

# Skidaway Island Republican Club **MAGAZINE**

www.skidawayrepublicanclub.com

2016 ISSUE NO. 4

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## 2016 ISSUE 4 CONTENTS

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### **TRUE PERSPECTIVES SEMINAR - September 19 - Buddy Carter**

Our Representative in the U.S. Congress Buddy Carter briefed us on what's happening in Washington. See pages 2 and 3.

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### **FUTURE TRUE PERSPECTIVES SEMINAR - November 1**

Kim Strassel, noted Wall Street Journal columnist and WSJ Editorial Board member, will highlight her new book: *The Intimidation Game: How the Left is Silencing Free Speech*. A review of her book appeared on page 7 of the last issue of SIRC magazine.

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### **2016 ELECTION - SAMPLE BALLOT**

Pages 4 and 5 in this issue show the candidates on the ballot (some with no opponents) as well as four proposed state constitutional amendments and a special sales tax being proposed. The SIRC Board recommends the following votes:

**No on the Tax:** The SIRC Board voted not to support this 1% E-SPLOST, especially at this time since the first proposed amendment is for a state initiated Opportunity School District (OSD) to replace some failing schools with better functioning Charter Schools. The OSD has been supported by our two state elected officials Ben Watson and Jesse Petrea, as well as the Republican dominated state legislature. It is opposed by Democrats who cater to the teacher's union that abhors Charter Schools. However, our local state SCCPSS board member Shawn Kachmar, an SIRC member, is not a supporter. He believes it creates another state bureaucracy where these new schools have little initial control from local School Boards.

The other three proposed amendments, while not formally endorsed by the SIRC Board, the Board, after initial review, encouraged passing.

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### **OP EDs on The Current Political Scene**

Essays by current SIRC Board members appear on pages 6 through 11. These have either appeared in local papers or in broadcast emails or have been submitted for future publication.

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### **KEY FUTURE DATES**

November 1 - True Perspectives Seminar - Kim Strassel.  
November 8 - Election Day

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### **In this issue...**

Pgs 2,3 - Buddy Carter speech  
Pgs 4,5 - Sample Ballot

Pgs 6-11 - OP Eds on issues  
Pg 12 - SIRC Sustaining Members



### **A Conservative's View of Washington**

Back in his home county just before he returns to Congress for an intensive two weeks, First District U.S. Congressman Buddy Carter gave a packed audience of SIRC members and guests an inside look at what is happening in Washington.

He led off with the oft-quoted mantra of everyone in Congress running for reelection: you either run scared or you run unopposed (this year he is the latter). He also thanked used car salesmen for their reputation, thus keeping Congressmen from being in the most hated profession in America. Especially this year, every incumbent with an opponent is running into an intense "reform Washington" fever that has been a main thrust behind Donald Trump's sudden phenomenon.

As for Buddy running unopposed, one can conjecture that part of the reason is that he himself is a genuine conservative that does want to reform Washington, only just almost completing his first term.

He is foursquare behind the Trump candidacy for two reasons: the alternative Hillary Clinton election would be an unmitigated disaster. Secondly he believes this true outsider has a real shot at fundamentally transforming what has gone wrong in Washington. There is too much job killing regulation, too much taxation, too much big government and not enough reliance on job creating entrepreneurs to create economic growth of 4% or more to solve our economic travails.

Part of the problem can be deduced from the shortened Congressional schedule over the next few months too allow campaigning back in their Districts. There will likely be no budget passed again - just a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the monolith going for a while. Prior Budgets led by a Republican-led House merely produced a demagogic government shutdown by the President. He wouldn't sign anything unless he got his way and blamed Republicans for the shutdown. (The compliant mainstream press was the principal enabler of this sham.)

Alternatives to a CR-funded government might be an Omnibus bill reorienting expenditures in a more productive direction. That has no chance given the effective Obama tactics of emasculating the second branch of government.

Another way is a microbus bill - where a few key areas can be tackled for reform (and CR for the rest), but that is equally subject to demagoguery. So it is apparent that the only way for real reform is a Republican Presidency coupled with a 60% majority in the Senate as Democrat Harry Reid blocks any reforms with a filibuster. (Buddy opined that the House majority is considered safe, al-

though the 80 year historical high of 57% Republican may come down to as low as 54 or 53%.

Buddy did say that a few bipartisan bills have been passed (one with his involvement due to his status as the only pharmacist in Congress: a rehab bill on opioid addiction).

An example of the futility these days is the threatened veto of a funding bill to fight the Zika virus. The almost \$2 billion suggested funding, with substantial bipartisan support in Congress, is hung up because it had some symbolic restrictions in it. There was no funding permitted for Planned Parenthood as they conduct abortions. This was no good according to Obama. (Editor's note: he may be overplaying his demagoguery card, as how would a Zika research cure funding ever be related to Planned Parenthood?)

### **The Daily Life of a Representative**

Buddy also described some of his activities being on some key committees.

**National Security** requires intensive and high security briefings on threats. They are real and appear to be increasing, despite highly professional experts on our side. A key concern is radicalization of our own citizens via their trips abroad or just access to ISIS inspired social media.

### **Oversight of the Executive Branch**

Jason Chaffetz (R - Utah) is the real deal, and will not be stopped while the Administration continues to stonewall attempts to get to the truth. They seem to be going to unprecedented lengths to thwart Congress's legitimate rights to do their jobs in protecting the public by having a check on overreaching Executive Branch power.

