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PRESIDENT’S OVERVIEW:
ARE THE “EXPERTS” RIGHT THIS TIME?

By Adam Brandon

In just a few weeks, the November 2018 mid-term elections will be here. The polls will no longer matter. Neither will the smug forecasts by the media elites or the spin from party hacks whose take on current events can be nothing short of laughable sometimes.

When the ballots are counted, we’ll all know what the results will be.

As I write you today, most of the “experts” are predicting Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will be the next Speaker of the House. The U.S. Senate, they say, is a bigger question mark, but could switch party hands too.

Judging by the polls I see crossing my desk every morning, voter turnout in Virginia’s 2017 Governor race, Alabama’s U.S. Senate Special Election and a number of other special elections throughout 2018, the “experts” are making an uncomfortably convincing case.

They’ve been wrong before, however. Just think back to 2016.

But mid-term elections are decided on turnout. And turnout is decided on grassroots energy. And that energy often depends on the grassroots’ belief that the men and women they vote for will actually do what they say.

In many ways, President Donald Trump has kept his promises. He’s nominated quality judges to our federal courts just as he said he would. He’s cut regulations to free up America’s entrepreneurs as he said he would. He’s made getting our economy moving again a top priority, passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which has set off an economic boom across the country.

Congress?

Surely, they deserve credit for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. But on other issues, the grassroots have been disappointed by Republican leadership’s failures and inaction.

For seven years, Republicans campaigned on repealing ObamCare. After the 2016 elections, they quickly began working to repeal and replace this giant regulatory mess. FreedomWorks was there every step of the way fighting to ensure a free market replacement was passed.

But instead of delivering on that promise, congressional Republicans delivered nothing. For all the finger-pointing at the Democrats, congressional Republicans had the majority. At least theoretically, they had the votes to pass a bill. The hard lesson was some Republicans just weren’t interested in keeping their promises when push came to shove.

Another area of disappointment has been spending. Instead of looking for ways to cut, far too many GOP Members of Congress believe in the majority means getting their turn to dole out dollars from the U.S. Treasury. This isn’t fixing any problems. Instead, it’s making them worse.

All this said, on Election Day, the question remains, “What will matter more to the American people?” – specifically those Americans who handed Donald Trump the White House in 2016 and have Republican majorities in both houses of Congress.

Will it be the strong economy, which was made possible by the historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – a reform which will likely pay economic dividends for years to come?

Or will it be the broken promises?

With the help of supporters like you, FreedomWorks is doing all we can during these last few final weeks until Election Day – just as we’ve been fighting since day one of this Congress to ensure Republicans keep as many of their promises to the American people as possible.

We’ve expanded our online operations, held rallies, launched full-scale media programs, and pummeled Congress with never-ending grassroots contacts. Our power comes from our people.

The Big Government Left always has Big Labor, academia, the radical environmentalists, the media, Hollywood, social liberals, many lobbyists, government-sector employees, and those who leech off government spending on their side.

Our power to stop them largely comes from grassroots Americans. And as we explain throughout the following pages of this third installment of our magazine, Freedom Working, only by harnessing their power can we ever truly “Drain the Swamp” in Washington, D.C.

That’s why the grassroots matter. That’s why their energy matters. That’s why FreedomWorks is constantly working to grow our grassroots footprint and harness their energy to make Washington, D.C. change.

But it’s also why those candidates running under the Republican banner must never fall short on delivering the promises they make to the grassroots on the campaign trail.

Adam Brandon is President of FreedomWorks

FreedomWorks is constantly working to grow our grassroots footprint and harness their energy to make Washington, D.C. change.
The reliance on federal courts is a problem partly created by Congress. In his 2015 book, Our Lost Constitution: The Willful Subversion of America’s Founding Document, Senator Mike Lee wrote, “I keep two towers of documents in my Senate office. The first is only a few inches tall. A collection of all the legislation passed by Congress in 2013, it contains about eight hundred pages.”

“The second tower,” he noted, “which is eleven feet tall, is a collection of regulations proposed and adopted by federal agencies in 2013. It contains about eighty thousand pages.”

The reliance on federal agencies, which are part of the Executive Branch, to do the job of the legislative branch is a problem that’s been around for decades – but it’s one that has come into focus in the past ten years. Although many Members of Congress talk tough about restoring legislative authority, too few are serious because the system, as it stands, tends to benefit legislators because it gives the bureaucrats at those agencies in turn, become a unique and privileged class of lawmakers,” he added.

Of course, cases filed against regulations are only one aspect of what may appear before a federal appellate court. Cases dealing with property rights, free speech, privacy, and other civil liberties can and do come up. Although not every judge confirmed by President Trump will agree on these issues – and their opinions may be formed by the merits of the case at hand – the federal judiciary, the appellate courts in particular, has shifted in a better, constitutionally-minded direction.

Writing at Reason, Jonathan Adler explained, “It is not simply the number of appellate judges confirmed, but the caliber. Trump’s appellate nominees have been impressive, and compare favorably in terms of intellect and qualifications with those of any modern President.”

There are, of course, standouts. Among the signature confirmations during this quarter, are two particularly noteworthy judges, Andy Oldham, confirmed to the Fifth Circuit on July 18, and Britt Grant, confirmed to the Eleventh Circuit on July 31.

Oldham served as Deputy General Counsel for the State of Texas from 2015 to 2018, and then briefly as General Counsel before his nomination by President Trump. During his time working on behalf of Texans, he teamed up with then-Oklahoma Attorney General, Scott Pruitt, to fight burdensome unconstitutional environmental regulations. In the past, Oldham had been a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito. Oldham is a frequent panelist and contributor to the Federalist Society.

Grant, another active member and contributor to the Federalist Society, served as the President of the Stanford Federalist Society while in law school. As Solicitor General of the State of Georgia, her legal briefs reflected a strong adherence to the letter of the law, with a willingness to look beyond what the text of the law says only when necessary to advance the case at hand. She was nominated by Georgia Governor, Nathan Deal to the Supreme Court of Georgia and is only the third woman ever nominated to that Court.

Even with this record-setting pace, the White House and the Senate still have more work to do to confirm more judges. There are 13 appellate court vacancies remaining. Six nominees are currently pending before the Senate. At the district court level, there are 114 vacancies. Sixty district judge nominations are pending.

