



Opinions

REACH US || PHIL BOAS, EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR, PHIL.BOAS@ARIZONAREPUBLIC.COM || OPINIONS.AZCENTRAL.COM

EDITORIAL THE REPUBLIC EDITORIAL BOARD

And now, we move forward

Our nation has chosen its next president; we have a duty to give him a chance

The United States is entering uncharted waters with a president-elect viewed by many — including this editorial board — as unqualified and unsuitable for the job.

We will not drown if we remember our heritage and our ideals. Donald Trump was elected through a time-honored process that deserves respect. The voters who elected him also deserve respect. That's how we do things.

Hillary Clinton's concession speech set the right tone and the right way forward.

"Donald Trump is going to be our president," she said the morning after

losing her race for the White House. "We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead."

That's a hard reality for many people — after all, Clinton likely won the popular vote.

The nation is deeply divided after a campaign that shattered old traditions about decorum and defied expectations about how a president is supposed to act.

Any one of a long list of Trump's intemperate comments would have sunk another candidate in another election.

For example, Arizona Sen. John McCain withdrew his tepid support for Trump after release of a video in which Trump made — in McCain's words — "offensive and demeaning comments" about women.

McCain, a former prisoner of war, was insulted by Trump's suggestion that real heroes don't get captured. The list of those insulted during this campaign is

very long.

Arizona's newly re-elected Republican senator released a statement congratulating Trump and promising to "work with him to address the national security challenges facing our nation."

That's how we do things.

Trump's message resonated with enough Americans to give him the presidency. America must respect the voters who made that choice.

This is an American tradition that cannot become a casualty of this divisive campaign.

As Hillary Clinton said in her concession speech: "Our constitutional democracy enshrines the peaceful transfer of power, and we don't just respect that, we cherish it."

That is a core American value.

The world that watched this election is also watching what happens now. There is no place for sore losers or sour

grapes.

Clinton articulated the way forward for those who disagree with Trump's priorities. Again, she drew on our long-standing traditions of honoring "the rule of law, the principle that we're all equal in rights and dignity, and the freedom of worship and expression."

Our traditions include an important place for those out of power. The loyal opposition is there to challenge and question. That promotes better governance.

Republicans who control Congress must honor their role in our system of checks and balances.

In a nation this divided, Donald Trump cannot claim a strong mandate.

This president elect needs the participation of the American people who agree with him as well as those who disagree with some of the ideas he has articulated.

We all have a responsibility — an opportunity — to make this work.

ROBERT ROBB EDITORIAL COLUMNIST

Trump now defines the Republican Party



Election notes:

» If Donald Trump had lost, the Republican Party would have been plunged into an acrimonious debate about what it stands for and how it can win a national election. Now that Trump has won, not so much.

During a campaign, a political party is defined by its candidate for president. The political party that holds the White House is defined by its occupant. That's just the way it is.

So, the Republican Party is now defined by Donald Trump. What that means remains, in large measure, vague. But Trumpism at its core is populist nationalism. And that is what the Republican Party now stands for.

With risk of offending the anti-globalists in the Trump movement, populist nationalism is a rising global phenomenon, roiling politics from Western and Eastern Europe to the Philippines in Asia. It was populist nationalism that enabled Trump to rally the white working class vote to compete and win in the industrialized heartland.

And in so doing, defy conventional wisdom that held that, given the country's changing demographics, that was politically impossible.

How populist nationalism translates into policy is now a big challenge for Trump, and a column for another day. But, politically, its two main pillars were getting tough on illegal immigration and protectionism in trade. Seasoned by a rejection of political correctness in culture

and political discourse.

After the Reagan realignment, the Republican Party became a full-spectrum conservative party, the political vessel for free-market conservatives, national-security conservatives and social conservatives.

That is no longer the case. It is now the party of populist nationalism. And that's a very different thing.

» This redefinition is the new reality, even though traditional conservative Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate actually did better than Trump in the election.

John McCain outperformed him in Arizona, as did Marco Rubio in Florida, Rob Portman in Ohio, and Ron Johnson in Wisconsin. Pat Toomey did as well as Trump in Pennsylvania.

So, while Trump's populist nationalism was a path to victory in many of the battleground states, it can't be argued that it was the only one, or even the best one. Traditional conservatives actually outperformed him.