### **Review of Education Department Overreaches**

Buddy Carter cited some success in stalling or even restricting the problems created by an Obama strategy for a federal role in Common Core Standards for Education. (Editor's Note: This warrants a follow-up and even a more detailed description of what is happening here. This is especially important for those who perceive this as a pernicious attempt to brainwash America's youth with a liberal rewriting of history.)

### **Paul Ryan's Leadership**

Buddy supported the conservative leadership of the new House Speaker, especially in the areas of growing the economy, healthcare reform, national security and Constitutional rights. However, he is not so supportive of the apparent rift between Ryan and Trump. The pass he gives him is that Ryan's first priority is retaining the House - without which nothing good will ever happen.

### **Support of the Republican Nominee**

Buddy's support of Trump's election is unwavering. (continued on page 3)

### Support of the Republican Nominee

Buddy's support of Trump's election is unwavering. He vowed he would support whoever the nominee was. He implicitly chided those who backed down from their similar pledge when this consummate outsider got the nomination. (Makes you wonder whether those "never Trump" have too much vested in the status quo. Since the TP seminar, even Ted Cruz has now come out to support Trump.)

Buddy's enthusiastic support is partially because Trump is a fresh voice who actually could shake up what is wrong with too strong a federal bureaucracy. Trump's business background makes him almost uniquely capable of tackling the old guard.

And, of course, a key reason to support Trump is that the alternative is unthinkable for a conservative. Her Supreme Court appointees would set back our country for generations and maybe we would never recover. Constitutional protections in the first and second amendments would be devastated by 7 to 2 decisions in areas she has already opined.

### Q&A Session

In the lively follow-up, the audience got to vent its frustration with Washington.

The first dealt with the possibility of Lame Duck shenanigans.

The second posed why Republicans have not proposed a specific replacement plan for Obama Care. Buddy did outline the extensive proposals for changing the tax code for expanded health savings accounts. This would help consumers have more options to give real competition a chance to bring efficiency and lower costs into play.

A later comment from the audience supported this thrust by pointing out that the federal government really does not have the authority to provide a federal insurance system (not in the enumerated powers of Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution). It should be left to the states to innovate and let the winners emerge after a few years so the losers can be changed to take into account the ideas that actually work.

Term limits were next suggested (e.g. 12 years maximum for both the Senate and the House) to which Buddy agreed in principle. Yet the liberal establishment staffers who can stay on forever do need some strong experienced Conservative voices to counter their ideology.

The remaining questions illustrated frustration with the Oversight committee being bettered by the Administration's refusal to acknowledge their authority (ignoring subpoenas). Also the White House is even thwarting a bipartisan effort to repatriate several trillion dollars of potential investment

funds by U.S. corporations overseas coming back to America to stimulate the economy.

And sorely needed entitlement reform is being ducked by both sides because of lack of courage in tackling this former "third rail" of American politics. It could be done without affecting people with in even ten years of retirement.



## SAMPLE BALLOT: CANDIDATES

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### CHATHAM COUNTY - OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PRO- VISIONAL/CHALLENGED BALLOT OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA NOVEMBER 8, 2016

To vote, blacken the Oval ( ) next to the candidate of your choice. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write-in section and blacken the Oval ( ) next to the write-in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval ( ). Use only blue or black pen or pencil.

Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count.

If you change your mind or make a mistake, you may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot. Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

"I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law." [OCGA 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a)]

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For **President of the United States**, (Vote for One)  
DONALD J. TRUMP - President Republican  
MICHAEL R. PENCE - Vice President Republican  
HILLARY CLINTON - President Democrat  
TIM KAINE - Vice President Democrat  
GARY JOHNSON - President Libertarian  
BILL WELD - Vice President Libertarian

For **United States Senate**, (Vote for One)  
JOHNNY ISAKSON (Incumbent) Republican  
JIM BARKSDALE, Democrat  
ALLEN BUCKLEY Libertarian

For **U.S. Representative in 115th Congress From  
the 1st Congressional District of Georgia**  
EARL "BUDDY" CARTER (Incumbent) Republican

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For **State Senator From 1st District**  
BEN WATSON (Incumbent) Republican

For **State Representative in the General Assembly**  
JESSE PETREA (Incumbent) Republican

For **Coroner**, (Vote for One)  
BILL WESSINGER (Incumbent) Republican  
LILLIAN LORETZ-WILLIAMS, Democrat

For **Tax Commissioner**  
DANNY POWERS (Incumbent) Republican

For **County Commissioner District 4**  
PAT FARRELL (Incumbent) Republican

For **Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District  
Supervisor**, (Vote for One)  
HORACE B. WALLER (Incumbent)  
ANTWAN LANG

For **District Attorney of the Eastern Judicial Circuit**  
MEG DALY HEAP (Incumbent) Republican

For **Clerk of Superior Court**  
TAMMIE MOSLEY, Democrat

For **Sheriff**, (Vote for One)  
JOHN T. WILCHER (Incumbent) Republican  
MCARTHUR HOLMES, Democrat

For **Public Service Commissioner**, (Vote for One)  
TIM ECHOLS (Incumbent) Republican  
ERIC HOSKINS Libertarian

For **County Commission Chairman**  
AL SCOTT (Incumbent) Democrat

# SAMPLE BALLOT: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS & SPECIAL ELECTION

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. Provides greater flexibility and state accountability to fix failing schools through increasing community involvement.