Since 2018 is an election year, policy-making in Congress has been slow. But there have been a few bright spots. One of them came recently when the Private Property Rights Protection Act, H.R. 1689 passed through the House.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), would curb eminent domain abuse by the states. It would freeze for two fiscal years the economic development funds of any state that seeks to seize private property for the purpose of conferring it to another private entity.

The right to private property is one of the bedrocks of our Republic. It is refreshing to have seen members from both sides of the aisle overwhelmingly come together to pass this important piece of legislation. It is important, looking forward, that the Senate take up the measure and pass it so President Trump can sign it into law as soon as possible.

The House also passed a resolution affirming its sense that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the U.S. economy. As the idea of passing a carbon tax had been bounced around by certain members of the House, it is important that members stood up to make clear that a carbon tax would raise prices on American consumers, prop up special interests at the expense of American companies, and chill investment.

There is still plenty of work to be done, especially with spending levels where they are. However, the small steps being taken to shrink the size of government, wherever they may be, should not be discounted.

The House has left more than a few measures for the Senate to pass that would accomplish this goal, and both chambers have a number of spending bills coming up that present the opportunity to get serious about our growing national debt. All of us at FreedomWorks look forward to being part of the effort to make all of these things a reality.

By Daniel Savickas

It’s undeniable true that one of the biggest factors that led to Donald Trump’s stunning defeat of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential race was the future of the federal judiciary. Whatever Americans thought about Donald Trump’s sincerity in his public pledge to choose constitutionalists for the courts, they certainly feared Hillary Clinton’s choices. Since his election as President, Donald Trump has kept his promises – not just with his U.S. Supreme Court picks, but also his selection for lower court nominees. In particular, the White House and Senate Republicans have focused on confirming appellate court judges. The pace has been record setting.

Between May 25, 2017 and August 16, 2018, the Senate confirmed 26 appellate court judges – a pace far ahead of President Trump’s predecessors. Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton saw 19 of their appellate court nominees confirmed to the bench during their first two years in office while George W. Bush confirmed 17 and Barack Obama 16.

The focus on appellate courts was by design. The White House and Senate Republicans have been adamant in their desire to shift the federal judiciary in a direction that respects and adheres to constitutional principles and limited government. “Thanks” to Democrats’ decision to lower the procedural barrier in November 2013 from 60 votes to a simple majority, Republicans have had an easier time confirming nominees. As most supporters of liberty and limited government understand, the importance of the federal judiciary cannot be overstated. For years, conservatives and libertarians have been pushing for more originalist judges to be appointed to the federal bench, which has long been occupied by judges who often ignore the constitutional limitations placed on the federal government.

Although appointments to the Supreme Court get an overwhelming amount of attention from politicians and pundits, appointments to appellate courts are not as widely discussed by commentators. In any given year, between 7,000 and 8,000 cases are filed in the Supreme Court. Justices hears fewer than 100 of those cases. By contrast, nearly 59,000 cases were filed in appellate courts in 2017.

CONFIRMING CONSTITUTIONALISTS TO THE COURTS & POLICY PROGRESS IN CONGRESS
The attack pieces are flooding mailboxes, online ads are plastered everywhere, candidates for the U.S. House and Senate are crisscrossing their states and districts, and the polls are tightening all across America.

The countdown is on to November 6 and FreedomWorks for America is doing all we can to push our endorsed candidates across the finish line. As you’ll see, each endorsement is listed below along with a brief description of each race!

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

**Missouri | Josh Hawley**

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley has earned widespread support from the GOP, including FreedomWorks for America, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Club for Growth and President Donald Trump. He’s taking on incumbent Senator Claire McCaskill who won her 2012 race with only 50% of the vote – during a very good year for the Democrat Party. Missouri is a R+9 state and this race is widely considered a “tossup.” With time running out, polls show the race within the margin of error.

**Montana | Matt Rosendale**

Republican State Auditor, rancher and successful businessman Matt Rosendale is taking on Democrat incumbent Jon Tester in a state rated R+11. Senator Tester is widely considered vulnerable. Rosendale has been endorsed by U.S. Senators Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Mike Lee and the Club for Growth. With time running out, Senator Tester is clinging to a narrow four-point lead.

**West Virginia | Patrick Morrisey**

Patrick Morrisey built a strong record as West Virginia’s Attorney General standing up to the Obama administration in court. He’s facing off against Democrat incumbent Joe Manchin who is facing reelection this year in this R+19 state. Senator Manchin is doing all he can to appear “pro-Trump” in order to keep his single-digit lead in the polls.

**Indiana | Mike Braun**

Democrat incumbent Joe Donnelly has watched his lead in Indiana dwindle to under four points. Challenger Mike Braun, the Founder and CEO of Meyer Distributing and the owner of Meyer Logistics, is coming fast. Mayor who is largely self-funding his campaign, has been on TV throughout the year after winning a tough primary campaign against U.S. Reps. Todd Rokita and Luke Messer. This race is a tossup.

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**California 4 | Tom McClintock**

There are signs he could be in trouble once again. Congressman McClintock has been described as the “gold standard” for fiscal conservatism in Congress, is highly rated by the National Taxpayers Union, Citizens for Government Waste gave him one of only two perfect scores and he holds a 96% Lifetime Score on FreedomWorks’ scorecard. Needless to say, FreedomWorks for America is doing all we can to ensure his victory on November 6.

**Colorado 5 | Doug Lamborn**

Congressman Doug Lamborn is an ardent social conservative in a solidly Republican seat, but has never had a strong grip on Colorado Springs. The good news is, he made it through his June primary relatively unscathed. Over the years, Congressman Lamborn has been a consistent vote for freedom, earning a 93% FreedomWorks Lifetime Score. We must continue to stand with him to show other Republicans standing for freedom leads to political success.

**Kentucky 4 | Thomas Massie**

With a FreedomWorks Lifetime Score of 96%, Congressman Thomas Massie is the gold standard for constitutionally limited government. He’s voted against U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan for Speaker and occasionally gives leadership fits, so the Republican Party will likely do little in his race against Democrat activist Seth Hall this November. The good news is, Kentucky’s Fourth Congressional District is solidly Republican, but it’s still critical conservatives do all we can to lend Congressman Massie our support.

