REPUBLICAN MANIFESTO
A Promise For Our Time...

‘What a Republican Believes –’

A Republican believes in maximizing opportunity and freedom of choice for every individual. Other Americans need to be reminded of the virtues of opportunity and freedom of choice; and never to be forgotten, the ideals underpinning our democracy.
Republicans

The policies and positions Republicans stand for must provoke action for more opportunity and more freedom of choice. That’s the standard conduct Republicans want to be judged on, - and the time honored core principles for guiding public policy. Individual pursuit of economic betterment, a clean productive environment, and government transparency makes for the greater good. This is the way America grows stronger. By example, this is the America that projects a beacon of light for human advancement around the world.

What Republicans Stand For:

★ Appreciate the truth American ‘Exceptionalism’ is unique. The American ‘experience’ in democracy and capitalism that has given so much good to so many is worth emulating abroad. American exceptionalism should be honored, not disdained. And to the contrary, socialism must be rejected because it promises people welfare without cost, - but in truth, robs the public treasury and the private purse, ruins productive work, and stymies the creative human spirit.

American creativity, - its culture, democratic principles, economy and military are overwhelming and envied. Although agonizingly slow in some countries, we are nevertheless witnessing the Americanization of the whole world. Because of globalization with deeper inter-dependency among peoples and nations, retreating to American shores in protectionism and isolation is not an option. Moreover, Americans also inhabit this world, and thus have the right to influence affairs as much as other people.
Without flaunting American prowess, American benevolent demeanor must persuade with resolve that the future of human betterment lies through the path of economic opportunity and the dignity of man found in the principle of freedom of choice.

Since the end of World War II, either through admiration or fear, peoples and nations have demanded American leadership. American mentorship in world affairs cannot be denied. Republicans agree, America must be fully engaged to pursue opportunity and freedom everywhere.

Establish a ‘World Peace Enforcement Agency’ to keep the peace and respond to such atrocities as genocide. Act in collaboration with the United Nations, but preferred, such enforcement agency operate under the auspices of NATO, or through regional security alliances around the globe. Possibly function like the French Foreign Legion, this ‘force for peace’ would be stationed mostly in key areas of the Third World for quick reaction to crises. Initially, a ‘force for peace’ could be officered by experienced U.S., British, and French personnel most familiar with expeditionary military operations. As many recruits as possible should be encouraged to come from Third World countries. By being stationed in or near unstable regions and having most of the soldiers from the Third World, the cost to support these soldiers and this enterprise would be substantially less than that borne by using Western forces.

The Peace Enforcement Agency should be mechanized, predominately light infantry, highly trained and well equipped. Force levels could comprise up to 250,000 troops. A World Peace Enforcement Agency can fill a huge void in security that we currently now live with.

Increase manpower strength of the U.S. Military. America’s responsibilities abroad have not lessened, and can expect to actually increase. Active forces are stretched so thin as to possibly limit effective response to potential multi-regional conflicts. Urge up to 200,000 additional personnel to combat arms in the active Army, 50,000 more for the Marines, and 20,000 more for an expanded Coast Guard. Except for the Marines and Coast Guard, increases urged would still leave force levels well below those during the Cold War. The country can afford the added cost in personnel and equipment. Since the Cold War ended in
1990, America has added millions more of taxpaying citizens and several trillion dollars in wealth to its gross domestic product.

Without equivocation, support under the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Amendment a \textit{citizen’s right} to bear arms in defense of life and property.

\textbf{Adopt a Nationwide Standard For Youth Citizenship Education.}\n
After completing secondary education, studies show a majority of youth do not have a minimum knowledge of American History, the makeup and function of government, how the economy and business runs, how to compute interest, and even how to correctly balance a checkbook.

\textit{Uninformed citizens can strangle wise governing} in a democracy. Youth needs to know more, be prepared for work, and better able to cope with life’s rigors after leaving school. So it’s back to basics. Aside from striving for greater skills in reading, writing and arithmetic, – a new, comprehensive citizenship course needs to be implemented. Organized curriculum should be from the 6\textsuperscript{th} thru 12\textsuperscript{th} grades covering 7 years, and termed ‘\textit{the Business of Living},’ requiring 1½ hours or so per week of class time. The objective of the curriculum must be to increase practical knowledge to make for more informed decision making required in life’s journey.