Senate Resolution No. 287 Act No. 309,  
Ga. L. 2015, p. 1498

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?"

YES,  
NO

2. Authorizes penalties for sexual exploitation and assessments on adult entertainment to fund child victims' services.

Senate Resolution No. 7 Act No. 306,  
Ga. L. 2015, p. 1497

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow additional penalties for criminal cases in which a person is adjudged guilty of keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, pandering, pandering by compulsion, solicitation of sodomy, masturbation for hire, trafficking of persons for sexual servitude, or sexual exploitation of children and to allow assessments on adult entertainment establishments to fund the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund to pay for care and rehabilitative and social services for individuals in this state who have been or may be sexually exploited?"

YES,  
NO

3. Reforms and re-establishes the Judicial Qualifications Commission and provides for its composition, governance, and powers.

House Resolution No. 1113 Act No. 537,  
Ga. L. 2016, p. 896

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to abolish the existing Judicial Qualifications Commission; require the General Assembly to create and provide by general law for the composition, manner of appointment, and governance of a new Judicial Qualifications Commission, with such commission having the power to discipline, remove, and cause involuntary retirement of judges; require the Judicial

Qualifications Commission to have procedures that provide for due process of law and review by the Supreme Court of its advisory opinions; and allow the Judicial Qualifications Commission to be open to the public in some manner?"

YES  
NO

4. Dedicates revenue from existing taxes on fireworks to trauma care, fire services, and public safety.  
Senate Resolution No. 558 Act No. 530,  
Ga. L. 2016, p. 895

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that the proceeds of excise taxes on the sale of fireworks or consumer fireworks be dedicated to the funding of trauma care, firefighter equipping and training, and local public safety purposes?"

YES,  
NO

## SPECIAL ELECTION

### Educational Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

Shall a 1% Educational Sales Tax be imposed and continued for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters in the Chatham County School District in order to raise not more than \$382,000,000 for the purposes of:

- (a) building, replacing, renovating, and upgrading schools and other School District facilities in the Chatham County School District and acquiring any necessary property, both real and personal, and equipment relating thereto, including, but not limited to, classroom furniture, transportation equipment, technology improvements, physical education/athletic facilities, safety and security equipment, food service equipment, heating and air conditioning systems, roofing, mechanical and similar equipment, and
- (b) paying principal and interest on previously incurred general obligation debt in the maximum amount of \$27,000,000. If imposition of the Tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the Chatham County School District in the principal amount of \$200,000,000 for the purpose set forth in (a) above.

YES,  
NO



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## **This Nation Needs a Time Machine**

The jobs report on Oct. 2 shows the failure of the Obama Administration's economic policy. The Russian planes and troops deployed to Syria are the latest chapter in failed foreign policy.

Obama's presidency is a fiasco. It will take years for our country to undo the damage done by this naive, misguided administration.

Obama's reaction is to talk gun control and politicize a massacre to divert the public's attention from these failures.

What this country needs is a time machine to fast forward us to 2017.

GUY RANDOLPH

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## **Don't Put the Fox in Charge of the Hen House**

I see Hillary Clinton finally released her financials. The issue for the American people should be: did she and Bill get paid for speeches or did they sell influence? Yes, the check was for a speech. But what did the check really pay for?

The origins of the scam to receive money for one thing when really delivering influence goes back to Arkansas. Remember Hillary's cattle trading? She turned a small investment into \$100,000 and then stopped trading.

The way it works is a broker buys and sells cattle futures in the morning but does not assign the trade to anyone until the afternoon. The futures that make money during the day are sold and assigned to Hillary at the close. Totally illegal. But it can happen.

With the help of a crooked broker, this allows whoever is trying to deliver \$100,000 to the Clintons a way to hide the payment. Hillary and Bill don't trade cattle futures anymore, but they do give over-priced speeches.

Americans are concerned about corruption in Washington. I would suggest that those backing Hillary give her financials a little scrutiny and not put the fox in charge of the hen house.

GUY RANDOLPH

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## **A "Deplorable" Fires Back at Hillary Clinton**

There is nothing like a little candor. Hillary Clinton finally let us know what she thinks of Trump supporters. We are "deplorables." We are racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic and Islamophobic. Hillary is an elite liberal progressive. Her views somehow come from higher ground than the views of conservatives. Her intentions give her moral superiority.

Unfortunately, her results and the results of the progressive movement stink. Decaying inner cities, failing public schools, expanded dependence on welfare, the destruction of the family and personal responsibility, political correctness and feckless foreign policy top the list of the progressive accomplishments.

But she and the progressives mean well. And now we finally see her real attitude toward those who would dare disagree. The arrogance is stunning. Yes, Donald can be a jerk. But the real loser in this election is Hillary.

GUY RANDOLPH

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## **American Voters Should Follow Britain's Lead**

Congratulations to Great Britain for exiting the EU. British voters have rejected big central government and bureaucracy in favor of self-rule. They have taken back control of their lives. They did this in spite of facing negative economic consequences. This is a triumph of principle over pocket book.

