

On the Fence

Why I vote Democrat

Lois Barry — Why I vote Democrat

I have, with one exception, always voted Democrat, primarily because Democrats, as I see it, are usually for policies or programs, offering solutions to national or international problems. Republicans seem to be against programs and solutions needed by communities or the country as a whole.

The Republican rationale for cutting or eliminating programs for the needy, the ill, the elderly (“entitlements”) is usually “fiscal responsibility.” Under the current administration, fiscal responsibility has been replaced by unfettered military spending and irrationally generous tax cuts to corporations and the nation’s wealthiest citizens.

During the Obama administration, the Republican-controlled Congress became the unabashed “Party of No” to every progressive Democratic program: No to affordable health care, no to a livable minimum wage, no to comprehensive immigration reform, no to bipartisan cooperation, no to essential efforts to control climate change.

As an environmentalist and a Democrat, I support laws and regulations that work to guarantee clean air and clean water and control carbon emissions in the environment our grandchildren will inherit. How can a loving grandparent vote for a party that is working to reverse pollution controls and denies the need to address climate change immediately?

No political party is perfect. That’s why national campaigns, even within the party, can be so abrasive.

Unfortunately, the politics of the past two years have suffered a tectonic shift away from the standard Democratic/Republican philosophical positions arguing big government vs. local control. Much to the despair of many conscientious Republicans, the current administration apparently has also said no to integrity, credibility, diplomacy and compassion. I regret the congressional abandonment of bipartisan cooperation.

Debate on important issues formed our Constitution. Continuing open debate on many compelling challenges is essential, and Democrats will continue to propose programs to “level the play-

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DEMOCRATS

ing field.”

We will accommodate and encourage diversity and welcome immigrants because our nation’s strength was built on the abilities and efforts of people who came to this country to flee oppression and find a better life.

Democrats created Affirmative Action to help those whose ancestors came to this country as slaves or who grew up with limited financial or family support.

Democrats see government as the safety net for people who need help. If the Republican mantra is individual success and capitalism, I like to think the Democratic mantra is community cooperation and compassion.

Cheryl Simpson — Why I vote Democrat

This is a timely topic as we all have the opportunity to exercise our civic responsibility to cast our vote in the Nov. 6 election. I choose to vote for people with whom I share values, hopes and aspirations.

Over more than 50 years of voting at the local, state and national level, my vote has been cast for Democrats.

Of the two mainline parties in the United States, the Democrats are striving for the kind of world I want to live in. One where neighbors are neighborly; government addresses the needs of all people, not just the wealthy; people are treated with respect and receive the health care they need when they need it; and the environment is protected. This year, 2018, I am delighted to state that the Democratic Party of Oregon has selected health care as its top priority.

The DPO Platform (Article 2: Healthcare, Basic Human Needs, and Human Rights) states that “Oregon Democrats affirm the rights of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe all people have an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We believe in the freedom and equality of every individual. We believe in a strong social safety net and basic health care as a human right.”

Why I vote Republican

What matters most to you? We are in the midst of a defining battle this election season, and despite geography and demographics, make no mistake, your vote matters.

Your most dearly held values and opinions have impact only if you exercise your right to vote. But with so many loud, and often angry, voices, how do we know who and what to vote for? I posit that your best hope for preserving your values is to vote Republican, even if your opinions differ. Here is why I vote Republican:

At our nation’s inception, and in bold and courageous strokes, our Founding Fathers declared we possess “unalienable” rights of “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” The party founded by Abraham Lincoln is still your best ally in preserving these vital and God-given rights.

LIFE. The Republican Party values and cherishes human life — from before birth to its last breaths.

We believe the limited exercise of government should act in a manner that protects life, and the best way to enhance the quality of life is to maximize individual liberty.

LIBERTY. Individual liberty is supported by the twin pillars of personal responsibility and limited government.

The Republican Party believes that individuals, families, businesses and communities thrive best when interfered with least.

We believe we as a whole benefit most when in the innovation of the human spirit is unleashed, and not stifled by even well-intentioned government interference. We believe the person who is most qualified to know what is best for you is you.