**Florida 27 | Maria Elivira Salazar**

Maria Elivira Salazar is a Cuban-American journalist who’s worked for CNN, Univision, Telemundo and made regulator contributions to Fox News. She’s running to fill the seat being vacated by retiring GOP incumbent Ileana Ros-Lehtinen who earned a weak 51% FreedomWorks Lifetime Score during her time in Congress. In late August, Salazar – with the help of FreedomWorks – won a crowded primary. Now, it’s up to us to push her over the top again in November.

**Georgia 10 | Jody Hice**

Liberals have long salivated over Georgia, believing Atlanta’s changing demographics could ultimately give them control of the state. Congressman Jody Hice has earned a 96% Lifetime Score from FreedomWorks, and we’re making sure to come to his defense this fall.
Idaho 1 | Russ Fulcher
Outgoing Republican Congressman Raúl Labrador holds a 95% FreedomWorks Lifetime Score and was a leader in the Freedom Caucus. Now that he’s retiring, it’s critical we keep this seat in Freedom Caucus hands. The good news is, Republican State Senator Russ Fulcher will do just that if he’s able to defeat real estate agent Cristina McNeil in November. But in an open seat race like this, nothing is certain.

Iowa 1 | Rod Blum
Congressman Rod Blum has consistently been underestimated since his surprising election victory in 2014. But this district historically leans left, and Iowa appears to be going blue this year, and all this has put Congressman Blum in deep trouble. He’s facing Dubuque State Rep. Abby Finkenauer (age 28) who would be the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. Needless to say, FreedomWorks for America is pulling out all the stops in hopes we can save Congressman Blum, one of our best allies in the U.S. House.

Texas 3 | Van Taylor
As a State Senator, Van Taylor earned accolades like “Taxpayer Champion” and “Top-Rated Conservative.” He also created the “Truth in Taxation Rule” to force Texas politicians to disclose in the first line of any bill of attempts to raise taxes or fees. Taylor has been endorsed by FreedomWorks for America, Club for Growth, and Empower Texas and is facing off against Democrat attorney Lori Burch in November. The seat is being vacated by Congressman Sam Johnson, who held an 83% FreedomWorks Lifetime Score. So this is a strong opportunity for a pick up.

Texas 21 | Chip Roy
Chip Roy is the former Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, a former federal prosecutor and has earned endorsements from Senator Cruz, former Governor Rick Perry, Club for Growth, and FreedomWorks for America. After winning a crowded GOP Primary, Roy is headed for a showdown against Democrat businessman Joseph Kopser this fall. This is a strong opportunity for a pick up since retiring GOP incumbent Lamar Smith’s FreedomWorks Lifetime Score was only 73%.

Tennessee 7 | Dr. Mark Green
After withdrawing his nomination to be President Trump’s Army Secretary in 2017, Dr. Green is running to fill the seat being vacated by U.S. Senate candidate Marsha Blackburn. Dr. Green is a decorated Army special ops flight surgeon who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He even interrogated Saddam Hussein for six hours on the night of his capture. Dr. Green recently sold the healthcare company he founded in 2007 for $200 million, and has been endorsed by FreedomWorks for America, Club for Growth, Senator Ted Cruz, Family Research Council Action PAC, the House Freedom Fund, Dr. Arthur Laffer and former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum. He’s facing off against Democrat digital media producer Justin Kanew.

Virginia 5 | Denver Riggleman
Libertarian-leaning Virginia Congressman Tom Garrett’s retirement wasn’t something most conservatives were prepared for. While this district has behaved solidly Republican in recent years, nothing is a sure thing in 2018. Distillery owner Denver Riggleman defeated six other candidates during the June convention and is taking on Leslie Cockburn, a former correspondent for the PBS show Frontline.

Virginia 7 | Dave Brat
Since shocking the political world in 2014 with his defeat of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Republican Dave Brat has been one of our closest allies in Congress and one of the most dependable members of the House Freedom Caucus. Today, our polling shows him in an extremely competitive race in this R+6 district.

North Carolina 13 | Ted Budd
Budd, a gun shop owner, remains relatively unknown and undefined after winning this seat in 2016. This year, he is in for a tricky reelection race in a seat that includes much of Democratic-leaning Greensboro and gave President Trump a nine-point margin, his weakest showing of any GOP-held seat in the state. Democratic immigration attorney and philanthropist Kathy Manning has consolidated her party’s support and outraised Budd $534,000 to $180,000 heading into the start of this race.

North Carolina 9 | Mark Harris
Evangelical minister Mark Harris unseated Rep. Robert Pittenger 49 percent to 46 in the May 8 GOP primary. The 9th CD was dramatically redrawn in 2016, which helped diminish Pittenger’s incumbency advantage. Under the new lines, it stretches from the Charlotte suburbs to parts of Fayetteville and President Trump carried it 54 percent to 42 percent. Democrats nominated Dan McCready, who didn’t have a primary and banked $1.8 million at the end of June. Harris emerged from his primary with just $295,000 on hand at the end of June. This will be a difficult race for Republicans.
If you ever have the opportunity to meet Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), don’t call him “Congressman Schweikert.” He insists that you call him by his first name. It’s highly unusual for a Member of Congress to urge people not to use their title. But David won’t have it any other way.

David, who represents Arizona’s 5th Congressional District, considers the use of titles such as “congressman” or “senator” during conversations with members to be “dangerous” because it appeals to politicians’ vanity – something that the Washington, D.C. “Swamp” is certainly full of today. As David says, “The lobbying class partially makes its living through flattery.”

Elected in the historic 2010 midterm elections, David has earned a reputation as a thoughtful and principled legislator. In early 2017, he earned a coveted assignment to the House Ways and Means Committee.

First created in 1789, and listed as a standing committee in 1802, Ways and Means is the oldest and one of the most powerful committees in Congress. The committee has jurisdiction over several issues, including entitlement programs. But it’s more well known for handling tax legislation. David’s work on Ways and Means was vital to the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1, in December 2017. The bill, which cut tax rates for individuals and businesses, was the product of months of work by the committee. As a member of the House Freedom Caucus, David’s voice in the effort played a central role.

On December 22, President Donald Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law. The impact was almost immediate. Businesses began giving employees pay raises, bonuses, or benefit increases. Although economic growth was projected to be anemic prior to the passage of the tax reform bill, gross domestic product grew by 4.2 percent in the second quarter of 2018. All signs point to 3 percent growth in 2018.

In June, David led a discussion from the House floor to extol the economic benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. He claimed a victory for a tax and regulatory approach grounded in limited government principles. The key question he raised was, “How do we keep it going?”