My fellow citizens of Georgia: We and the residents of the other 50 states face our own version of the EU. It is called Washington D.C. Our lives are governed by regulation from afar. Our lives are controlled by big government, regulation and bureaucracy.

Don't believe me? The Department of Energy, The Department of Labor, the EPA, The Department of Education, ObamaCare and Dodd Frank's regulators controlling the banks are the tip of the iceberg.

The U.S. has become a centrally planned society run by a government bureaucracy. It is time to put the power back into the hands of the states. It is time to govern locally. It is time to follow Great Britain's example and regain Georgia's sovereignty.

How do we do it? The first step is to vote against any U.S. politicians who voiced support for "Remain." Topping that list would be Hillary Clinton, and if he ever runs again for anything, President Obama. These people call themselves progressives and they like ruling elite, big government and bureaucracy. They trample on states' rights. The second step is to eliminate the government agencies and laws listed above.

Power to the people; cut Washington down to size.

GUY RANDOLPH



Guy Randolph is a retired executive with a long career in financial services. He has been published over a dozen times in the Wall Street Journal

## Who Caused the 2008 Financial Crisis? Don't let liberals blame the Republicans.

Can we blame World War II on Roosevelt because it happened on his watch? The truth is that Republicans in Congress and the White House tried to rein in the abuses in Fannie Mae that were the root cause of the crash, but were rebuffed by liberals in Congress like Barney Frank who labeled the effort as anti-poor people.

Two *NY Times* reporters (not right wingers) wrote *Reckless Endangerment, How Outsized Ambition, Greed and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon*. They highlight the basis for the crash as starting with the expansion of credit promoted by the perhaps well meaning but misguided Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in 1994. It required banks to start lending in depressed neighborhoods to borrowers with much higher credit risk.

The two leaders of Fannie Mae (Bill Clinton appointees Jim Johnson and Franklin Raines) pushed to make subprime loans to many more people who ultimately could not meet their loan obligations. Under the guise of using lower cost of capital (being government backed), they perpetuated the myth that the savings would be passed on to the borrowers. Instead over \$2 billion was siphoned off as bonuses for their staff. When this scheme was exposed by another investigative branch of government, Fannie Mae launched a huge lobbying campaign to discredit the exposers. This had a chilling effect on others daring to question this scheme to give poorer people a better chance at the American dream of homeownership.

Sure, there were other contributing factors to the crash, but according to *Reckless Endangerment*, none was as culpable as the two Fannie Mae leaders taking advantage of the ill-conceived CRA.

Banks initiated many loans, passing the liability to Fannie Mae or packaging the mortgages into mortgage-backed securities (MBS). Credit agencies missed the risk by keeping MBS credit ratings too high for too long. Speculators took advantage of the low credit standards to try to flip houses for short-term capital gains as the huge increase in demand drove house prices artificially high.

Homeownership went from about 64% of all households in 1994 to almost 70% in 2005. That meant an extra six million houses being built to meet the demand, which may explain some of the GDP growth in the 1990s and the housing price crash starting in 2007.

The large banks had risk models (called "enterprise risk management") that might have shown what could happen with a precipitous drop in home prices. Yet they may have foolishly assumed the federal government was also monitoring the risk to rein in Fannie Mae before the bust.

Investment banks also profited during the run-up, but even they were caught short in a cash flow crisis that could have been weathered, as opposed to a true asset crash. Yet the panic reaction to find merger partners made the whole financial world very jittery.

Hence the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) was passed by a very nervous Congress. Originally it was in-

tended to transfer the troubled assets (underwater mortgages) to an entity that could wait until house prices rebounded and no capital losses needed to be reported.

One problem with the crisis was that accounting regulations might have forced banks to write down their reported assets and then fail to have sufficient capital to function. Instead TARP became infused capital directly into those financial entities. Ultimately the federal government got almost all of its investments back.

But the bailout created some unwanted consequences. General Motors (GM) got an unprecedented gift which favored the unions to the detriment of bond holders, which ultimately cost the taxpayers more than \$10 billion. A real reorganization of GM might have allowed it to renegotiate better deals under Chapter 11.

So where is the real blame for the crisis and its feckless recovery under eight years of a Democratic Administration? Don't let Hillary Clinton get away with her fake horror claiming conservative policies "put us in the ditch."

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## Trump Critics Not Sincere on Fiscal Discipline

Liberal critics of Donald Trump's tax plan claim it will add massively to the national debt. Yet they won't acknowledge that Medicare and Social Security are in dire trouble, underfunded by some \$40 trillion and \$20 trillion present value respectively. They demagogue attempts to save those programs by long-term solutions with ads showing Paul Ryan pushing a grandmother off a cliff.

Even the liberal Brookings Institute agrees that Trump's proposed tax reforms will grow the American economy and create jobs much better Clinton's taxing-the-rich.

Critics claim Trump isn't specific enough in citing cuts needed to reduce the national debt (now \$20 trillion—which more than doubled thanks to Obama's fiscal policies). Give Trump credit for political savvy—any specifics would be demagogued à la Ryan.

Trump will cut waste, fraud and abuse. Anyone who's participated in corporate reengineering knows that even private sector for-profit companies can cut costs by 5% just by improving efficiency. The bar is inherently lower for cost-cutting in our grossly inefficiently run government. Reengineering the federal bureaucracy might easily cut 10%—if someone takes aggressive action. Americans believe Trump has the guts—and desire—to do it. On entitlement reform, Trump could well rely on Paul Ryan in tackling this "third rail" of American politics.