Mandated subjects to be covered:

- Historical reviews of the political, economic and business development in the United States, and what our Constitution stands for.
- The structure and function of local, state and federal governments.
- The role of political parties and self-interest groups.
- The process of enacting laws.
- Make-up and function of the legal system, duties and responsibilities under the law. Why we have a jury of our peers.
- Regulating agencies, purposes, strengths and weaknesses.
- Understanding contracts, and what a loan is all about.
- Understanding simple accounting, putting together a personal income statement and a balance sheet.
• Personal finance: budgeting, checkbook and bank reconciliation, and typical tax filings.
• Be responsible for oneself by learning what ‘let the Buyer Beware’ means.
• Instill the forgotten value of “Appreciation” for people and property.
• Preparing to get a job, holding a job, and basic employee and employer work responsibilities.
• Costs and responsibilities of marriage, raising children, and single parenthood.
• What are the consequences of divorce?
• Basic personal health care.
• Initiate planning for retirement.

★ Make English the official language of the land. Require a minimum English proficiency of students from education.

★ Republicans do not believe in excessive debt, and view a debtor with excessive debt can become a pauper. Republicans believe excessive debt accumulation breeds irresponsibility.

★ Enact a Federal law to de-certify all public service unions within some 80,000 + governmental units, and publicly licensed monopolies, i.e., utilities, in the U.S. This includes school districts, local, state and the federal governments. Why? Unions have become monopolistic, dictatorially abusive, and too often corrupt.

Monopolistic public service unions are a hugely significant factor why taxes are so high and cost of government is out of control. Many public service union workers have overly generous salaries vs. the private sector, excessive benefits and work rule demands, and a short work life, commonly to 55 years of age. Compounding union excesses, unions have way too much say in all kinds of government policy, especially to increase spending programs. By their very nature, unions demand ever more government, - not less.

Public service unions are a gigantic ‘conflict of interest’ because they are key voting and financial support constituents of many elected officials. This must stop! In place of unions, public service employees can form associations to present their concerns, desires, and insight on issues related to employment. Work associations as well can be conduits to express opinions about activities and functions of government units which public service
employees are working for. However, all conditions of employment, including compensation, benefits, work conditions, etc., would be at the sole determination of government employers. The people’s business can no longer be held hostage to union power. **It’s time public service unions no longer be granted untouchable status. It is time to work to decouple the poisonous government/union axis!**

★★ **Breakup monopolistic private industry trade unions** that control the labor resource market for whole industries, i.e., longshoremen, electrical workers, auto workers, etc. Seek right to work laws in all 50 states. Labor unions have been an integral part of the American industrial landscape. They have given patriotic defense of the nation in times of danger. Unions have played a decisive role in elevating dignity and human rights of workers, beginning in the 20th century. However, over the years unions have gained monopolistic power that have led to corruption, greed and abuse. Unrestricted union power adversely inflates the cost for products and services to the detriment of U.S. consumers, and hurts a competitive world economy. This needs to stop! Labor is a productive resource, and like for individual industry sectors, unions should be subject to anti-trust laws. No union should be allowed to control more than 40% of any one industry sector. **Breaking up total union control will reduce the unfair, undemocratic, and uncompetitive practice of price fixing for labor.**

★★ **Vigorously support the sacred right to free and secret ballot voting** by employees as to whether or not to have union representation. Oppose any legislation and/or rule making to the opposite; such as the proposed misnamed ‘Employee Free Choice Act’, referred to as ‘card check’. Republicans also support, ‘secret ballot’ voting over many internal union activities, such as election of officers, industry employment contracts, and union support for advocating public policy.

★★ **Exploit America’s own natural resources to supply the country with abundant, affordable energy.** Oil and natural gas power vehicles and provide warmth. But people often fail to comprehend that oil and natural gas are component ingredients in a countless number of products necessary to sustain American life, - such as in tires, medicines, fertilizers, plastics, pest controls, preservatives, building materials, etc. Without oil and natural gas, essential services would be crippled. Now is the time to stop oppressive regulations and prohibitive laws that discourage oil, natural gas, nuclear and coal
development. Alternate wind, solar, bio fuels, and thermal energies should be encouraged, but at this time - not at taxpayer expense. Wind, solar and bio fuels are ‘nitch’ energy sources, and cannot be fully utilized to meet demand until some years into the future. Guaranteed, dependable alternate energy supply will require technology and utility infrastructure on a massive scale that will take time before alternate energy sources can become widely available. Rushing too soon to alternate energy with continued restrictions on conventional energy sources like oil and natural gas, will lead to unacceptable dislocations in the economy and hardship.