In September, the House Ways and Means Committee began work on legislation to make the individual and pass-through business tax reforms permanent. Under current law, these changes are set to expire after December 31, 2025. On September 13, the committee approved the Protecting Family and Small Business Tax Cuts Act, H.R. 6760. The legislation passed the full House on September 28, 2018.

Of course, David isn’t interested in only cutting taxes. He is one of a handful of Members of Congress who are concerned about federal spending – especially the growth of federal entitlement programs. As a member of the Republican Study Committee, he has worked on solutions included in the RSC’s budget to reform these programs.

There are few in Congress who truly want to shake up the status quo and tilt the balance back toward economic freedom and limited government. U.S. Rep. David Schweikert is one of those members, and we desperately need more like him.

By Jason Pye

MEMBER OF CONGRESS SPOTLIGHT

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

DAVID SCHWEIKERT

REPUBLICAN – ARIZONA

We would like to invite you to leave a permanent legacy for liberty by including FreedomWorks in your will or trust. Joining our Restore Liberty Legacy Society will ensure that whatever new challenges we face in the fight for liberty, FreedomWorks Foundation will be prepared to meet them.

For more information contact Parissa Sedghi Fornwalt at (202) 942-7645 or PSedghi@freedomworks.org
The Rally for the Republic was the perfect opportunity to send Rep. Jordan’s bid for Speaker. Freedom Caucus members Reps. Gaetz and Perry delivered addresses in support of Jordan for Speaker.

Andrew Wilkow’s SiriusXM radio show has a major following across the country. An unabashed conservative, Wilkow tells it how it is and leaves no stone unturned. Stephen Moore is known for delivering insightful analysis of the Trump administration’s pro-growth economic agenda, which a Speaker Jordan would fully support. C.L. Bryant delivered a rousing address to remind us all that the United States is the world’s greatest success story due to the genius of our Founding Fathers.

The Rally for the Republic featured an impressive line-up of distinguished, pro-small government speakers. Among them were Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, Reps. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, Matt Gaetz of Florida, Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, and of course Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio. Conservative talk radio host, Andrew Wilkow, emceed the event and broadcasted the program live to his SiriusXM fans around the country. Stephen Moore, FreedomWorks senior economic contributor, Rev. C.L. Bryant, the renowned Tea Party leader and talk show host, Ohio Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, and Cliff Maloney, president of Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) also spoke.


The Rally for the Republic was the perfect opportunity to send a message to Congress that the grassroots want real change in Washington, D.C. which begins with making Rep. Jordan the next Speaker of the House.
WHY GRASSROOTS MATTER

(HOW TO DRAIN THE SWAMP)

By Adam Brandon

We all felt the surge of optimism following the 2016 election amidst all the whining from our national media elites. Pro-liberty activists celebrated legislators they believed would cut spending and shrink government. We all dreamed of the possibilities with GOP control of the House, Senate, and White House.

Those dreams, like most good ideas in Washington, struggled to stay above water in “the Swamp.”

As I often explain, the Washington, D.C. Swamp is made up of five types of indigenous creatures: Career politicians, lobbyists, the press, bureaucrats/regulators, and political consultants. Each one reinforces and protects the others, putting special interests ahead of a national policy vision. In so doing, they’re incentivized to protect the status quo.

The ultimate dream for these Swamp dwellers in Washington, D.C. is maximum control and minimal accountability. They avoid votes at all costs, and delegate hard decisions to unelected bureaucrats. So long as they survive the next election cycle, they do not care if the country is growing or in decline.

The only way to advance good policy is to drain the Swamp. And the only way to drain the Swamp is from the outside – using grassroots activism.

Politicians Respond to Incentives

George Mason University professor James Buchanan won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1986 by applying economic incentives to political decision-making. While politicians are often described as public servants, Buchanan suggested they are motivated by self-interest, primarily the desire for reelection.

This desire drives every decision a politician makes, especially his or her votes. Over the span of generations, the motivation for reelection created a corrupt ecosystem of rent-seekers who lobby government to give them more.

Rent-seekers create a political environment that incentivizes politicians to advance the personal agendas of special interests. They lobby government to give them more.

More special deals, more tax loopholes, more handouts. The FreedomWorks community serves as a counterweight to the special interests of the Swamp. More than 4 million grassroots activists nationwide are shifting the balance of power in Washington. They are changing the incentive structure to motivate politicians to vote for less. Less spending, less taxes, less government intrusion into our daily lives.

Grassroots Advocacy Empowers Individuals Over Institutions

The most powerful force in Washington is the voter.

Just ask Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump. Both underdogs launched their campaigns without the deep pockets of their respective political parties and the megaphone of the media elite. They had the Internet, and that was enough.

The Sanders campaign was able to raise $218 million online with an average contribution of $27. Donald Trump used Twitter to fill stadiums with 20,000 supporters in places like Cleveland, Ohio, and Jacksonville, Florida.

Using the power of the Internet, both underdogs stole the spotlight from two political dynasties – the Clinton and the Bush families. If that’s not a sign the basic institutions of the Swamp are crumbling under the weight of digital activism, I don’t know what is.

Grassroots movements organize online, which breaks up the monopoly of information from political parties and the mainstream media. The larger and more passionate the community appears, the greater its ability to influence policy outcomes without having to “kiss the ring” of the Washington establishment.

Grassroots activists are also committed to organizing in-person. Former U.S. Congressman and current White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney once candidly told the American Bankers Association, “We had a hierarchy in my office in Congress. If you were a lobbyist who never gave us money, I didn’t talk to you. If you were a lobbyist who gave us money, I might talk to you. If you came from back home and sat in my lobby, I talked to you without exception, regardless of the financial contributions.”

This is a clear example of the power of grassroots advocacy. When a single citizen shows up in the office of a representative, they can influence legislative policy and regulations. Now imagine what millions of organized and engaged citizens can do.

Building a Grassroots Movement Takes Commitment

People can buy TV ads. But they must invest long-term in a grassroots community. FreedomWorks establishes a daily personal connection with pro-liberty citizens nationwide, not just during election years. We build trust by listening, rather than lecturing. This continued conversation allows us to offer tools and educational resources that provide real value for activists.

Authenticity is the backbone of grassroots organizing. For the pro-liberty movement, it’s about getting policy done, not just getting or keeping a majority. Our people show up for ideas, not partisan power struggles.