Attributing Trump's silence on how to cut spending as a desire to bankrupt America is just more demagoguery. His critics are mostly those who are responsible for running up our massive debt, making promises of benefits we can't pay for, hoping enough of the voting public was not aware of the long-term adverse consequences.



Mike Walters is a Fellow and Past President of the Casualty Actuarial Society. He was a senior partner in the largest benefits and actuarial consulting firm in the world, Towers Perrin.

### Iran: a Foreign Policy and Negotiation Disaster

Our once-great nation can still, without really trying, squash a despot-led third world country such as Iran like a bug.

When negotiating with them, we must make sure our foes keep this in mind. Better still, OUR negotiators must keep this in mind.

Consider the current administration's sole "legacy" foreign policy accomplishment, the Iranian nuclear treaty. It was begun by a lady now dodging indictment and running for President. This concept clearly was lost by her.

Sanctions on Iran were being productive. Their economy was in free fall. They were even forced to limit support to their agents, Hezbollah and Hamas. Those sanctions brought them to the negotiating table.

Once there, the Mullahs won. Instead of being kept from joining the nuclear "club", they are now virtually guaranteed membership in ten years, or perhaps sooner.

Their Fordo nuclear facility was, by treaty, to be dedicated to non-military activities. So why did they just surround the forbidding underground facility with the most modern Russian-developed anti-aircraft weapons?

And, on the subject of terrorist support, why did we deliver them some \$400 million in ready, untraceable cash? This is a format absolutely necessary for those in the business of funding terrorists.

Mrs. Clinton claims credit for establishing the sanctions that brought Iran to the negotiating table. A lesser known fact is that she actively supported the appointment of Wendy Sherman as lead for these unsuccessful negotiations. She is quoted joyfully describing the value of Blackberries during negotiations, yet Blackberries are well known as being easy to hack. Wonder if the Mullahs listened in on her discussions with aides "with their Blackberries, transferring language back and forth between them and between their aides to multi-task in quite a new fashion."

Once again, this illustrates the abysmal performance of our current President. He was so focused on achieving a legacy foreign policy accomplishment, that he accepted a truly bad deal. It also questions entrusting Hillary Clinton with the authority and responsibility of being our Commander-in-Chief.

Mrs. Clinton has demonstrated her love for crony politics. Wendy Sherman earned a position for which she had little or no background by serving as a campaign strategist for Bill Clinton's first election campaign. And like many "Crony politicians" she failed.

Is this the mentality we want in the Oval Office? Best elect Donald Trump. He at least understands the art of the deal.

### View From the "Deplorables"

The progressive candidate for President, the Honorable Hillary Clinton, revealed to an elitist audience her opinion of those unsophisticated enough to support her opponent.

It's tough to be identified as "deplorable" in any case, but to be identified as such by an individual who recently avoided prosecution (for possibly treasonous crimes) only by her government cronies is unacceptable.

Recall the Progressives' identification of America's Heartland as "flyover territory." That offensive comment pales next to her most recent effort. "Racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it."

Where to begin?

- Xenophobic - fear of foreigners. Well, Mrs. Clinton, good Americans were xenophobic about some foreigners during WWII — Japanese and Germans. Was that a fault, or a good thing? Potential Islamic terrorists? Is that xenophobic? Why do you propose bringing several hundred thousand more into our peaceful nation?
- Racist — used to be a rarely occurring word — until the ascension of a semi-African-American to the White House. Now it is used every day to criticize anyone with the temerity to criticize his poorly thought-through policies.
- Sexist — I guess progressives haven't noticed that over 40% of American families have a woman as the sole or primary provider. Must be a "fly-over" thing.
- Homophobic — probably true, but since it is hard to conceive when mating is practiced in this fashion, probably a short-term issue.
- Islamophobic — that one we can gratefully agree to, and refer you to "Xenophobic."

You are certainly the most corrupt, greedy and untruthful candidate in the history of American Presidential politics. Though you left the White House "broke" (your term) and had to return several hundred thousand dollars worth of stolen furniture and china, you have become wealthy beyond belief. You did this by selling access to yourself as Secretary of State through a phony, illegitimate foundation. "Crooked Hillary" is an apt nickname!

With any luck, your bold, unfortunate comment will lose the election for you!

Continued on Page 9



## Debate Farce

Why should conservative candidates continue in this farce of so-called political debates?

The networks are, of course, VERY interested since the events draw huge audiences and generate immense advertising revenues.

The liberals, of course, are VERY interested since they apparently control the whole bloody thing.

Let's discuss the choice of moderators. Let's first define "moderator": someone who presides over an assembly, or mediates a discussion. The Encarta definition above doesn't include any reference at all to "fact-checking."

Consider these debate "moderators":

- Candy Crowley in 2012 most famously wrongly supported our current President on Benghazi.
- Lester Holt, supposedly neutral, interrupted and mistakenly challenged our next President Donald Trump regarding the constitutionality of "stop and frisk."