In the meantime, make it easier for the oil and natural gas industries to drill in places that give greatest chances for energy discovery. It is imperative to reduce red tape, and halt unfounded activist legal challenges that inhibit the ‘timely’ granting of permits to build more nuclear power plants, oil refineries, and infrastructure like utility pipelines and transmission lines.

★ Pursue sensible policies to preserve and enhance the environment for our posterity.

Pure waters, clean air and land preservation are standards and goals worth fighting for. However, policy makers and regulatory authorities need to ‘tread softly’ by deferring to constructive deliberation in establishing environmental policy. Along with cost-benefit analysis, sound science from reputable institutions and authoritative experts have to be the determinants to substantiate environmental law and rule making. Today, numerous environmental laws and regulations do not meet the ‘cost-benefit analysis’ and ‘science validation’ standards. This must change.

Global warming may be occurring. If it is occurring, the case though has not been firmly established that human activity is the cause for warming, and if so, to what extent. No broad consensus in the science community agrees humans are causing global warming. No qualitative and quantitative scientific data without question, has been presented to conclusively show a cause and effect that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases derived from human activity contribute to global warming. Until verification human activities cause warming, it is incumbent for cleaner air and health, society vigorously works to reduce and eliminate known hazardous airborne chemical particulates, i.e., carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide. However, if we must be concerned about carbon accumulation in the atmosphere, it would be more advisable to support faster developing proven technologies to capture and sequester/store carbon from energy generating and industrial plants, from vehicles, and in
heating systems. This approach in dealing with the ‘carbon issue’ would be more effective and less costly than imposing ‘only alternative fuel’ directives, - and that would likely lead to an economic depression!

Change the Endangered Species Act. Recent interpretations and activist persistence has unfortunately too often put the perceived interests of animals and plants over legitimate human pursuits. The law needs to be changed to better define criterion for listing endangered species and restrictive policies. It’s too broad. Change also should include sensible ‘leeway’ methodology to resolve conflicts in instances between a species’ habitat and reasonable human development. (Saving an endangered mouse’s habitat should not take preference over same location desired to build a health facility.) Importantly, constraints are needed to stop over-regulating, and to put limits on protracted and costly litigation.

Amend the U.S. Constitution and State constitutions to change term in office for the House of Representatives, and where applicable, for governors and state legislators, from 2 to 4 years. The cost of elections, and the never ending campaigning by 2-year term office holders needs to be rectified. Elected officials should spend more time attending to the peoples’ business – and less time worrying about getting money for campaigns, and non-stop electioneering.

Urge passage of a law that no national or state voting results are to be announced until the last of the 50 states polls have closed. The same would be required that no exit polling results would be disclosed by the media until the last of the states polls have closed.

Cut individual and business taxes, - and simplify the tax code. Urge a personal consumption or flat tax, - or at least, a low tax base with only a few modestly progressive tax brackets. Phase out most deductions, except interest paid on real-estate mortgages, charitable contributions, and state and local income taxes. The burden on the IRS will be greatly
reduced and enforcement mainly directed to verify taxpayer income. Corporate income tax rates need to be cut in half, and capital gains taxes further reduced.

★ **Eliminate the Estate Tax on estates**; or if not doable at this time, at least increase exemption up to 10 million dollars. Reduce rates to 10% for those over 10 million dollars. Wrongly in many cases, the tax is double taxation on estate equity appreciation. The present estate tax is a financial drain and unpredictable hindrance to generational asset transfers, especially for family-run businesses.

★ **Phase out the use of pennies as legal tender** over a 3 year period. The cost of producing, utilizing, handling and bookkeeping are not worth keeping pennies in circulation today.