Each policy battle grants FreedomWorks the opportunity to influence legislation in the short term, while growing the community in the long term. When we are fighting, we are recruiting. As we grow, FreedomWorks expands our sphere of influence for the next critical fight.

We call this strategy “Winning by building, building by winning.” That is the grassroots model, and it works.

No wonder the Left is taking a page from our playbook.

The Progressive Left is Building a Grassroots Army

As you may have seen, left-wing billionaire Tom Steyer pledged $30 million to help House Democrats regain the majority through NextGen America’s “Blue Wave Volunteer Program.” The digital grassroots effort will engage volunteers to call and text voters in swing districts from the comfort of their own homes.

The Obama-linked group Organizing for Action is deploying organizers in 27 Republican congressional districts to “coordinate and train volunteers” to retain the House and strengthen progressive influence over the redrawing of the congressional map after the 2020 census.

Indivisible, a relatively new anti-Trump protest group, has adopted a grassroots model to “resist the GOP’s agenda, elect local champions, and fight for progressive policies.” The network is growing rapidly with more than 6,000 volunteer chapters across the country and seven-figure fundraising numbers.

We know what the Left is doing. The question now is, “How will we respond?”

Let’s Finish What We Started

Since its founding, FreedomWorks has been educating and mobilizing grassroots activists to advance the principles of small government, free markets, and personal liberty.

In the past decade, we have seen Republicans regain control of the House, Senate, and White House. Pro-liberty legislators created a House Freedom Caucus that has grown to three dozen members. Our grassroots community continues to grow with millions of concerned taxpayers nationwide who make time in their busy schedules to engage in the process.

But continuing to build our grassroots network of activists will be key. The good news is that through our Activism Modernization Plan (AMP) – which has put more of our focus on digital efforts – we’re entering the next phase of growth.

With your help, we will not rest until Washington, D.C. Swamp is finally drained. As I’ve explained it will be America’s grassroots that will finally pull the plug. And that’s why the American grassroots matter – and why they always will.

Grassroots in Action

FreedomWorks volunteers signing up grassroots activists

Future liberty champion helps rally support!

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With your help, we will not rest until Washington, D.C. Swamp is finally drained. As I’ve explained it will be America’s grassroots that will finally pull the plug. And that’s why the American grassroots matter – and why they always will.
Throughout the country, countless local Tea Party groups have been dwindling in numbers over the past few years. But in the suburbs of Chicago, it’s a different story. In fact, there’s a growing group of local conservatives who are thriving – and turning heads. Carol Davis formed the West Suburban Patriots in 2008 when she and a group of concerned citizens decided to hold monthly meetings to talk politics and policy. Their mission was to educate, encourage, and empower their fellow citizens to secure public policies consistent with our three core values of Fiscal Responsibility, Constitutionally Limited Government, and Free Markets.

Since their founding, West Suburban Patriots has grown from a dozen to a few hundred active members. And they’re still growing today. Carol has now been a FreedomWorks activist since 2009 when she attended the March on Washington. Over the years, she’s advanced through our ranks to become a member of our activists advisory council. This year, she’s truly been a rockstar.

In March, Carol joined FreedomWorks at Restore Liberty in Florida. She quickly stole the show when she took to the stage to kick off the weekend. All attendees quickly saw why her grassroots group continues to be such a success as she spoke passionately about the West Suburban Patriots and explained the impact FreedomWorks activists have in their communities.

A few weeks later, Carol invited Ken Cuccinelli, FreedomWorks Foundation’s Director of the Regulatory Action Center, to speak to and train 150 grassroots activists how to use the Regulatory Action Center and get more involved. Since this training, the West Suburban Patriots have been one of our most active local groups in submitting public comments on our regulatory campaigns.

This July, Carol hosted John Tamny, Director of FreedomWorks’ Center for Economic Freedom to address the West Suburban Patriots in Wheaton, Illinois. John Tamny spoke at length about his recently published book The End of Work which details why technological change has and will continue to improve our lives, particularly in the workplace. He stayed long after the meeting signing books and speaking one-on-one with activists.

In August, Carol Davis and the West Suburban Patriots – along with the Illinois Conservative Union – hosted the 3rd Annual Illinois Grassroots Political Activist Summit (ILPAC) in Elmhurst, IL. The event kicked off with a variety of panels involving grassroots political action and candidate and campaign workshops.

Most recently, Carol was essential to FreedomWorks efforts to recruit activists for our September 26 Day of Action in Washington, D.C. A dozen plus members of the West Suburban Patriots made the long trip from the Chicago suburbs to their meet-up point in Toledo, Ohio to bus to our rally in support of Jim Jordan for Speaker.

Over the years, FreedomWorks has called on Carol many times to support our efforts and help rally the grassroots. Every time, she has also answered the call. We are honored to have her as one of our top activists and a dear friend.
In this episode, Mr. Puzder explained why capitalism is rigged. Mr. Puzder quickly dismantled the argument attacked one of the Left’s myths – the often-held belief that mandating an increase in the minimum wage will negatively affect workers. However, government mandates for increasing the minimum wage most often result in job loss, cutting employees’ hours, and most tragically, businesses closing.

The real way to raise the minimum wage, Mr. Puzder argues, is through economic growth. Mr. Puzder believes business leaders know changes in the minimum wage will negatively affect workers. However, politicians ignore business leaders and most often give into the political pressure from the Left, touting the age-old myth that mandating an increase in the minimum wage will increase prosperity. But instead, government mandates for increasing the minimum wage most often result in job loss, cutting employees’ hours, and most tragically, businesses closing.

During his interview with Adam Brandon, Mr. Puzder attacked one of the Left’s myths – the often-held belief that capitalism is rigged. Mr. Puzder quickly dismantled the argument saying, “First of all, capitalism is a system pursuant to which people get to vote every time they want to spend a dollar on which quality or service will best meet their needs. People are voting on the superior product. That is the beauty of capitalism. People who create products or services that enhance the lives of others are rewarded and in turn get to meet their own needs with the capital received.”

On the other hand, Mr. Puzder argues, “Socialism encourages greed. Because whether you are waiting in a bread line to get bread for your family or in England waiting for medical care, you’re not thinking what other people want. You’re not thinking about improving your life by satisfying the needs of others. You’re thinking about getting as much as you possibly can from a limited supply of goods or services that the government produces or makes available. Socialism cannot make everyone affluent, only equally impoverished.”