Now that Mr. Holt has exposed his hand, we can be well assured that two of the three "moderators" will err on the side of the liberal onstage. The third, Chris Wallace, has an enviable reputation for being tough on both sides. Mrs. Clinton best prepare – for the first time. (Editor's note: the third debate had Trump the clear winner when the moderator was fair and balanced.)

I certainly can't fault the Election Commission's choice of location: prestigious universities, spread across the country. I have no insight in attendance control, but, although the "moderator" emphasizes tough rules on demonstrations, they do occur – and most generally in favor of the liberal on the stage.

Staging and equipment is another question. After doubting, denying and shouting down Donald Trump's complaint about a faulty microphone, it seems that he was right. The mike or the sound system was adjusted to reduce his volume in the facility, causing him to speak louder (shout) and to emphasize sounds in the range so everyone knew he was breathing. A safety device? I think not!

Interestingly, except for the problem in emphasizing the fact that he was breathing, the TV transmission had no volume problems. Perhaps, I am just naturally suspicious, but .....

So of what benefit is the debate cycle to our candidates? Donald Trump outdraws Ms. Clinton to rallies by many thousands; his following on social media outdoes hers by multiples; he does not lack for TV exposure.

Why put up with this one-sided farce?

## Advice to Donald!

Stop beating on the issue of the beauty queen/porn star. Hillary invented the science of dealing with "bimbo eruptions" during her hubbies term in the White House. She is arguably better at it than you (or anyone else).

Start talking about her character issues:

- Even for a Democrat candidate, she habitually lies more than most.
- She and Slick Willie donated \$1 million to their own Foundation, and wrote it off THEIR taxes. Wonder how much the "Foundation" paid for their travel expenses that year?
- Were it not for the fact that our current President knowingly used her illegal email server (he used an alias to "hide" himself), she would be in jail for exposing our nation's classified information.
- When she speaks of visiting 112 countries during her tenure as Secretary of State, the correct response is: "Any new treaties or peace deals?"
- You hit it on the head when you spoke of 30 years in government and "you are just NOW proposing to fix that?"
- Let's review, just for the record, exactly what you said to the aggrieved survivors at Andrews AFB greeting their loved ones killed at Benghazi? Did you tell them the truth about the attack, or was the internet video fable still current?
- And, again just for the record, why didn't you respond to the pleas of your State Department staffers to beef up security at Benghazi? Was it a budgetary issue, or was it refusal to deny the narrative on which your boss was basing his reelection campaign?
- Still on the State Department, the GAO discloses that there are some \$6 billion in funds expended unaccounted for during your tenure. Any idea where they went? Maybe State made a donation to the Clinton Foundation seeking some favor?
- Illegal interaction between the Clinton Foundation and Secretary of State Clinton? Let's ask the Crown Prince of Bahrain, though his donation was only a lousy \$50,000.
- Surely seems fortunate that a couple, who left the White House so broke they had to steal china and silver, are now worth \$111 million. Book royalties must be way up!
- And when they jump on your "tax avoidance" scheme, remind Mrs. Clinton that she did the same thing in 2015!



Dick Miller was an executive in the energy industry, finishing his career with Mobil Oil Corp.

## Obama's Tide of War

As he leaves office, the Nobel Peace Prize winning Obama has the U.S. engaged in five hot conflicts and several future ones.

### The Basic Cause?

An eternal law of global affairs is that weakness invites aggression that can lead to war. The latest validation of this truth is that in the eighth year of the Obama Presidency, the tide of war is building on multiple fronts and the U.S. can't escape the consequence.

### Russia - The Big Problem

Start with the rumors of cyber war between the U.S. and Russia. Vice President Joe Biden said on "Meet the Press" that the U.S. plans to retaliate against Russia for its hacking into Democratic Party files "at the time of our choosing." Such a hawkish boast isn't this Administration's style, but perhaps it wants to look stronger against Vladimir Putin in this election campaign than it has for eight years.

If Russia's has interfered with U.S. elections, it is serious and deserves a response that is large enough to deter future attacks, not merely reply to this one. That could involve offensive cyber operations to damage the hackers' hardware or ability to operate. Or it could include exposing Russians with foreign bank accounts or assets abroad, including Mr. Putin.

Yet there's no evidence the U.S. has done anything to deter previous Russian hacks, or even to respond to its harboring of national-security thief Edward Snowden.

Russia dismissed the Biden threat and promised to retaliate in turn. After the VP's boast, the U.S. has to do something or look like it is erasing another red line. But if Obama does take serious action, Putin could escalate.

After the U.S. pulled out of cease-fire talks on Syria, Putin unilaterally withdrew from a plutonium-disposal pact and deployed nuclear-capable missiles to the Soviet territory of Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea. His next move could be on the Baltics, perhaps on the pretext of protecting ethnic Russians. What does Obama do then?

### The Mess in Syria

Russians are threatening to retaliate against U.S. forces if they bomb the marauding forces of Russian ally Bashar Assad. Putin is also deploying anti-air defenses in Syria that could shoot down U.S. planes or drones. An attempt to establish a no-fly zone to protect Aleppo or refugees runs the risk of war with Russia. The U.S. response has been again to deploy John Kerry.

### Threats By Yemen

The U.S. Navy is being drawn into the conflict by Houthi forces backed by Iran. The *USS Mason*, a destroyer, took defensive actions again after it detected more missiles fired from the Yemen coast. The Pentagon is investigating what would be the third attack in ten days.