★ **Repeal Sarbanes-Oxley**. Passed into law as a response to Enron, World Com collapses, Sarbanes-Oxley supposedly provides for more financial transparency in public corporations. Sarbanes-Oxley’s onerous rules call for increased accounting reports and board of director requirements. The problem is Sarbanes-Oxley is over reaction. The law is costly, over bearing, adds little to transparency and increases undo liability to corporations. The law is an impediment to business expansion. Some firms, in order to avoid horrendous accounting costs and liability, choose to go private, while others move abroad. This law is not needed and is anti-business. The American economy would be better served by its repeal.

★ **Phase out farm subsidies and price support programs**. Farming is a business like any other and should not be accorded favored treatment. Subsidies and price supports originally were to stabilize farm income from commodity price swings, especially when overproduction of key food and fiber crops depress producer prices.

Agriculture incentive payments and credits have also been used to increase production. Corn as a bio-fuel crop in ethanol production is the most recent example. Many have questioned the wisdom of this subsidy because by diverting corn to produce ethanol puts upward pressure on prices for substitute crops like wheat and soybeans. Other obvious consequences ensued; - heavier fertilizer use to ramp up corn production resulting in higher fertilizer prices, and less affordable fertilizer available for other crops and uses, like corn for cattle, hogs and poultry, and for human food consumption. In two years, some fertilizer
prices rose over 150%, and corn prices increased from 100-200%. (In the 4th quarter 2008, many of these prices have receded. However, they will heat up again as inflation returns.) Federal price support programs are not justified today, and unfortunately, have caused economic resource dislocations. The program should be phased out over 3 to 4 years so those affected farmers and agribusinesses have sufficient time to adjust to normal ‘supply and demand’ market conditions.

★ **Stop adding benefit entitlements to Social Security and Medicare.**
These social welfare programs are rushing to insolvency. Social Security and Medicare are about to put further strains on the finances of the federal government; - and likely increase mandatory business contributions. We cannot afford any further embellishments to these programs. Social Security unfortunately shows a semblance to that of a humongous ponzi-pyramid scheme. This needs to stop!

★ Whereas Democrats **constantly talk about what government can do** to create jobs; - **Republicans instead are for creating a favorable political, tax, and regulatory climate that attracts business and enterprise** whereby naturally increases the demand for workers.

★ **Resist the temptation to further nationalize health care.** Under fully socialized medicine, costs would escalate more than now, quality care suffer, and rationing of care likely to occur.

*And a big draw back, the incentive for research to cures and treatments would fall dramatically.* Health care costs are rising at unacceptable rates, up to 17% of national income in 2008. Universal socialized medicine is not the answer, and can only make matters worse. Today, cost containment is difficult to achieve. Government mandates and ballooning Medicaid and Medicare are already a large part of medical care in the country today. This is socialized medicine, sapping us financially!

It will be very difficult in finding solutions to slow and reverse the trend for more socialized medicine. In the meantime to control costs, search for savings in: A) Reduction in medical malpractice insurance costs B) Allow health care insurance providers to compete across state lines C) More research for better medicines in preventive and curative care D) Better health care education E) More sharing of expensive testing and treatment equipment and facilities by providers F) Expanding patient testing and treatment to longer-hour days G) Combine single cost billing for many common health care procedures, to streamline billing and simplify administration (better use of technology).
Appoint and elect only those prospective jurists to courts who have demonstrated a prior history and philosophy of strict interpretation of existing statutes, and of the federal and state constitutions. Judges should not be legislating from the bench, but follow the ‘stated letter of the law’ and ‘clear history of legislative intent.’

The American legal system needs to be more efficient and expeditious. The pace of justice is becoming too slow, too expensive, and too disruptive in people's lives. Obviously in certain cases, slow deliberation is best in reaching just outcomes. However, for most noncriminal and commercial cases, litigation burdens society. For example, the problem in many jury situations is the distaste for untimely intrusion and inconvenience that’s costly for all concerned; the court, litigants, and juries. One suggestion among others, is to reduce size of juries; and for certain kinds of law cases, possibly use professional jurors, or have more judges render decisions?

In practice the American legal system can be an irritation. It’s time for a Blue Ribbon Advisory Board to review and make recommendations, especially for commercial-tort law. Legislatures should also work to reform size of judgments, as for malpractice and punitive damages. Awards have become unrealistically high for remedy, deterring business enterprise due to extraordinarily high liability costs.