At the end of his interview with Adam Brandon, Mr. Puzder detailed his experience being nominated as Secretary of Labor in 2016. When asked which is nastier, corporate America or the people in Washington, Mr. Puzder replied, “Washington – they call it a swamp. It’s absolutely right.”

After Mr. Puzder was nominated as Secretary of Labor, he recounted how he quickly became the victim of harassment, threats, and defamation. Democrats tried to dig up any dirt they could on him, but came up with nothing more than falsified allegations and trivial affairs. Mr. Puzder ultimately pulled out of the hearings after Vice President Pence informed him that they did not have the votes to get him confirmed.

Mr. Puzder remains optimistic for the future. In the next five years, Puzder thinks that our economy will be prosperous. But instead, government mandates for increasing the minimum wage most often result in job loss, cutting employees’ hours, and most tragically, businesses closing. He shares FreedomWorks’ belief that we need a solution for this out-of-control spending and that Republicans desperately need to rein in government spending. In the long run, however, Andy Puzder believes “we will remain the land of the free because we are the home of the brave.” We certainly hope he’s right.

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We met with Holly recently in Washington, D.C. to hear her thoughts on entrepreneurship and criminal justice reform.

Holly came to this role after a unique and distinguished career that included working as a TV news reporter and serving as General Counsel of the Republican Party of Kentucky. What is very interesting about her work is that Holly leads two non-profit organizations.

FreedomWorks has been a haven for entrepreneurial thought. That is one big reason why we’ve decided to profile an entrepreneur in this issue of Freedom Working. And no one better exhibits entrepreneurial fire, tenacity, and innovative spirit more than Holly Harris, the President of the Justice Action Network and Coalition for Public Safety.

“Justice Action Network and Coalition for Public Safety” are working on a grassroots capability, but FreedomWorks has a true reach with respect to being able to organize and activate people to call their lawmakers and urge passage of a bill, which is what I call true grassroots activism. Nothing is more impactful.

When I was first hired for this job, I was hired as a project manager to work in three states, and on one issue: that was civil asset forfeiture. That obviously is an issue that really our partners had agreement, when you get into legislation that’s the category of people who believe that incarceration can serve a very important purpose, but it should be limited to those who truly need those services.

I think sentencing reform is a perfect example of that. Some partners want to go all the way and they don’t believe in having any mandatory minimum sentences. Quite frankly, some partners don’t believe we should put people “in cages.”

Civil asset forfeiture, though, was one of those areas where there was agreement that this was just crazy and shouldn’t be happening in America.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about Justice Action Network and what drew you to getting involved with us?

Harris: FreedomWorks was chosen as one of the seven original partners of the Coalition for Public Safety, which included voices on the Right and the Left. These were the most influential groups in the country and not solely focused on criminal justice reform. Almost all of these groups had a unique perspective and they were working on criminal justice reform issues.

Q: Part of the reason we decided to do this is because we want to profile entrepreneurs. We think of you as an entrepreneur because you are building this up, which has to be tough because it is a non-profit.

Harris: It’s not easy to work in a bipartisan space, either. It’s like managing a family, a very large family, and a very diverse family. That’s been a challenge for me. My entire career has been spent in partisan politics. I have a true distrust of government and certainly Big Government scares me. I think it’s ripe for corruption. I think it ultimately inherits creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Big Government can be very, very harmful... That’s not to say there’s not good people in government. I’ve certainly worked in government, but I worry about what Big Government does to our liberty, our freedom, our creativity, our entrepreneurial spirit. That’s what made me a Conservative. That’s what made me a Republican...Government can serve a very important purpose, but it should be limited to those who truly need those services.

I think our justice system is a perfect example. I fall into the category of people who believe that incarceration can serve a purpose, and it does. It should serve the limited purpose of keeping us safe from dangerous people.

Q: What made you decide to go beyond civil asset forfeiture, take a risk, and decide to go full throttle on criminal justice reform?

Harris: I come from a state where everyone is sick. Kentucky is a poor state, and what happens when you don’t have a lot of economic opportunity is a lot of drug abuse. We have a lot of sick people.

The old “Lock ‘em up and throw away the key” mentality has become completely unsustainable in Kentucky. Because every single Kentucky family is now somehow impacted by addiction, which, of course, if not treated ultimately will result in incarceration. It’s just a matter of time.

I think Kentuckians are very educated on these issues. They are not interested in throwing in the towel on their friends and family members who are sick. They understand how incarceration has broken families, not just because it breaks them apart physically, but it breaks them financially. It’s just a Big Government program that’s too big to fail... they just keep throwing good money after bad.

Every family in Kentucky knows somebody or has someone within their own family who is struggling with addiction issues or has spent time behind bars. Everybody. Rich people. Poor people. White people. Black people. You name it. Everybody’s impacted.

So, it was clear to me as a Kentuckian that our system is broken and we have to do something about it. A lot of prosecutors would like to pursue treatment options for defendants. We don’t have the beds. We don’t have enough money being invested in treatment and that is where government resources should go, because if you invest in treatment, you get better outcomes...ultimately, you are shrinking the Big Government program.

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Q: There’s one last question we have. If you have any advice for any future Holly Harrises, what would you say?

Harris: You have to have thick skin and a great sense of humor because it’s not going to be easy. I wish I could work on issues that everybody supports...and that just hasn’t been my career.

You gotta have a good sense of humor. You have to be able to find a personal life. You have to have your respite from work. Take risks. Be aggressive. Don’t be afraid to ruffle feathers, but also have a sense of humor, have thick skin, and don’t read anything people say about you on Twitter.

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COMBATTING CALIFORNIA'S REGULATORY REACH WITH INFORMED ACTIVISM

By Patrick Hedger

On August 29, FreedomWorks received a media request from E&E News, a publication focused on energy and environmental policy. The reporter was interested in what, if any, efforts we were making to engage on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed revisions to Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE). CAFE standards, of course, regulate the average fuel economy (miles per gallon) of vehicles sold in the United States.

I jumped on the chance to respond to the reporter’s inquiry. FreedomWorks Foundation’s Regulatory Action Center (RAC) was already working to mobilize our activists to submit comments to the EPA in support of the proposal.