The Houthis have little incentive to stop firing because their risk-reward ratio is so low. They know Obama has no appetite to get further involved, while one hit on a U.S.

ship could kill dozens of sailors and cause the U.S. to drop its support for their Saudi enemies.

### Resumption of U.S. Forces in Iraq

Next up is Iraq's looming battle at long last to retake Mosul from Islamic State. The U.S. has some 5,000 troops engaged in that effort, including special forces in forward deployments to help Iraqi or Kurdish Peshmerga units. Obama declared the Iraq war was over when he pulled out all American troops in 2011, but our departure created a political vacuum that Islamic State filled.

Notice that U.S. troops are now back on the ground in Iraq without a U.S./Iraq status-of-forces agreement. The lack of such an agreement was the reminder excuse Obama used in 2014 after ISIS marched into Mosul to justify his 2011 unilateral troop withdrawal. Another case of retreat inviting aggression.

Iraq will retake Mosul, albeit at a fearsome cost to its soldiers and the one million or so civilians still trapped there. But it isn't clear that Iraq's Shiite-led government can maintain order afterwards without allowing for more local Sunni control. Iran-backed Shiite militias will also be fighting in Mosul, as part of Iran's plan for a Shiite arc of power from Tehran through Syria to the Mediterranean.

As important as ousting ISIS from Mosul is, the fight to retake the city portends a new phase of conflict that will continue. The next American President would be wise to avoid Mr. Obama's mistake and negotiate a permanent base for U.S. forces in Iraq to deter the return of ISIS.

### The Lingering War in Afghanistan

Obama also promised that would end on his watch, but now it may require U.S. military forces for many more years. The *Washington Post* reported that Afghan forces in Helmand Province require U.S. air power and military advisers to block the Taliban from regaining control.

New American Foundation Senior Fellow Douglas Ollivant told the *Post*: The U.S. strategy is "just enough to lose slowly,"

### Future Conflicts

Technically a conflict with Iran was averted by Obama's caving on their nuclear ambitions. However, now they have time and money to build up their ground-to-air defenses (Russian installed), making it much harder to take out their future nuclear weapons affixed on long range missiles. Appeasement really works, doesn't it?

The same is true for North Korea and China who also were emboldened by Obama's inactions and lack of portraying American resolve internationally. All of this means the next President will face some very difficult choices, especially how to respond to Putin's new found aggression. Putin may try to negotiate to ratify his gains. That might buy some short-term peace, but at the cost of emboldening him further. Standing up to him will mean more tension and perhaps even military conflict. Thus rises Obama's tide of war.

## Why the Recovery Is Paltry

The anemic recovery from the great recession stemmed from a host of issues as described below (in no particular order). The real cause of the economy's collapse deserves a separate essay. Suffice it to say that it was mostly due to misguided and even malfeasant Democrat policies and actions - not to George Bush.

**Government Too Big** - The growth of government is inversely proportional to the strength of a recovery. Our current government produces nothing but misery and higher costs. The amount of GDP devoted to support massive government projects drains capital and saps energy and incentive from the private sector.

- **The Federal Reserve** - Their attempt to arrest the decline was to pump money into the economy. Like when Greenspan tried to manipulate interest rates, this Fed has overstayed that strategy by keeping interest rates too close to zero.

When Banks no longer earn their cost of capital, their ability to make loans is impacted. When growing numbers of retirees can't earn a decent return on their savings with conservative bond yields, one recourse is to cut back on consumption, and reduced demand impedes capital formation and corporate expansion.

- **Poor Reactive Legislation** - Dodd-Frank was a Democratic-led Congress's solution to the problem they helped create. It has done more to cripple our economy than any piece of legislation passed in decades, including the repeal of Glass Steagall.

TARP and the feckless Stimulus Package were wasted efforts with no long-term effect other than an increased national debt. Dodd-Frank needs to be repealed.

- **Obama Care** - Passed under total Democratic control, with no Republican votes, it also needs to be repealed. It also had a major detrimental effect on the recovery, because it was a major job killer - especially on small businesses.
- **Tax Code** - An insane person could not have designed a more complex and restrictive tax code. The amoebic growth of special interest exceptions is outrageous. Our tax code penalizes domestic expansion and is designed to support an Olympic-sized government that is grossly wasteful.
- **No Fiscal Discipline** - The total lack of budget discipline and the doubling our national debt constitute massive presidential and legislative malpractice. Yet, politicians remain unembarrassed and worse, unapologetic. Why? Because it is easier to spend other people's money than to take the risk of going the bloated oxen.

The Founding Fathers crafted a Republic to serve the public. It has been re-designed by the political class as a benefit dispenser to build loyal special interest voter groups thus insuring their re-election.

- **Uncontrolled Regulatory Agencies** - More than 20,000 new regulations have been issued under Obama's

regime, adding \$100 billion a year in compliance costs. Government agencies operate without Congressional authorization. These rules and costs have strangled productivity. No wonder the private sector is increasingly tempted to depart America, taking employment with them.

Just recently the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Agency's entire efforts were found to be unconstitutional. This was a brainchild of Elizabeth Warren as part of the Dodd-Frank reforms.