Stop restricting freedom of expression and freedom of speech by further enacting campaign finance laws. Fortunately, a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision voided much of McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Law as unconstitutional and restricts these freedoms. Those politicians claiming purity against money in politics ought to ‘Just Say No’ to accepting money contributions.

Enforce immigration laws. Do whatever it takes to stop undocumented and unauthorized people from entering the United States. If it means closing the borders, so be it. This is not cruel. Forgotten by many who champion the cause for open borders, U.S. citizens going abroad must upon return to get back into the U.S., present at Customs full documentation as to who they are, purpose for going abroad, and what they are bringing back into the country. American citizens should accept nothing less of ‘all’ foreign persons seeking entry into the country. Selective abeyance of the law cannot be tolerated. America is a land of immigrants, and qualified immigration has always been welcomed.
An effort needs to be made to **identify and document** the estimated 10 million plus illegal immigrants in the U.S. Administrative red tape needs to be reduced to expedite satisfactory resolution to both illegal and legal immigration. Simplify granting visitor ‘green cards’, Visas, and speed up procedures in the pathway to citizenship. Finally, greatly expand guest worker programs to assist agricultural businesses seeking help for work which Americans decline; and for professions in desperate need for qualified people to fill employment openings.

★★ Work hard to bring more of the urban inner city communities into mainstream American life. It’s an absolute shame the amount of low-income, crime, and unemployment so prevalent in inner cities. It’s a waste of valuable productive human resources for those living in inner cities, and to the country. As part of a program for betterment, here’s what has to be done:

A. **Restrict government handouts** that deters incentive to work

B. **Restore principles of discipline and responsibility in individuals.** This is necessary to capture attention for people to learn.

C. **Stimulate the desire to learn** and gain knowledge that’s necessary for personal fulfillment.

D. Require first in education **a priority to master skills in reading, writing, math, basic science**, and introduction to ‘Business of Living’ civics.

Inner-city youth and young adults must prepare in a way employers will want to employ them. It’s critical to understand they must depend upon themselves for their future livelihood and to advance in society.

Churches, civic groups and youth organizations help guide and instill aspirations in youth. But this is not enough. Inner-city youth must have mentorship, and the opportune source is from businesses. Along with educators and the clergy, business people are the best qualified and positioned to prepare and guide young people into life’s challenges. The tough trick is to entice busy business people to give of their time. Youths being coaxed individually by successful business people could do wonders! Importantly, mentoring helps for social stability in neighborhoods.
Avoid very controversial social issues as part of Republican Party advocacy. Issues of same sex marriage, abortion, fetal stem-cell research, prayer in schools, etc., might best be engaged outside the auspices of the Republican Party.

Studies do show Republican majorities say marriage is only between a man and woman. Abortion, if to be done, is to be only in an extremely limited number of cases, and fetal stem-cell research can be done only in early tissue development and preferably not at federal or state government expense. Republicans likewise say OK for non-denominational, simple prayer in schools and public places. Republicans contend the government is not trying to establish a state sponsored religion as the Founding Fathers prohibited in the Constitution. The separation of ‘Church and State’ is well respected, but Republicans do believe the open public expression of faith is a democratic behavioral right. Those secularists, agnostics and atheists who seek to curtail any expression of religious faith as free speech should be vigorously opposed.

Republicans should express their views on these social issues through self-interest advocacy groups for greater impact. Trying to settle contentious social issues through party advocacy positions dilutes, confuses, and can cause party disunity. The Party can no longer afford to portray its image as mainly a social issues party. The Republican Party has to recognize its main mission is to promote policies that increase opportunity and freedom of choice for every citizen. A Party that people will want to turn to for direction, - and for solutions in a precarious world. For the sake of national security, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, and personal freedom, - the Republican Party must lead on.

Republicans object with the terminology referring to an advocacy group to be called ‘Special Interest.’ Special Interest groups are no more special than any other constituency. Republicans believe an advocacy group is better referred to as a ‘Self Interest.’

The Liberal Democrats

The leadership and opinion makers in the Democrat Party scorn American exceptionalism. Coming primarily from the Northeast, upper Mid-West, and West coast, prominent Democrat leaders contend America is no more special than our western European friends. In fact, they say America might better be served by adopting the European societal
model. Republicans disagree, seeing a disturbing trend in Europe to even more collectivism and conformism.