I further clarified our strategy, emphasizing that we help activists learn about the issues they are commenting on and subsequently draft unique comments themselves. This is opposed to a common strategy employed by groups – both right and left – to drive pre-written “form comments” to agencies.

“We’re not going to be doing the type of form comments you might see from other groups,” I said. “Just hearing from folks that are in the agencies now, increasingly they are looking at these form comments and basically saying, ‘OK, this is one comment.’ It gets their attention when they see that people are actually taking the time to generate these comments themselves, not just clicking three times and having their comment submitted for them.”

An additional unintended consequence of excessive stringency is the risk to passenger safety. As mentioned, by driving the price of new cars higher, consumers are likely to stay in their current, older vehicles longer.

This presents any number of safety issues, from vehicle system degradation to the fact that older vehicles simply do not have as many safety features as newer ones. Yet, even when consumers do purchase new vehicles, stringent fuel economy standards force automakers to reduce vehicle mass. Vehicle mass has been found to have a strong, positive correlation to passenger safety.

It’s a lose-lose situation for consumers. Hence, the Trump administration’s CAFE proposal is entitled the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) rule.

In addition to the cost and safety economic inefficiencies corrected by the Trump administration’s proposal, the EPA’s rulemaking also seeks to correct several constitutional problems as well.

You’ve probably seen headlines about Americans flinging highly-taxed and over-regulated states like California. But imagine if you were one of those Americans that had moved from California to Texas, or Florida, or Tennessee only to find out that you still haven’t escaped the reach of the socialists in Sacramento. Incredibly, this is exactly the case with the fuel economy standards put in place by the Obama administration.

Here’s how.

When the Clean Air Act (CAA) was passed in the early 1960s, a special provision was created for California to regulate air pollutants above and beyond federal standards. This was because California at the time, faced a unique combination of weather, geography, and economic growth that exacerbated its air pollution problems – creating some of the first instances of the phenomenon known as smog.

This special provision is called the California Waiver. While the California Waiver made sense in the context of the original pollutants explicitly covered by the CAA, that all changed in the late 2000s when the EPA designated carbon dioxide (CO2) as a pollutant subject to CAA regulation.

In 2009 and again in 2013, the EPA granted California Waivers that allowed for the state to regulate CO2 emissions from vehicles. The only effective way of reducing vehicle CO2 emissions is by improving fuel economy. In effect, California now has the authority to regulate fuel economy.

The problem is that fuel economy is obviously already regulated at the federal level via CAFE standards, which are derived from authority under a federal law separate from the CAA. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) grants the EPA and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration authority to regulate vehicle fuel economy and has two major distinctions from the CAA.

First, the EPCA is not an anti-pollution law. As its name indicates, its intent is to reduce America’s dependence on foreign sources of energy by improving domestic energy efficiency. Second, the EPCA explicitly preempts states from setting their own vehicle fuel economy standards.

Preempting states from setting their own fuel economy standards is a rare example of a proper exercise of the Constitution’s commerce clause, which gives Congress the right to regulate interstate commerce. Vehicles are manufactured, sold, and often driven in acts of commerce across state lines. Further, subjecting automakers to several different sets of standards would throw the industry into chaos.

While only California is granted the special authority to set its own air pollution standards, other states have the option of adopting California’s standards. Since California regulates CO2 emissions based on the average of all vehicles sold in the state, automakers could theoretically be subject to fifty different standards.

Rightfully acknowledging the potential for such chaos, the Obama administration did seek to mitigate the problem. Wrongfully, however, they did so by giving California a seat at the CAFE standards negotiating table between the EPA and the automakers.

While many may be tempted to argue that California’s ability to set its own standards is an example of federalism, giving California unique and outsized influence over national standards is the opposite of federalism. It further flouts the commerce and supremacy clauses of the Constitution by allowing California to impose its will across state lines in contradiction of the EPCA’s federal preemption of state regulation of fuel economy.

This all goes without mentioning the fact that the original California Waiver was designed to allow the state to deal with problems unique to the Golden State. Yet the reason we’ve given for the need to regulate CO2 and other greenhouse gases is its supposed global impact. There’s nothing unique to California about the supposed threats of “global warming.”

For these reasons, the Trump administration’s CAFE proposal also includes revoking the California Waiver.

As you can see, regulatory proceedings often raise several issues of consequence in both economics and law. Books could be dedicated to dissecting each of these issues individually. Many will simply read the headline that the Trump administration is proposing to reduce vehicle fuel economy standards and revoke California’s ability to set higher standards and see no further than that. They’ll accuse this administration of waging war on America’s health and our environment.

Already, thousands and thousands of comments have been sent to the EPA showing just as much. This is why the Regulatory Action Center’s strategy of driving unique and informed comments from FreedomWorks activists is so important.

As with anything, simplistic narratives cannot be effectively countered with more simplistic narratives. Our activists must be ready to dive deeper and understand the unintended consequences of excessive government regulation.

This not only lends critical support to allies in this administration fighting to do the right thing in rolling-back existing regulations, it helps create a base of activists better able to point out all the unintended consequences of all the well-intended regulations yet to come.
If recent polls are correct, and Democrats take control of the House of Representatives, the hard truth is it would be the Republicans’ own fault. Unlike President Trump, who has fought tooth and nail to fulfill promises he made on the campaign trail working to create jobs, cut burdensome regulations, and lower taxes, GOP leaders in Congress have completely failed to do what they said they would do.

As candidates begging to be re-elected they campaigned as conservatives, yet after winning, they went back to their old ways and legislated as liberals. The grass roots were told that once Republicans controlled the House, then it was the Senate, and most recently the White House; it was only then that they would be able to enact real conservative policies. Well, that has happened, and voters are still waiting.

It's not all bad news. The House does have a handful of principled fighters like Reps. Jim Jordan, (R-OH), Mark Meadows, (R-NC), and others who have allied with Trump to enact pro-growth polices that get government out of the lives of our nation’s hard-working taxpayers. But these conservatives needs more help and the buck stops with the so-called “leaders” of the House and their failed agenda. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, (R-WI), Reps. Kevin McCarthy, (R-CA), and Steve Scalise, (R-LA), have deferred to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, (D-CA), at almost every turn, joining with her to support budget-busting spending bills, massive increases in debt, and a long list of liberal polices.