We believe your right to defend yourself



LAURA ECKSTEIN
UNION COUNTY REPUBLICANS

and your family must never be infringed, and that your right to speak your mind (even when unpopular) and practice your religion are never to be compromised.

Make no mistake — the government is not your friend. Even the lofty goals stated by big government enthusiasts suffer the fatal flaw in believing it is the government that can achieve those goals.

Indeed, government governs only by coercion, which, opposite of lifting the human condition, can ultimately only limit it. While government is necessary in several defined functions, the government that governs best is that which governs least.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. The Republican Party believes each person best defines what happiness means for them, and the best means of pursuing that is to ensure individuals and families are secure and thriving. Individuals must be allowed to exercise their own personal security, and the nation must ensure a strong national defense, both abroad and at our own borders.

Personal and national security also leads to a thriving economy, which benefits society at all levels. In turn, a thriving and prosperous nation can best lead the world toward even greater security and prosperity.

Don’t neuter your voice by failing to return your ballot. Make sure your values and opinions are reflected in the final tally. When you vote, vote Republican. And urge your family, friends, and neighbors to do the same.

Write to us

LETTERSTOTHE EDITOR

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must be signed and carry the author’s address and phone number (for verification purposes only).

We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We will not publish poetry, consumer complaints against businesses or personal attacks against private individuals. Thank-you letters are discouraged.

Letter writers are limited to one letter every two weeks.

Email your letters to news@lagrandeobserver.com or mail them to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850.

Your reactions to On the Fence

Parsons: I will continue to vote Republican

In response to the recent On the Fence outlining the Democratic Party of Oregon’s 2018 platform, I want to explain why I will continue to support the Republican Party.

I want to feel safe in my country. I want my government to protect my family and neighbors from harm. I want to live in an economy where we each put out work effort so we can pay for our needs and debts. As a retiree and now a snowbird I want to wander around this country with confidence of safety.

When the Democrats talk of getting rid of ICE, having sanctuary cities and even whole sanctuary states I feel extremely threatened. I don’t understand why anyone would want to encourage illegal aliens who have been arrested to be turned loose; they will likely to do more harm.

It only seems reasonable that a border fence will be just one of many ways to slow down the intrusion of those who will harm us. Republicans want to keep me safe while the Democrats want open borders and the release of criminals that shouldn’t be here to start with.

Not one Democrat voted for the federal tax cut legislation. Passage has led to only positive results for everyone. A good friend who is an Independent said to me, “Big businesses will just take money saved by the lower business tax and spend it on themselves.” Reports of increased salaries and shared larger profits with the workers are proof that this was not the result.

I don’t think anybody has to love President Trump — but just look at the changes made under his administration: lowest unemployment in years, stock market breaking record highs, our foreign

allies agreeing to major business deals, and allies paying their fair share of their own protection, which we have previously provided for decades.

One may object to how President Trump says things, but I surely like knowing he has my beliefs for America his number one goal.

I don’t have to prove to you anything I have said. All anyone has to do is go to the websites of elected officials and see how they envision your future.

I have looked at the websites of our Democratic representatives and senators. I see nothing on

budget, law enforcement, border security, reasonable DACA legislation, etc.

The Democratic Leadership is about stalling and delaying. An example is the slowdown of judicial appointments, which is detrimental; it slows down justice and that affects all of us. Do we want a government that is succeeding or a government that will lead to failure of the current progress? Read and listen for truth, think for yourself and vote accordingly.

*Ken Parsons
La Grande*

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THE OBSERVER

An independent newspaper founded in 1896
(USPS 299-260)

The Observer reserves the right to adjust subscription rates by giving prepaid and mail subscribers 30 days notice. Periodicals postage paid at La Grande, Oregon 97850. Published Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (except Dec. 25) by Western Communications Inc., 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, OR 97850 (USPS 299-260)

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POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
The Observer, 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, OR 97850
Periodicals postage paid at La Grande, Oregon 97850

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