Why is the Democrat leadership becoming socialist? It is not complicated. As population density increases, more public services are demanded. Congestion, urban sprawl and ‘close quarters’ elicit more rule making to define and control people’s activities. Under these circumstances, people tend to look outside their individual talents and responsibilities to get ahead. They defer more to government for direction and support. In the Northeastern states, reliance on government has become an addiction. History and present politics show liberal Democrats robustly want even more dependency, not less. Likewise, they sponsor public largesse to reward their political base of public employees, unions, and educational elites. To the public in general, they say, ‘we can do this for you,’ - and that message has unfortunately hoodwinked some traditional Republicans.

**Liberal Democrats reject individualism.** Party elitists say they know what’s best for people and how resources should be allocated. Elitists don’t want people to know too much, as to question their judgments. This explains in part ‘the dumbing down’ of education resulting in a less knowledgeable citizenry. Taken in time, *Liberal Democrat philosophy leads directly to socialism.* And, here is the rub, - *today’s liberal Democrat behavior is not compatible with, and is opposite to granting greater opportunity, and more freedom of choice for individuals.* Look no farther than New York. The cancer of collectivist and conformist city, county and state governments push punitive taxes, fees and regulations to the extent to intrude into almost every decision in an adult citizen’s life. Each year, the New York State legislature has over 19,000 bills introduced to further tax and regulate citizens. Democrats have rendered New York out of control. (It’s the same in California, New Jersey and other states.) There is no end in sight, and this has to stop!

**Sadly For America ….**

*What Many Liberal Democrats Espouse:*

- Define and use ‘diversity’ to blame and silence opponents standing in the way of conformist policies.
- Restrict free speech and freedom of expression under the guise of political correctness.
- Do not oppose taking the spiritual reference of God out of the public domain.
Although disrespectful, and not condoned, nevertheless it is OK to burn the flag as an expression of free speech.

Appoint judges where it is OK to interpret laws differently than statute language and intent, because it’s argued changing times and conditions give new meanings. This is referred to as ‘legislating from the bench.’

Put first the perceived rights of suspected and alleged terrorists under surveillance and interrogation over the safety of American citizens.

Government has first claim on money earned, with businesses and individuals needing to justify a portion.

Anti-business bias except some tolerance for certain high tech, information services, and government dependent medical and educational businesses. These are less objectionable, including being thought of as less damaging to the environment. Otherwise, liberal Democrats are distrustful of most commercial activity.

For punishing laws, taxes, fees and regulations that directly discourage employee hiring, and stifle business initiative. Liberal Democrat policies are working well here. When a company entertains expanding, managers ask, ‘is it worth the added risk and liability required to clear all the burdensome hurdles government puts up?’ That’s the first question, - ‘is it worth the work rules, red tape, liability exposure, compensation taxes, insurances, administration time and record keeping, etc., needed to cover in order to hire additional workers?’ Tragically, the answer voiced more and more, - no it is not! In New York as in other liberal Democrat states, administration time, and record keeping costs to comply with hundreds (yes, hundreds) of business laws and regulations commonly exceed 11% of revenue income; and when adding federal compliance, over 16%. This is to say for every $100,000 of gross revenue income, cost is $11,000 for state, and combined state and federal, $16,000 goes to compliance costs. Note, this does not include the actual added employee cost expenditures for payroll taxes, fees, licenses, and insurances. Many businesses think government as confrontational, and not an ally.

National Medical Care, where a government bureaucratic infrastructure will be responsible for all medical decisions.

Erect trade barriers to subsidize favored industries.

In a still dangerous world, gut the military budget, except for bases and facilities
employing people in Democrat home districts.

Cut or stall missile defense.

To solve a societal problem; - tax, spend and regulate. If that doesn’t work, then tax, spend and regulate some more.

In foreign affairs, be more isolationist, and react to threats only as a last resort.

Vigorously oppose pre-emption, even if lives are at stake, as when Saddam Hussein offered $25,000 as a reward to each Palestinian family having a member succeed in killing Israeli Jewish people; or in Rwanda to stop a genocide slaughter of up to 800,000 people; and to thwart the killing of hundreds of thousands in Darfur. Democrat history is to respond late to crises that unfortunately results in more treasure expended and blood being spilled than is necessary; i.e., lack of response to events in the 1990’s leading up to 9/11.

