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New Majority Interview

What makes you a Republican? (values, beliefs, style of governance) ... *I have been a Republican since I registered to vote at age 18 except for a time when I registered as an independent to run with Sonny Landham as his Lt. Governor in Kentucky's 2003 gubernatorial race. We began the race in the GOP primary, but changed when it became apparent that the Republican Party of Kentucky was supporting one of our opponents.*

I once believed that the Republican Party best represented the philosophy and principles of our founding fathers; but, like many, I have become disgusted by the Party's sacrificing these beliefs and principles just to "get Republicans elected." I believe that Republicans can get elected and dominate future elections if they simply were to run on the principles of (1) putting the people first; (2) individual liberty and economic freedom; and (3) living up to the Constitution of the United States.

I believe that our country is in the midst of a decades-long transformation to socialism/communism (communism is socialism with one-party rule) brought about by socialists/communists who have taken over the Democratic Party. I see the Republican Party as being the only political power standing between us and communism. I am running for the U.S. Senate seat from Kentucky as a Republican because I want to strengthen the Republican Party (and protect our freedom) by trying to position it as the "Party of the People" and the "Party of Freedom."

To accomplish this, I am trying to establish the Jefferson Republican faction within the Republican Party. A Jefferson Republican will (1) put the people first, ahead of self and party; (2) stand up for individual liberty and economic freedom; and (3) live up to the Constitution of the United States. This faction will unite the ideals of Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan within the Republican Party. JFK revered Thomas Jefferson, as do many Democrats, and Ronald Reagan was a Kennedy Democrat before he switched to the Republican Party. The Jefferson Republican faction will make the GOP an appealing home for conservative Democrats who are tired of having to deal with the Marxist-socialist liberals in the Democratic Party to win their primary elections.

I announced my intention to establish this faction in my February 23, 2009 press conference and have formally launched the effort with an ad placed on the op-ed page of the Washington Times on Tuesday, October 6, 2009. The ad was an open invitation to Blue Dog Democrats to become Jefferson Republicans. If 40 were to switch, then Republicans would control the House. You can see this ad on my Web site, www.rogerthoney.com under Press Releases.

Which issues are most important to the Republican Party right now? ... *I cannot speak to the issues that are important to the Republican Party; but the issues that are important to many registered Democrats and independents are jobs, the cost of living, the cost of health care and health insurance premiums, the cost of gasoline, and taxes. To others, the federal deficit, government spending, immigration, gun control legislation, abortion, and the continual encroachment upon our freedom by the federal government are important issues. In*

a nutshell, people want more and/or better jobs, a lower cost of living (including taxes), and for politicians and lawyers to stop making matters worse. I also believe that "restoring liberty" will emerge as an issue from the Tea Party movement.

I believe that the most important thing for the Republican Party to do is to establish itself as the "Party of the People" and the "Party of Freedom," although few may agree with me on this. The Democrats have abandoned their Jeffersonian roots, their concern for the "little guy," for power, control, and domination. Their lust for power has opened the door for Republicans to win a significant portion of their current support base. The stage is set for a massive political shift to take place; and I hope to help make that shift happen to the benefit of the Republican Party.

Who are the leaders of the national Republican Party? ... *While the GOP may have people in leadership positions and others with prominent personalities, I do not see any leaders within the Party. No one has shown me that he/she has a good vision for the future of our country or for the Republican Party. Those in positions of leadership within the GOP and other prominent Republicans only have shown me different ways to get themselves, or other Republicans, elected or re-elected. To me, this narrow focus on "winning elections" explains why the Republican Party just seems to meander along and not be able to establish a long-term dominance.*

A leadership void exists not only within the Republican Party, but also within the Democratic Party. With the Democratic Party being dominated by Marxist-socialists/communists and abandoning their Jeffersonian roots, the Republican Party has an opportunity to establish itself among a portion of the Democrats' current support base, including working men and women, the so-called "working poor," those living in poverty, and those without jobs. The Republican Party can become the "Party of the People" and establish the political dominance once held by the Democratic Party; and I hope to show them how to do this.