- **Unrealistic Minimum (and Other) Wage Hikes** - For those under trained and needing an entry to the workforce, the above added costs make them less likely to be hired. (Look at automated ordering kiosks in McDonalds.) Unions originally served a very legitimate purpose. Now often they tend to serve their bosses who spend union dues to re-elect politicians who cater to parochial goals to the detriment of the public and the economy. (Read *Unitimidated* on Governor Scott Walker's battles in Wisconsin with out-of-control union tactics.)

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## The real cause of the economy's collapse was mostly due to....misguided and even malfeasant Democrat policies and actions - not to George Bush.

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**Recap** - What happens in D.C has a huge, if not controlling, impact on the floor of the NYSE. The stock market has recovered because The Fed flooded the market with money which, as noted above, reduced interest rates, decimated bond returns and pushed investors more into a riskier portfolio.

That said, a more subtle reason relates to mood and leadership. Obama's agenda has caused Americans to be dispirited. A vast majority believes we are heading in the wrong direction. Furthermore, Obama's use of wedge issues (a Saul Alinsky precept) has created a climate of discord and fear. Something is rotten and not in Denmark.

Economies do not perform well when there is wide distrust in government, corrupt leadership and uncertain prospects of future leadership.



Dick Berkowitz retired as head of Institutional Sales at Oppenheimer and Company's Atlanta Office.



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Cartledge	Gene	Gale
Chapman	Verna	
Duren	John	Carol
Eckburg	Dick	Judy
Enyeart	George	Verna
Farrell	Patrick	Sherry
Kane	John	Frances

##### Last Name

Karrh	Bruce	Janice
Loupee	Jerry	Bonnie
McElveen	Don	Carolyn Luck
Mc Kenzie	Herb	Joan
McLaughlin	Sam	Barbara
Morris	Terry	Johnnie
Nickels	Robert	Carol
Ogren	Beverly	

##### Last Name

Paul	Barbara	Nell
Seaton	Charles	Helen
Shantz	Thomas	Mary
Sharp	Thomas	
Sherrill	Jack	Ann
Shomaker	Richard	Jean
Ulmer	Bill	Patty
Winnert	Ken	Mary Lee

#### SIRC SUSTAINING MEMBERS

##### Last Name

Barrow	David	Elaine
Beets	Jerry	Linda
Berkowitz	Dick	Lynn
Beurle	Jim	Ann
Bitz	Rod	Jackie
Blevins	Alan	Amy
Bocard	Gary	Sandy
Bothwell	David	Nadine
Bourland	Charlie	Susana
Braswell	Steve	Tena
Brown	Darryl	Carolyn
Bryant	Kevin	Donna
Burk	Larry	Judy
Carini	Paul	Judy
Christian	Sue	
Corbett	Chuck	Leslie
Cote'	Dick	Marian
Coulter	Denny	Julie
Crenshaw	Judy	
Culbreth	Rick	Sara
Dawson	Pat	Julie
Dimond	Keith	
Dobbs	Michael	Onnie
Duffie	Ed	Carol
Eppel	John	
Faircloth	Bob	Jean
Fielitz	Bruce	Nancy
Fisher	Paul	Camille
Forssell	Mark	Shirley
Foster	Carol	
Frohn	Christopher	Kathryn
Friday	Marc	Laura
Gartland	Arthur	Andrea
Glass	Curt	Sandy
Goldman	Suzanne	
Guira	Alex	Anne
Hamlet	Joe	Barbara
Hanlon	Dan	Donna

##### Last Name

Harrington	Lynn	
Hartson	Verne	Lynnetta
Heaton	Frances	
Heston	Craig	Cathy
Heussler	Bud	Ginger
Hipp	Jerry	Ann
Holland	Will	Jean
Hoover	Chris	
Hope	Charles	Devon
Huffer	Dan	Phyllis
Kaster	Jack	Joan
Klahr	Dean	Carroll
Koeller	Harriette	
Kraft	Bob	Marie
Krupp	Joe	Mimi
Lanahan	Tom	Peg
Lasker	Mark	Sybil
Lavish	Ed	Johanna
Levenson	Patty	
Levine	T. Barry	Arlene
Lowell	Rebecca	
Lutton	James	Glenda
Maugh	Roger	Judy
McCain	Bill	Susan
McGough	Chuck	Liz
Miller	Dick	
Molella	Lou	Gerry
Morris	Ron	Peg
Murphy	Jim	Sandy
Murphy	Matt	Terry
Myers	Dick	Rhea
Nangle	Jane	
Nusloch	Jerry	Caroline
Oberdank	Larry	Arlene
O'Connor	Tim	Margie
O'Malley	Jim	Maryanne
Osborn	Tom	Kay
Overton	Lis	Jim

##### Last Name

Overton	Marolyn	Scott
Palmer	June	
Parrish	John	
Parrott	Dave	Carol
Peterson	Russ	Louise
Petrea	Jesse	Brianna
Powell	Don	Phyllis
Powell	Margaret	
Protz	Jane	
Randolph	Guy	Sandy
Reid	Thurston	Suzanne
Rettig	Linda	
Reinhard	Bob	Jane
Savage	Chris	
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Shea	Brendan	Patricia
Sickles	Bill	Chris Aiken
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Steigmeier	Andrew	Carolyn
Stewart	Jeff	Angie
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Suelflow	Ray	
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Webner	Mack	Corinne
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