This is a political reality that will shape Trump's relationship with Congress. Members of Congress weren't swept into office on Trump's coattails. They got there following their own path, which often involved distancing themselves from Trump. They have no need or reason to defer to Trump's agenda, whatever it turns out to be.

That's important to the practicalities of governing. But not to defining the Republican Party to the body politic. In



The Republican Party will now be defined by Donald Trump's populist nationalism.

terms of attention and projection, the presidency outshines the whole of Congress.

That means that traditional conservatives in Congress are now part of a party that stands for populist nationalism. That will take awhile to sink in and shake out.

» The Democratic dream of riding a rising tide of Latino voters to being at least competitive in Arizona made some progress in this election. But not as much as expected, nor as much as commonly perceived.

Since the 2014 election, Democrats have narrowed their registration disadvantage. The Republican edge in registration, compared with the last presidential election in 2012, declined roughly 20,000 voters statewide. The decline in Maricopa County was even greater,

about 26,000 voters.

But the disadvantage remains daunting, in the vicinity of 150,000 voters in both the state and the county.

Local Latino activists got the main scalp they were seeking this election, the defeat of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. But it would be quite a stretch to give them the lion's share of the credit for it.

After all, Donald Trump's views on illegal immigration are indistinguishable from those of Arpaio. And he won Maricopa County.

So, Arpaio was done in primarily by Republicans and independents deciding enough is enough.

Nor is the defeat of Arpaio a sign of an imminent, broader blue tide.

There are still a lot of votes to be counted, but as of this writing Arpaio is getting just 45 percent of the vote in Maricopa County. Trump is at 49 percent. County Attorney Bill Montgomery, a conventional Republican facing a qualified Latino opponent and caught by surprise by an independent expenditure campaign against him, is receiving 53 percent of the vote.

And the supposedly vulnerable John McCain is at a strong 55 percent.

Those are lesser margins than might have been expected in the past. But still relatively comfortable ones.

Reach Robb at robert.robbs@arizona-republic.com.

MY TURN JIM REED

Seeing importance, power of voting through new eyes



This is a picture of Adelina Gomez Zepeda. I met her on Tuesday while performing my every-two-year duties as an Election Day poll watcher. My polling location was in far west Phoenix where a lot of financially challenged people live. Their votes matter just as much as anyone else's, and they know that.

So on Tuesday, Adelina walked a mile in midday Phoenix 90-degree heat and scorching sun, with her baby in a stroller that Adelina covered with a moist towel. She walks fast and made the trip quickly enough that when she got to the polling place, her very happy baby wasn't even crying, just smiling.

After Adelina voted, which took an hour, she walked the mile home, pushing her baby in the stroller covered by the same towel. The reason it took so long for her to vote is because Adelina is completely blind, and the polling place's audible voting booth (using a headset)



Adelina Gomez Zepeda

didn't work.

So after an hour of sitting patiently for a fix, I asked the election officials to exercise the option of reading the vote choices aloud to her, in as private a way

as possible, and recording her vote. As frustrating as the process had to be, she stayed calm and halfway through the wait, put a shawl on and nursed her baby.

When Adelina left, I walked her home because I needed to write down her perspective of the voting experience to bring to Maricopa County — and because, if Adelina can walk with her white cane for a mile next to busy streets and side streets, pushing her baby in a stroller, and in that heat, then so could I.

My lousy knee and ankle hurt like heck by the time I finished the 2-mile round trip, with the first mile at Adelina's pace, but funny — at the end of the day, they felt great.

And so did I, because people like Adelina authenticate the democratic process in this country and remind me why I keep volunteering as an election attorney — because people make it important with the respect they show for the chance to vote.

I feel a bit sorry for people who don't feel their vote matters and so they are too dispirited or disinterested to vote, but I know one thing for sure. In the next local election, and in the federal elections in two years, Adelina will be walking the same two miles to her polling site and back, hoping for an accessible voting experience, but showing the same extraordinary patience and dignity even if it is not.

And she will not consider herself heroic in any way or her efforts worthy of note — for her, it will just be another Tuesday, and just another election. But in doing so, Adelina will send a message that, in a way, whoever the candidates are doesn't matter.

Because she will be the one delivering the most important message for anyone who notices.

Jim Reed is an attorney at Baird Williams & Greer, a member of the Arizona State Bar ethics committee, and one of The Republic's 2016 Amazing Arizonans. Email him at jreed@bwglaw.net.