

The Silent Majority – No Longer Silent

It is beginning to look as though the people have had enough. The political talking heads are predicting major incumbent losses in the next election. Approval ratings for the entrenched political class are at record lows.

This is not necessarily due to an overarching ideology. What is the explanation for the animus against politicians in general? Perhaps it is the sense of an oncoming financial Armageddon—the unyielding onslaught of national deficits. Perhaps it is the sense of utter distrust of anything our elected officials say. The constant force-feeding of focus group gibberish meant to brainwash. Perhaps it is their arrogance that we the people serve them—they forget they were elected to serve the best interests of the people.

This is the first time in 20 years that the unemployment rate in Gloucester County hit ten percent! This is largely due to an entrenched political class that won't stop spending and taxing. They won't incentivize growth – which increases employment. Many states, including NJ, have raised taxes, often on business, which only chases them with their employees and tax revenues to lower cost, enterprise friendly locations. The continuing death spiral of ever increasing taxes will not be a winning strategy for the future. New Jersey will have to undergo a downsizing, or relinquish itself to a permanent decline. Sadly, many New Jersey politicians exist to enrich themselves and their supporters (including the state bureaucracies).

New Jersey's current budget requires ten unpaid furlough days for state workers. But furloughs do little to address fiscal problems such as bloated pension costs. In fact, they are a benefit to politicians who must placate public sector unions, while dealing with taxpayers who are outraged that government employees have not shared the pain of a recession that has cost 6 million private sector jobs. The bottom line is that New Jersey is non-competitive as a state to do business (and thereby create employment)!

But there is a new wind blowing. The people have had it with their government's fiscal obesity. They are fed up with the lies and half-truths promulgated by their leaders. All of this was on full court display evidenced by everyday citizens voicing their frustration at their representatives' town hall meetings.

This movement is a worldwide phenomenon. The long-standing governing parties of Japan, Germany and the UK have suffered total meltdowns in recent elections. The only countries in the world which have reduced their debt as a percentage of GDP are Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It is not a coincidence that Canada generated 27,000 jobs and the U.S. lost 216,000 jobs in the month of August 2009.

Accountability is the new mantra demanded by the masses. A government that exists by the authority of the people must be limited in power over its citizens, or it will cease to be a government of the people, but one that dictates and controls the people. New Jersey is on the precipice. Its elected leaders are not listening to the people, acting more like rulers than your representatives. The silent majority will no longer remain silent. Change for the good is in order.

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