

Inside the Bell

Choice?

Yesterday, Super Tuesday, primary voters seemed to settle the issue of who will be the Republican nominee for President. Barring unlikely cooperation between the also ran candidates, it appears the backroom managers of the Republican Party, those folks with the power to anoint a candidate but not the courage to run for office themselves, have overcome the conservative ground swell and will get what they wanted. The Republican nominee will be another moderate progressive from the same mold that lost the last Presidential election and contrary to the lessons of the 2010 Congressional election.

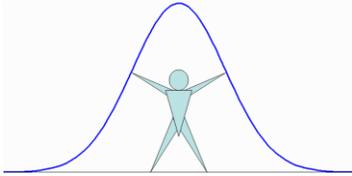
This November 6th, conservative voters will have two choices – Barack Obama or Barack Obama lite. The difference is how rapidly we want to dismantle the Constitution. For conservatives, November's Presidential election is an exercise in holding your nose, closing your eyes and voting for the least offensive choice.

Conservatives, if they are to survive the next four years with a progressive President, must now emphasize the importance of the elections for the House of Representatives and thirty-three Senators. No matter who wins the Presidential election, voters must insure the election of enough conservative Senators and Representatives to halt, or at least stall, the administration's progressive initiatives. For the next four years, the survival of the country as we have known it depends not on a do nothing Congress or a do nothing President, but on a do nothing Government. The way to do that is to insure the Senate and House oppose progressive initiatives, override Presidential authority and resist the not so subtle inducements to go along to get along.

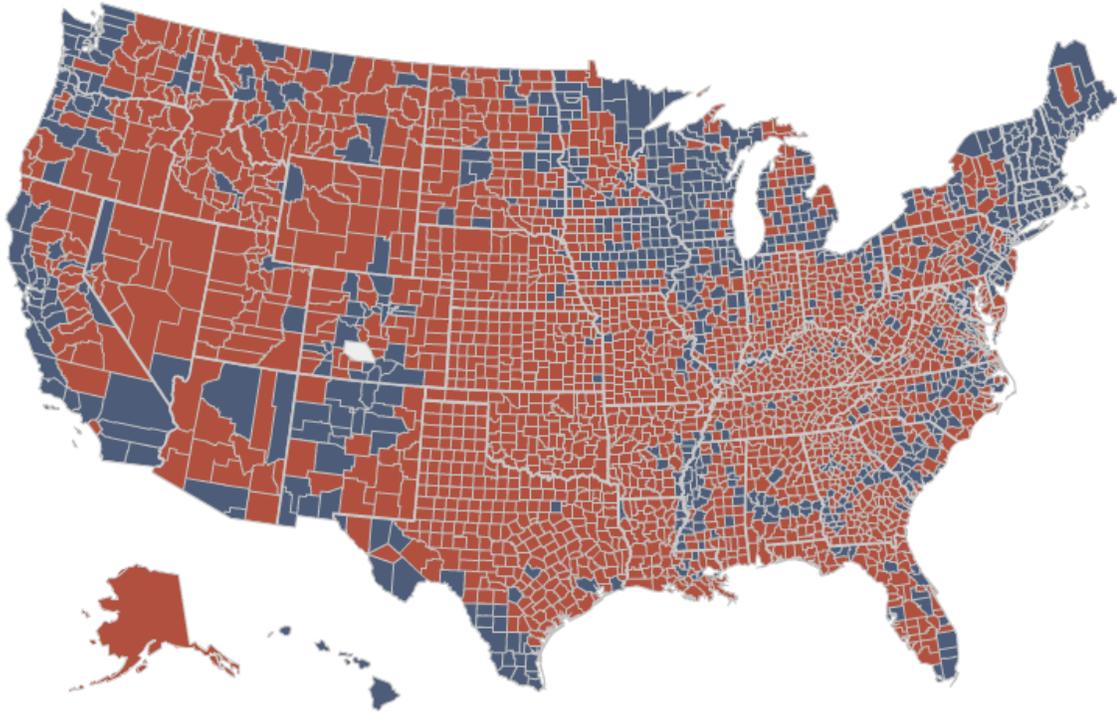
Study carefully the results of the 2010 Congressional elections. Conservative efforts led to the election of many conservative candidates. However, many were not committed enough to their conservative roots to sustain their promises and turned to the progressive agenda for personal benefit. Once elected, the focus shifted away from principle and toward being reelected.

Americans are, as a group, more conservative than liberal. Seventy-five percent of Americans refer to themselves as conservative or moderate (Gallup, June 2009), but we repeatedly elect a liberal government. This is likely attributable to voters who benefit from government programs having a greater incentive to vote than the rest of us.

The map below is from the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/interactives/campaign08/election/uscounties.html>) and shows the results of the 2008 Presidential election by county.



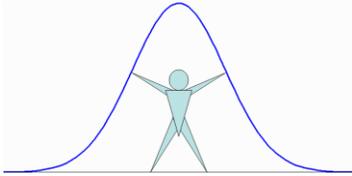
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While the Republicans clearly captured the majority of the country, the Democrats won the election. The voter turnout in those counties with the highest populations and most dependent on government services was high enough to carry an entire state. The winner take all nature of the Electoral College carried the election. Similar patterns are discernible in elections for the House of Representatives and Senate. Is it hard to believe that legislators gravitate toward policies that increase government services and increase their chances of reelection? Conservative candidates won election based on their idealism but many succumbed to the personal desire to be reelected.

Conservatives must not choose so carelessly again.

Republican or Democrat, if a candidate doesn't meet conservative values; consider voting for the other candidate. Remember, candidates will lie to be elected. Do the research, look behind the curtain. It's not as hard as it seems. You only have to vet two, or four, candidates. If your incumbent has been unreliable and unexpectedly liberal, or there appears to be little difference between the candidates, then consider voting for the challenger. You may not elect a better representative but you might send a message. If you continue to vote for the incumbent, you'll continue to get what you've always gotten. Congress has a 10% approval rating (cbsnews.com, 8 February 2012); lower than pornography, polygamy and the BP oil spill (Huffington Post, 16 November 2011) and **IT IS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE.**



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VOTE FOR THE OTHER GUY.

Russ

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