration was ever going to win an election, this would have been it. It doesn't appear to have meant anything anywhere else, either. That doesn't mean that immigration is a loser for border-hawks -- it's just a dud.

November 15, 2006 Newt Gingrich

Open Memorandum to House Republicans

RE: Reflections on being back in the minority and how to become a governing majority.

As we think about the 2006 election and where House Republicans go from here, I want to suggest a few principles and actions that might be helpful. When I was first elected in 1978, House Republicans had been in the minority for 24 years. Despite our best efforts to win enough seats to gain the majority, it took us 16 more years. If we do not want to return to a possible 40 years in the minority, it is essential that we spend time now thinking about the lessons of 2006 and what has to be done. If we do this, we can accept 2006 as a corrective but necessary interruption in our pursuit of a governing majoritarian party. In 1946 and 1952, the Democrats found themselves in the minority. On both occasions it only lasted two years. They found the methods to recover, even though in the second case they were operating under a very popular Republican President Eisenhower.

When the Republicans lost their brief majority status in 1954, they could not recover it two years later, despite the fact that Eisenhower was winning a massive re-election. Similarly, they could not regain the majority even in the landslides of 1972 and 1984.

There are some key questions and key principles to keep in mind as we work through the process of earning back the majority.

1. Republicans lost the 2006 election. Do not hide from this. Do not shrug it off. Our team lost. Why did we lose? What do we have to do differently?
2. Are House Republicans electing a leadership team to be an effective minority or a leadership team to regain the majority? These are very different roles and require very different considerations, very different strategies and very different leaders.
3. To regain majority status, we have to focus on the country first and on Washington and the Congress second. If we are responsive to the country, they will support us and return us to power. If we are focused on action in Washington (whether White House action, legislative action or lobbyist and PAC action), we are probably entering a long period in minority status.
4. Are House Republicans electing leaders to represent House Republican values and strategies to the White House or leaders to represent the White House to House Republicans? Over the next two years, House Republicans and the White House will have very different institutional interests and very different time horizons. If we want to regain majority status, we have to focus on the building of a grassroots coalition which supports real change in Washington.
5. From a House Republican standpoint, the center of gravity should be the 54 Blue Dog Democrats. If we and the Blue Dogs can find a handful of key things to work on together, we can almost certainly create a majority on the floor just as the Reagan Republicans and conservative Democrats did in 1981. Bipartisanship can be conservative and back bench rather than liberal and establishment leadership defined. What did the Blue Dogs promise to get elected? What was the nature of their coalition back home? They give us the best opportunity to create grassroots efforts to pass solid legislation. Remember, the liberals will find it very hard to write a budget acceptable to the grassroots that elected the Blue Dogs. We have real opportunities if we are creative.
6. House Republicans should establish new principles for appointing people to the Appropriations Committee. Nothing infuriated the Republican base more than the continued process of earmarks, set asides and incumbent-protection pork. There is no reason for the House Republican conference to reappoint a single appropriator unless they agree to be part of the Republican team. First establish the principles of representing Republican values on appropriations and then ask each appropriator to commit themselves to living by those principles or accept appointment to another committee. There is a legitimate role for set asides in the legislative-executive branch process, but there is no reason to give the executive branch a blank check. There has to be some limits, and those limits should be set by the Conference and not by the committee members.
7. All of this will take time. As rapidly as possible there should be a three-day member-only retreat to discuss issues like this and to set strategies for the next two years. These kinds of decisions should be a key part of thinking through who should lead House Republicans for the next Congress and how they should lead.

One Last Note

Do not underestimate Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi and her team. She and Rahm Emmanuel finally put together a disciplined recruiting system that allowed a lot of Democrats to run as conservatives, even while they were planning to elect the most liberal Speaker in history. Pelosi is a tough, smart, disciplined professional. She is not going to be easy to beat, and she and her team are going to work hard to keep you in the minority for a decade or more.

This is going to be hard work and will require a lot of dedication and a lot of thought.

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