Undercut support for American military personnel in conflicts opposed to, especially if the going gets rough. Instead turn to negotiations, which likely telegraphs a lack of will to our enemies. Victory no longer seems to be in the Liberal lexicon vocabulary. Yet, contrary to Liberal thought, Americans want winners, NOT losers!

Blame Global warming on capitalism and materialism.

Establish environmental radicalism as the new state religion by many liberal Democrats. They consider themselves ‘living gods’, anointed to pass judgment and make all public policy decisions in the name of the environment. Some liberal democrat enviros fanaticize the most admired citizen will wear a Mao jacket, (Mao Tse-Tung, Chinese revolutionary leader), ride a bike most everywhere, and grow food in an organic veggie garden behind the house. Fine for an individual lifestyle preference, but imposed is tyranny. Reality suggests this looks uncomfortably like communism in China from 1940’s – 1970’s, a deathly dictatorship and starvation. Under environmental radicalism, are we going to be led into a future American ‘grapes of wrath’?

Environmental advocacy organizations are among the biggest policy makers for the Democrat Party. They are feared so much, that few in the party dare question their convoluted, non-sensical and unauthoritative references that make for policy positions. What’s proposed too often degrades both human life and the environment. Make no mistake, radical activists of the environmental movement say all public policy decision making has to be judged for their (activists) perceived impact on the environment. This encompasses a directive that plants and other animals have equal or greater status than humans for a claim to earth’s space and resources.
2008 Financial Crisis and Economic Downturn

Prosperity enjoyed by so many is a blessing derived where opportunity and freedom of choice flourish. However, arbitrary manipulation of resources counter to normal market conditions convulse beneficial economic outcomes. As a consequence, fair-play controls and disciplines inherent in democratic capitalism suffer. Instead of ‘worthy and earned’ prosperity, excess political manipulation of resources (i.e., oil, other energy commodities and real estate) falsifies what prosperity is. Consequences are inflation, deflation, scarcity, excessive debt, and a false sense of well being.

The 2008 sub-prime real estate debacle, and contagion financial and economic malaise was a foreseen outcome to government-dictated market manipulation of resources. The prime culprits are derelict Democrat office holders, the party’s ill-serving activist groups, and accomplices in the media. They pursued policies of energy scarcity, and too much, too easy money.

Democrat policies were and are to obstruct the commodity markets to artificially inflate prices, and cause supply and demand dislocations. They fought ‘tooth and nail’ for so many years against oil and natural gas exploration, refinery development, nuclear expansion, and an expanded energy supply infrastructure, i.e., pipelines. By not easing restrictions and alleviating other impediments (i.e., litigation and red tape to pursue energy resources in America), supply becomes limited and prices higher. Moreover, because of advancing higher prices for petroleum and natural gas, their derivative input ingredients in foodstuffs, fertilizer, livestock production, building supplies and countless other products, caused much higher cost prices for these items as well!

Overly promoting alternative ethanol energy aggravated the cost-price problem. In total, prices from 2006 and until September 2008 rose too high, too fast and put many household budgets into an unacceptable squeeze. Along with the escalating prices for energy and vital commodities, - and converging at the same time for a ‘double whammy’, was an over-inflated real estate market price collapse. Many non-qualified families and individuals were lured into sub-prime mortgages with little or no down payment and/or artificially low interest rates. All of a sudden higher living costs made it difficult to meet mortgage
payments. Defaults started, home prices retreated, other asset values depreciated quickly, and then chaos ripped through the entire debt flooded financial markets.

Who encouraged outrageous debt accumulation? Where does responsibility lie? The prime perpetrators were and continue to be free spending, easy money liberal Democrats. Efforts in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, and 2006 by Republicans to increase oversight and ‘reignin’ unwise lending practices at HUD, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were opposed by Democrats. Adding ‘fuel to the fire’ understandably was Wall Street’s wish to maximize profits that fed off this too easy money policy pushed by the Democrats. But nevertheless, had constraints been adopted at HUD, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac, the financial debacle could possibly have been avoided.