I also believe, despite what some may say, that the desire to live free and be responsible for oneself will triumph over the tyranny of government control and handouts. People yearn to be free and to further develop as human beings and do not want to live on handouts, despite what cynics may claim. There is nothing more personally rewarding than being able to meet challenges and overcome adversity. The Democratic Party has opted for power, control, and domination, leaving the door wide open for Republicans to be the "Party of Freedom."

The Jefferson Republican faction has the potential to unite within the Republican Party libertarians; those who have moved to the Constitution Party; Reagan Republicans; conservative Democrats; business owners, managers, and entrepreneurs; and those struggling to make ends meet. Individual liberty and economic freedom (economic opportunity) will result in a stronger bond of unity than race, sex, hatred, and greed (power-hungry unions and trial lawyers), putting the GOP in a position to dominate future elections.

How do Republicans in your state compare to Republicans in the rest of the country? ... *From the perspective of caring only about "getting elected or re-elected," Kentucky Republican elected officials and candidates are about the same as Republicans throughout the country. However, I believe that Kentucky Republicans tend to be more conservative than the rest of the country because the people of Kentucky, both Republicans and Democrats, are more conservative than in some other parts of the country. The seat of liberalism in Kentucky lies in Louisville with a smaller presence in Lexington. The rest of the state is pretty much conservative although heavily registered Democrat.*

How do you plan to win moderate and independent votes? ... *Not only do I plan to win independent votes, but also votes from registered Democrats. "Putting the people first" means promoting policies that will create more jobs and reduce the cost of living to help those who are struggling to make ends meet. This will promote robust economic growth, benefiting everyone (a rising tide lifts all boats). Stated another way, if we make the structural changes to our economy needed to help those who are struggling to make ends meet, then everyone else will benefit, too. I call this "trickle up" economics. Many registered Democrats will support a Republican candidate who they perceive is "putting the people first."*

Many of the independent voters with whom I have spoken are fed up with "party politics" and with what I call formula politicians. A formula politician is one who says the right things to raise money and get votes, but does little when elected except "vote the right way" to keep the money coming in for the next election. They are fed up with candidates who run negative ads instead of running on issues and proposing substantive solutions. They do not like politicians who dodge questions and spin answers. I believe that independents will vote for a candidate who stresses problem-solving solutions intended to ease the burden placed upon them by government taxation, regulation, and litigation. They, too, will respond to "putting the people first."

*The Hispanics whom I have met are hard-working, family-oriented people. I also have heard high praises of them from employers. I believe that they will support candidates that promote individual liberty and economic freedom over racism **if they are clearly presented with the choice backed by problem-solving-oriented, free-market-based solutions!** People come to the United States to improve their lives and that of their families. They will not vote to "kill the goose that is laying the golden eggs" for them **if they are clearly presented with the choice backed by problem-solving-oriented, free-market-based solutions!***

I do not understand the motivations of moderates; but I do know that if an activist were pitted against a moderate in a long-term conflict, the activist eventually will win. This applies to the incremental transformation of our country into a socialist/communist state as well as to the conversion of countries to Islamic states as in Iran. Activists of any stripe must be confronted or else they eventually will win.

I believe that moderates fear significant change and those who have confidence in their beliefs and that they likely will swing to the opposite side of such change or strongly-held beliefs. However, I also believe that they may be reluctant to oppose a candidate who is willing to "put the people ahead of self and party." They will have a tough decision to make; and I cannot predict how they will respond.

The strategy for success laid out here will draw support from libertarians, Constitutionalists, conservative Republicans and Democrats, working men and women, and those who are struggling to make ends meet. This is a substantial voting block in itself. Again, the choice to present to voters is "Do you want to vote for individual liberty and economic opportunity or for tyrannical government control backed by propaganda-fed racism, sexism, hatred, and greed?" I believe that individual liberty and economic opportunity will triumph if this choice is presented clearly.

Roger Thoney