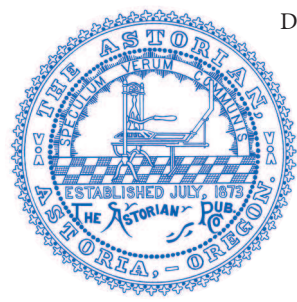


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OUR VIEW

Give each other benefit of doubt

Maybe because we're used to depending on one another here on the wild outer edge of America, we bring a more humane and pragmatic sensibility to our politics.

We rely on each other to saw through fallen trees and get the lights on after winter storms. We are bound to meet each other in our small number of grocery stores and favorite restaurants.

We have a mutual affection for that most competent and self-facing of federal agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard. We attend the weddings and funerals, church bazaars and chili feeds of local people without caring who they voted for.

We speak to one another at summer markets, at football games, in the letters section of the newspaper. Our hearts swell with pride at the thought of all who preceded us here — from a mighty Indian civilization, to Lewis and Clark, to the loggers and fishermen and undaunted women of many nations who came together here to create the neighborhoods we cherish today.

In short, we build and nurture communities — diverse in our opinions but united by a shared belief in one another.

The importance to us of what happens beyond the confines of this spectacular coastline fades more and more with each mountain and valley of the Coast Range, Cascades and Rockies. Sure, things like federal taxes and rules have an influence on our lives. But feeling oppressed — or at least peeved — by the high-handed dictates of the mighty is part and parcel of being human.

It was so in Mary and Joseph's time more than 2,000 years ago and it is no less true today. Even in our modern democracy, it is foolish for ordinary people to fight with each other over such matters that are truthfully beyond our control.

We have far more in common with even the weirdest resident of this coastline than with any politician from east of the Mississippi — or maybe even east of the Snake. The people we see on TV from 3,000 miles away will never scan our horizon searching for a child missing in the surf. They will never say "thank you" to a tired sheriff's deputy for rescuing a hunter lost in our deep woods. They will never set aside petty disagreements to cheer as a local boy or girl makes a great layup or makes the right choices during the perilous path to adulthood.

All that is fundamentally good about our lives comes from here, not from the outside.

We imagine a better future for our children and grandchildren, one in which they can create their lives as we have, working at something they enjoy, hopefully making enough money to be free from want and worry. Many are still too far away from this dream, left cobbling together a living from week to week, hoping for a decent crab season or an honorable part-time or seasonal job after the current one runs its course. Too many struggle to find affordable housing, and are left wondering how they might ever buy a place of their own. Healthcare still is too uncertain, with amazing medical advances out of reach for many because they can't obtain or keep adequate insurance.

How plausible is it that any of this will be fixed by a politician in Washington, D.C.? No matter what, the glory days of old industries will not return. One machine can do the work of 20 loggers a team of oxen, or of 50 union steelworkers or coal miners. An industrialized river and ailing ocean won't support anything like the legendary salmon runs of old.

In these and other ways, the facts inform us that if we want more good-paying jobs, we ourselves need to establish the conditions for them by investing in education, by making our towns more enticing, by crafting local regulations and support structures that aid high-quality businesses.

We can and must continue making our communities inviting to all good people of every faith, race and sexual preference. This coast was one of the first outposts for Pacific Rim commerce and interplay. Our openness and inclusivity have germinated a culture rich in the arts, culinary masterworks, splendid and welcoming accommodations. Modern immigrants demonized by ignorant fools elsewhere in the nation are part of the bedrock of this coast. We must continue to stand with them as vital friends in this wonderful experiment called the United States of America.

A quick look at Facebook or any national news media will find countless assertions that our country is broken, or wrecked, or doomed by the choices made in last week's election, and by the social divisions that led to a surprising choice for president.

Disappointment is understandable after any election, especially one so hard fought. But despair is ridiculous — an insult to the brains, bones, muscles and sinews of our ancestors. We simply don't yet know how the next president will work out. And even a casual study of history suggests that few are either so bad or good as to be remembered very long after they exit the national stage.

The blood of all those who created this nation courses through us still. It's up to us to make certain it survives. This certainly means standing in opposition to tyranny, bigotry and stupidity. But it also means giving each other the benefit of the doubt.

Let us continue depending on one another, speaking to one another and trusting one another in this spectacular part of a wonderful country.

Always forward.



How new Republican majority can succeed

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump won fair and square and, as Hillary Clinton said in her concession speech, is owed an open mind and a chance to lead. It is therefore incumbent upon conservatives (like me) who have been highly critical of Trump to think through how to make a success of the coming years of Republican rule.

It begins by recognizing Trump's remarkable political instincts. As Paul Ryan braced in his morning-after olive-branch news conference, Trump heard "a voice out in this country that no one else heard." Trump spoke to and for a working class squeezed and ruined by rapid technological and economic transformation.

One of the principal tasks for the now-dominant GOP is to craft a governing agenda that actually alters their lives and prospects. In the end, it was this constituency of those left behind by the new globalized digital economy that delivered the presidency to Trump.

Obamaism

Nonetheless, this election was not just about the social/economic divide. It was also about the ideological divide between left and right. The most overlooked factor in the election is the continuing deep and widespread dissatisfaction with Obamaism.