Commercial banks, investment institutions, insurance companies, and others are in business to generate income for depositors, investors, policy holders and shareholders. However, being entrusted with people’s money, it is incumbent these institutions also strengthen custodial roles to pursue additional caution. Practices at some institutions that allow risk assumption ratios such as 5 times debt to 1 equity, and even 30 to 1 and more(!), can imperil redemption requests when soft market conditions occur, as happened in 2008.

One suggestion to better appraise risk-taking (without going to the onerous, costly governmental regulatory route) is to have a panel of financial and economic experts develop a uniform format of guidelines for transparency and reporting risk disclosure to be made available to investors by financial institutions. This will afford investors greater input to gauge relative risk to be undertaken prior to making investment decisions. Question, will Democrats go along with ways to reduce risk and stop further unwarranted assumption of debt? Is not the collapse of the housing and financial markets enough for Democrats to change their ways? For years, America has suffered from Democrat obstruction to sound energy and financial governance.

**NEEDED: A Crusade to Re-Energize the Republican Cause**

Republicans must regain majority leadership. It is imperative to return to time-honored values for the sake of the country’s well being. Currently, the Party and many Republicans are laid back, fragmented, befuddled and lack a strong, clear and attractive message to rally around. **Republican Manifesto** pulls together many commonly shared views most
Republicans can agree on. This Republican Manifesto is a new pronouncement of particulars Republicans can stand for, and most importantly, get enthused about! Currently, the Republican banner is carried by diverse groups with similar concerns about economic policy, tax and spend issues, and dealing with the outside world. Religious groups, business associations, rural constituencies, and a broad swath of suburbia make up the core base of Republicans. Problem is, these groups are losing influence because they are not pro-active enough, and are tired of endless confrontations with the entrenched liberal Democrat opposition. This is especially true in the Northeast, upper Midwest, and the West coast parts of the country, where liberal Democrats dominate. In response, Republicans need ‘fire in the belly,’ and a burning devotion to a relentless crusade to revolutionize American societal behavior. There is no other way to gain peoples’ attention and trust. The liberal Democrat opposition has never been stronger. This opposition is a smooth running, hyperactive machine with a never-give-up attitude. Liberal Democrats, mainly made up of unions, environmental activists, academia elites, and public service employees that depend upon government, are solid and formidable.

Republican handicaps are many. One is the Republican Party has no national ‘publicly recognized’ information outreach program. Publicity is pathetically weak. What is needed is a ‘truth squad’ approach to trumpet party purpose and positions, - and to relentlessly attack false Democrat policy dogma. WANTED: An attractive, full-time media information director who becomes a recognized personality for explaining the Republican cause.

When it comes to taxes and regulations, another handicap is particularly troublesome. Out of fear, a main Republican constituency of business bows to Democrat legislators to gain sympathy as - ‘don’t be too hard on us.’ The Republican ‘cause’ suffers when key businesses and associations devote financial resources and talent in an attempt to gain favors from left-leaning Democrats. Buying influence (via legal contributions) in hopes to mitigate less painful controlling laws and rules is short sighted. In reality, it is condescending, delusional, and compromises Republican purpose. It divides Republican loyalties. This has to stop! The salvation of our prized economic system, innovation and entrepreneurship is at stake. We are in a battle for our economic and political freedom. Republicans need to muster all the resources available, and engage in a necessary battle for the will of the people!

Republicans do have an ‘ace’ whose power has not been fully utilized. And of course it is business, from small business to large business. This Republican asset needs to be
convinced to vigorously ‘embrace’ the Republican cause with all it’s formidable resources. This is a call to arms. When united, no other single group in American society has more people and financial clout to make things happen. The salvation of Republicanism for opportunity and freedom of choice is in the hands of business. So, the first order of "business' is to embrace the Republican Manifesto as a promise in our time for a revolutionary new America, dedicated to greater opportunity and freedom.

Donald W. Burton Energized Republican
PO Box 130
Bergen, NY 14416 (Rochester Area)
585-494-1466

The Liberal Democrat Legacy

At the National Mall after President Obama’s inauguration. Trash and filth left behind by mostly liberal Democrats concerned for the environment. Not surprising, liberal Democrat policies have 'spoiled' the societal landscape in many communities; and if not stopped, threaten to make a complete mess for the rest of America.

From The Wall Street Journal