Take, for example, the massive omnibus spending bill that GOP leaders in both the House and Senate authored and passed earlier this year. It was an enormous betrayal of all of the voters who elected them. The bill is set to spend $1.3 trillion, which makes it the largest spending bill in our nation’s history! That doesn’t sound like something Republicans would want to write home about, and it certainly is not what they promised the voters.

What happened to Congress’s vow to fully repeal Obamacare “root and branch,” as we heard over and over again on the campaign trail? Why haven’t they funded the border wall to protect our country, or defunded Planned Parenthood, or even cut federal spending? Blaming a lack of accomplishments on the Democratic Party won’t work. The voters know that it’s the GOP that controls both spending branches of government, and they expect answers — not excuses.

Washington needs leaders who honor their oath to support and defend the Constitution and who will not hand our country over to the liberals who will immediately enact terrible policies and destroy our freedoms. It’s time for leaders in Washington to keep their promises and fulfill their commitments to taxpayers. It’s time for Congress to do what they said they would do and lead the way to smaller government and more freedom.
WHO’S THE CLEANEST OF THEM ALL?

By Stephen Moore

Take a wild guess what country is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions the most? Canada? Britain? France? India? Germany? Japan? No, no, no, no, no and no.

The answer to that question is the U.S. of A. Wow! How can that be? This must be a misprint. Fakenews. America never ratified the Kyoto Treaty some two decades ago. We never enacted a carbon tax. We don’t have a cap-and-trade carbon emission program. That environmental villain Donald Trump pulled America out of the Paris climate accord that was signed by almost the entire rest of the civilized world.

Yet the latest world climate report from the BP Statistical Review of World Energy finds that in 2017, America reduced its carbon emissions by 0.5 percent, the most of all major countries. That’s especially impressive given that our economy grew by nearly 3 percent – so we had more growth and less pollution – the best of all worlds. The major reason for the reduced pollution levels is the shale oil and gas revolution that is transitioning the world to cheap and clean natural gas for electric power generation.

Meanwhile, as our emissions fell, the pollution levels rose internationally and by a larger amount than in previous years. So much for the rest of the world going green.

The world’s largest emitter of carbon dioxide emissions is China. According to the invaluable Institute for Energy Research, “China produces 28 percent of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions. India is the world’s third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide and had the second-largest increment (93 million metric tons) of carbon dioxide emissions in 2017, more than twice as much an increase as the U.S. reduction.” This means it doesn’t really matter how much America reduces its greenhouse gases because China and India cancel out any and all progress we make. Those who think they are helping save the planet by purchasing an electric car or putting a solar panel on their roof are barking up the wrong tree. There is no way to make progress on greenhouse gases without China and India on board – which they clearly are not.

This latest data also proves that despite all of the criticism across the globe and in the American media, Trump was right to pull the U.S. out of the flawed Paris climate accord. Nearly every nation that signed on to Paris and has admonished America for not doing so, has already violated the agreement. According to Climate Action Network Europe, “All EU countries are failing to increase their climate action in line with the Paris Agreement goal.” All but five countries have even reached 50 percent of their current targets.

So there you have it. The countries in the Paris climate accord have broken almost every promise they’ve made and the nation (the U.S.) that hasn’t signed the treaty is doing more than any other nation to reduce global warming. Yet, we are being lectured by the sanctimonious Europeans and Asians for not doing our fair share to save the planet. It’s another case study in how the left cares far more about good intentions than actual results. What matters is that you say that you will wash the dishes, not that you actually do it.

Stephen Moore,
Senior Economic Contributor
Stephen Moore’s Op-Ed was originally published in Real Clear Politics on 8/21/18
ONE OFOURS

Republicans win elections by restoring faith of Americans

By Adam Brandon

Republicans are one broken promise away from losing the House this November. If this happens, Americans can wave goodbye to the dream of “draining the swamp.” If the conservative base loses faith in a Congress led by Republicans, what few legislative victories Republicans managed to achieve will end.

To avert defeat on Election Day, Republicans must focus on national issues. Former Speaker of the House, Tip O’Neill, coined the phrase “all politics is local.” While this may be true for Democrats, history tells us the opposite is true for Republicans, whose candidates win when they run on national issues rooted in principles of liberty.

Newt Gingrich and the “Republican Revolution” of 1994 are a case study in what happens when Republicans stick to big ideas. The “Contract with America” addressed major national issues like the budget and deficit, and stood in stark contrast to the lack of an appealing and coherent policy agenda by the Democrats. It also gave Republican candidates a national issue platform to focus on during the 1994 midterms. With this strong policy agenda as a rallying cry, the Republicans were able to retake the House and wield significant influence over the Clinton administration.

Republicans running for office in 2018 should take a page from the 1994 Republican playbook. To paraphrase Congressman Thomas Massie, there is a major difference between partisans and ideologues. Partisans have a narrow vision of what is good for the party. They deal in small scale legislative wins for political gain in the short term. Ideologues play the long game by taking a principled and measured approach to governing that pays dividends down the road.

The Republican leadership should take note. The “Republican Revolution” was successful in the long term because Republican ideologues governed on the promises made in the “Contract with America.” They stood on principle and took action. They kept their pledge to the American people, and voters rewarded them at the ballot box.

To save the majority, Republicans need to rally around a principled ideologue with a strong national vision for change, like Rep. Jim Jordan. Rep. Jordan would govern how he campaigns: on national issues that excite the base. He’s committed to restoring America’s faith in the legislative branch. To put it simply, Jim Jordan is ready to #DoWhatWeSaid.

Like Gingrich’s “Contract with America,” Jordan is running on a platform of national issues rooted in the principles of fiscal responsibility. Like the ’94 revolutionaries, Jordan is recognized by colleagues as a fighter who makes the tough floor votes to cut spending and limit the size and scope of government. These ideological principles drive Republican voter turnout at the polls. They did in 1994, and they still do today. If Republicans can bridge the gap between how they campaign and how they govern, they will energize the base and pave the road to victory in November.

If congressional Republicans elect Rep. Jordan to the speakership and embrace his national agenda of welfare reform, spending cuts, Obamacare repeal, reforming the FBI, and border security, they will keep the House and lay the foundation for sweeping majorities in 2020 and beyond.

Adam Brandon is President of FreedomWorks. His leadership strategy abandons all efforts to achieve substantive change in Congress and fixes instead on messaging bills that serve only partisan purposes.

Adam Brandon’s Op-Ed was originally published in The Hill on 8/9/18.
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