It tends to be overlooked because President Obama remains personally popular (56 percent in the latest Gallup). As a charismatic campaigner, whenever his name is on the ballot, he wins. But when it's not — 2010, 2014, now 2016 — the Democrats get shellacked.

The reason is no mystery. The problem was never with Obama himself, but with his policies. Before each of those losing elections Obama would campaign saying that his

name wasn't on the ballot but his policies — and now his legacy — were. The voters made clear what they thought of his policies and legacy.

Simply put, from the beginning of his presidency, Obama overreached ideologically, most spectacularly with his signature legislative achievement — Obamacare. The spike in Obamacare premiums and deductibles just two weeks before Tuesday's election proved a particularly damaging reminder of what Obamaism had wrought.

The key to success for a Trump presidency is for the Reaganite and populist elements in the party to be willing to advance each other's goals.

Hence the other principal task for the now dominant GOP: Undo Obamaism. Begin with canceling Obama's executive orders on everything from immigration to climate change. Then overturn his more elaborate legislative adventures into overweening liberalism, starting, of course, with Obamacare.

The promise of a Trump presidency is that, if it can successfully work with a Republican Congress, it could turn Obamaism into a historical parenthesis. Republicans would then have a chance to enact the Reaganite agenda that has been incubating while in exile from the White House.

For years Washington gridlock has been attributed to GOP obstructionism. On the contrary, serious legislation, such as Medicare reform passed by the GOP House, was either strangled in the Senate by Demo-

cratic leader Harry Reid or died by veto on President Obama's desk.

Prospect of doing

Beyond the undoing, there's now the prospect of doing. Serious border enforcement, including a wall, for example. That's not only a good in itself, it would offer leverage in a grand bargain that would include eventual legalization of resident illegal immigrants, an idea supported (according to the exit polls) by more than seven in 10 voters.

Another given is a reshaping of the currently rudderless Supreme Court with the nomination of a conservative justice to replace the late Antonin Scalia.

During the campaign, Trump's populism often clashed with traditional Reaganism. The key to GOP success is to try to achieve an accommodation, if not a fusion. Two agendas: one ideological, one socio-economic. They both need to be addressed. Onto the Reaganite core of smaller government and strict constitutionalism must be added a serious concern for the grievances of the constituency that animated the Trump insurgency, the long-suffering, long-neglected working class.

If Reaganite conservatives want to head off wrongheaded solutions — such as massive tariffs, mercantilist economics and trade wars — they must be prepared to accept such measures as federal wage subsidies and targeted restraints on trade. This involves giving up a measure of economic efficiency. But the purpose is to achieve a measure of social peace and restore dignity and security to a stressed and sliding working class. Some might even call it compassionate conservatism.

The key to success for a Trump presidency is for the Reaganite and populist elements in the party to be willing to advance each other's goals even at the cost of ideological purity. This will require far-reaching negotiations between a Trump White House and a GOP Congress. The Republicans have gained control of all the political branches. They have the means to deliver. They now have to show that they can.

In Arizona, a cautionary tale for Trump

By TIMOTHY EGAN

New York Times News Service

He was Donald Trump before Trump — his political godfather. The racial profiling, the authoritarian streak, the robust defense of easily refutable lies — all are part of the repertoire of Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona.



On Tuesday, the man who was emblematic — at least in the Southwest — of Trump's attempt to hold back the demographic tide of the new America was resoundingly defeated. It was a vote for decency, for common sense, and no small amount of revenge from many of the victims of his strong-arm policies.

After six terms as the chief lawyer of the most populous county in Arizona, Arpaio was defeated by a former Phoenix police officer, Paul Penzone, a Democrat.

"There's a new sheriff in town," Penzone said. You could say that

time, and federal law, finally caught up with the 84-year-old sheriff. He's been under court order to stop targeting Latinos. Last month, federal prosecutors charged him with criminal contempt for allegedly defying that court order.

Finally tossed

None of that seemed to bother Arpaio's white supporters. But enough of them were disgusted with his war on immigrants and others that Arpaio was finally tossed. Even as Trump basks in his stunning triumph, the vote in Republican Arizona offers a look at what could happen to his forces down the road.

Arpaio was the sheriff who set up checkpoints and raids to nab people who looked or sounded Hispanic. Many were citizens. He kept prisoners in a tent city at hellish high temperatures, gave them pink underwear, and laughed at their discomfort.

A passionate, grassroots campaign led by a group called Bazta Arpaio — Enough Arpaio — helped to oust him. They registered many

first-time voters, staged music festivals and plastered "Vote Against Hate" signs all over the sprawling desert megalopolis of Maricopa County. One memorable parade featured a giant inflatable replica of the sheriff — handcuffed, in jail pinstripes.

Like Trump, Arpaio relied on the hothouse of cable news studios to flourish. Early on, he seized on the birther fantasy, sending people to Hawaii in search of phantom evidence that President Barack Obama was not an American-born citizen. Even after the president released his long-form birth certificate, Arpaio insinuated that the document was most likely "a fraud."

Many of his constituents wondered what that particular investigation had to do with enforcing the law in Arizona. Arpaio's high-handed histrionics and court battles cost taxpayers almost \$50 million, while the sheriff's office was neglecting things like child sex crimes.

After nearly a quarter century in office, he could no longer hold back the future.