

Redlands Tea Party Patriots
Henry VanderLeest

California Republican Party votes to Divorce from Traditional Conservative Values

I am going to start this discussion by defining two things, One, this is not a discussion about how the CRP conducts its business. Although many delegates returned from the convention in Sacramento with report of inconsistencies in By-Law applications to introduce the group that is the crux of this discussion, I will allow the CRP to mind its own business, but continue to advocate that we all forcefully voice our positions in the appropriate venue.

Item Two, Conservative Values, are those having the following characteristics, among others:

Personal Freedom

We support policies that protect and defend personal freedom and individual rights, and the ability to pursue the American Dream without government intrusion. -We also support policies that will reclaim those freedoms and rights that have been eroded through intrusive policies of unaccountable politicians and Washington bureaucrats, many of whom answer to special interests and lobbyists rather than their electorate. We believe that our freedom is America's greatest strength, and that any policy or action that restricts or erodes that strength is detrimental to the potential and growth of our country.

Economic Freedom

Washington has made it very difficult for the average person to get ahead and it has been very poor stewards of our tax dollars. Many of its policies, no matter what the initial intent might have been, often end up restricting economic opportunities and job growth, the encumbrance of additional taxes and regulations are sure means to failure.

With lower taxes, individuals and families will have greater resources and opportunity. It is in keeping with the principles of the American Dream: Working hard and being rewarded; keeping more of what you earn, and using it as you believe is in your best interest without harming others.

Debt-Free Future

The current U.S. national debt is over \$18 trillion, which means that every single American citizen's share of the national debt is more than \$56,000. This year the federal government will borrow 40 cents of every dollar it spends. The yearly budget deficit now exceeds \$1 trillion while the national debt exceeds \$18 trillion. Washington has not meaningfully reduced spending, regardless of which political party has been in control. Instead, Washington's answer to these problems has been to simply ignore them by taking more of your money through taxation, raising the debt ceiling, and printing more money – instead of cutting back on the runaway spending and reducing the size of the government. This current path is unsustainable and must be reversed with policies that help us repair the damage and create a debt free future so that our children and grandchildren see greater opportunities ahead.

These are the Core Principals of the Tea Party Patriots stated in a very brief form.

There is another element that is not so often stated. That is the knowledge that our Country was based on the simply stated belief that our rights come directly from our Creator. That government was instituted to guard these rights. No matter what you call God, Creator, I Am, Jehovah, Supreme Creator, Heavenly Father, we can all acknowledge this belief was core to the establishment of our country. There is no ambiguity concerning the beliefs that this encompasses. Direct references to the 10 Commandments have guided our moral conduct in the public sector and private life, well, for as long as creation allows. One of these beliefs is that marriage is defined by god's word as the union of one man and one woman.

This brings me to the focus of this issue, the CRP voted to include a group Called the "Log Cabin Republicans" as representing the Party affairs. Now, including more "conservative" groups should be a goal, as long as that group espouses belief and performs deeds according to those beliefs. And perusing the website for this group appears to do so.

There is another side, and that is the side that the "LGBT" lobby has made apparent success in redefining marriage, at least as far as civil authorities are concerned. But God's word is immutable in this respect. If this were the end of the discussion, we might step away and hold our discourse, but this lobby is not satisfied with a simple definition. The proof, you have undoubtedly heard about

the grandmother in Oregon who was fined \$150,000.00 for failing to bake a cake with marriage related design for a gay couple or the photographer in Colorado who would not photograph a reception for a gay couple. These events are occurring on a daily basis, and the lobby is using the force of law to prohibit the “practice” of religious beliefs. In each of these events, there were no issue of service; there were many venues where the service could have been obtained with no additional effort on behalf of the consumers. The issue was that these “Christian Believers” were persecuted by the force of government for following their beliefs. So, the truth is if this continues in this course, Religious Practice will be prohibited by law in the United States of America, and that my friends, I cannot abide with.

So, we have arrived at an intersection in the course of our journey. As a Tea Party Patriot I will always strive for Liberty, as Equality is just another word for there is no hope for better. A probable outcome of this event is the Republican Party will adopt gay marriage as part of the platform. We will observe this as it unfolds to full bloom. It is my understanding that causes, applicants for our resources, money, time will have to exhibit the desire to pursue liberty in WORD and DEED. Failing that, we will seek qualified and electable candidates who represent our values.

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Cabinet Member Redlands Tea Party Patriots