

# Was the the tipping point?

Pete Riehm

Prior to election day, conservatives had a justified sense of optimism that Romney would prevail. Polls were close, but they are often wrong. Not a conservative standard bearer, Mitt Romney did establish himself as highly competent and professional - a God fearing man of honor and integrity. He could be a good president for all Americans.

We felt momentum; intensity and passion at Romney rallies was genuine. Besides, conservatives won all debates on every issue with sound serious policies for the good of the country.

But early Tuesday night, it was uncomfortably close and slipping away. Conservatives were stunned. We lost. How could that be?!

Then it hit me. The titanic tremor conservatives felt that night was not our collective hearts hitting the floor; it was the tectonic shift of the American electorate tilting over the tipping point. Romney was partially right about the 47%, but it turned out to be 51% of Americans voting Democrat regardless.

The premise of the 47% and the tipping point is those Americans that are in some way dependent on government, so they will not vote against their interests. But, that does not fully explain the 51%. Republicans spent billions; Republican and Tea Party activists hounded everyone they could track down for almost 2 years. We tackled the most vexing challenges head on and debated our positions fiercely.

But, it turns out we were debating with ourselves!

Yes, a large portion of the 51% are dependent on government, but mostly they DO NOT CARE about the issues we care about. Since most pay little if any taxes, they are not worried about paying the debt. Out of control spending is fine; it just means more free stuff. Jobs? With no education, no skill, and no work ethic, government programs are far more lucrative. Foreign policy? Is that a reality show?

Of course, a few Democrats do work, but then you get to social issues. Apparently, single women ARE more concerned about free contraceptives and abortion than the economy. Even if we agree on helping the disadvantaged, conservatives donate to charity and liberals outsource their charity to government.

We exhausted ourselves debating the issues and the Obama voters weren't even listening! We simply have vastly different world views. Conservatives resist compromising their convictions; liberals recoil at having morals thrust upon them. And, all sides are tired of the bickering.

The shocking reality is the silent moral majority has been eclipsed by the absent uninterested majority. As long as the press aids the progressive movement, and Obama can increase government dependence while keeping "bread and circuses" abundant, there is no reason to think a Republican can ever win the White House again.

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Now Republicans bicker among themselves about how we lost. Do we need to be more conservative with a dynamic candidate? Or, do we need to moderate and adapt to attract certain voter groups?

Genuine conservatism dynamically and passionately advocated can win, but only if the people are listening. The tipping point America hit is not just dependence, but irrelevance of difficult challenges facing America because food, shelter, entertainment, and free government money remains plentiful. Until the people feel any shortage or sacrifice, they have no inclination to listen - even to Reagan.

Until disaster or revival brings the nation to its knees, the masses will not even engage a passing curiosity in conservative solutions. So, who is ready to waste their breath for four more years? Who wants to campaign door to door the next 2 years to keep the House and retake the Senate, so our national Republicans can sputter and then surrender our values? Within 24 hours, Speaker Boehner already indicated Republicans will raise taxes before even demanding any spending cuts.

America is beyond divided, it is polarized. Most red and blue states had as much as 20% poll differences. Whether blue or red, all states reject federal government intervention of the opposite color. There is no desire or inclination to make California like Alabama, so why try? And because we are outnumbered on the coasts, why should Alabama accept Californication?

Our Constitution is still the best, but for now there is no path to restore our republic. America will not become a third world nation, but with four more years of Obama there is no doubt there will not be any substantial economic recovery if any. With the work force decreasing and economic opportunity disappearing, the American pie will shrink - taxes must go up to continue spreading the wealth.

Sadly, we are probably powerless to stop this trend. It may not be possible to fix America right now, but we can fix Alabama! Even tougher times are coming, so we need to prepare ourselves to survive as best we can. We can reach out to all communities and work together within Alabama to protect all families and even make a better life for ourselves and our neighbors.

We need to get our house in order. Make state government more efficient; and balance our budget on revenue and not savings. Shore up all our state institutions with God fearing conservative men and women. Elect state officials and Congressmen who will stand for Alabama sovereignty and resist the Federal beast trying to devour us.

It may be a long time if ever until conservatives govern in Washington again. The union should be preserved, but this is not working anymore. The federal government is disregarding the Constitution and will continue, so it is past time red states like Alabama demand the sovereignty guaranteed in the Tenth Amendment! Alabama must shed federal intervention in education and opt out of Obamacare.

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We have complained about a century of Constitutional erosion, and finally the dykes are breaking. We probably won't drown, but it is time we turn inward and stack the sand bags here in Alabama!