

Local Politics Matter

What Does the Republican Party Stand For

Do They Even Know?

What does the republican party stand for? I believed them to be greedy, unpatriotic hypocrites, but they claimed to be something different, somehow superior to the rest of us. Regardless of their claims, I've always known them to be disingenuous. They spoke empty words, but managed to maintain a level of plausible deniability that left detractors looking like haters. Well along came Donald Trump. He forced them into the light, made them own up to their true selves. As a result, they dare not utter many of their favored words and phrases, it's like these words and phrases have suddenly disappeared from their vocabulary. So, what are these words and phrases?

The first one to go was patriotism. They used to scream this one from the roof tops, denouncing democrats and President Obama as being unpatriotic. Well, with the Russian investigation and the GOP's unwillingness to investigate Rus-

sia's interference in the 2016 election and its attempts to undermine our democracy, the word patriotism no longer passes the GOP's lips. They seem to know that they can no longer claim themselves to be patriots. Maybe they believe that by not using it, no one will notice how truly unpatriotic they are.

Over the years, they seized the moral high ground on all things social and cultural. They were the moral majority. I never saw them as such, but this has been their claim to fame. They preach a right to life and say they value all life from the point of conception. They believe in family values and the sanctity of marriage, one man, one woman. That's what they say, but in practice and in their policies, it's to hell with you once you're born. If you can't take care of yourself, to damn bad, you're on your own. Healthcare is a privilege, no LGBTQ rights, no social safety net and on and on. Their hypocrisy was exposed with



the election of Donald Trump and the nomination of Roy Moore. Trump bragged about sexually assaulting women, Judge Moore is a credibly accused child molester and most of the GOP stood firmly in support of them. So much for the GOP's stand on morality.

Then came the so-called tax reform and jobs bill. They drafted a law that would add to the deficit by somewhere between 500 billion and 1.45 trillion dollars. They can no longer call themselves deficit hawks or fiscal conservatives. They've ceased referring to themselves in this way. Oh

well, they are who I thought they were. No more pretense, no more lies. There's just one problem, now that they've thrown back the curtains, and shown themselves to be greedy, unpatriotic hypocrites, who will follow them into the abyss? I think that just like they've abandoned their once favored words and phrases, most of the electorate will abandon them and they'll go the way of the Whig party and disappear into the ether.

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