

News Letter August 2015

Dear Fellow Republican,

Having grown up in an entirely Democratic family, I eagerly registered to vote as soon as I was legally old enough to do so. In my youthful zeal to make an impact, I proudly walked into my polling place, voter registration card in hand, and promptly voted for every candidate on the ballot who bore a (D) behind his or her name. That's right, without having done a moment's worth of research on any of the people I was selecting to shape policies that would affect my life, I just assumed that every Democrat was for me.

I tell the above cringe-worthy story as a precursor to explaining how, over time, I moved from far left to comfortably conservative, and ultimately changed my affiliation some time in my early 30's. I tell it, also to offer encouragement to those who are still where I once was as a voter. There was a series of "setting events" that began to construct a mountain of "a-ha" moments in my development as a critical thinker. One of the first was a telephone conversation that I had with my older brother. He decided to take various public policy matters, issue by issue, and ask me my opinion on each. At the end of the discussion, he said, "You're a Republican." The ensuing seconds of silence on the long distance phone call removed any possibility that he may have been joking. Sheepishly, I replied, "Yeah. That's true."

However, much like the movie, "Fight Club", my first rule of Republican Club was to never talk about Republican Club. I spent years, keeping quiet about my beliefs and candidates that I supported. That did not last. One day, on a whim, I decided to research abortion facts. At this point, I do not recall what prompted me to embark upon this research assignment. I do, however, remember being absolutely astonished by the statistics that I discovered in Planned Parenthood's own documentation. This was another elephant-sized "a-ha" moment. As I pored over my reading material, it began to occur to me that if I had been so incredibly misled on the abortion issue, there likely would be additional issues that would be called into question. There were! Issues such as poverty, racism, and education all had verifiable data that I had not heard mentioned by educators, media, or even in personal conversations.

It was then that I decided that I would no longer remain silent. I cared far too much for my family and my country to keep the positive and uplifting message of conservatism to myself. Speaking openly to co-workers, friends, and family members became commonplace for me. Eventually, with the rise of social media, I began to utilize various sites as platforms to provide information to those who might be curious and willing to consider varying perspectives. I relentlessly sought to acquire knowledge and information, with each new discovery solidifying my choice to become a registered Republican.

The growing up process from that 18-year-old kid who blindly selected the name of each (D), to your humble JCREC member has been a long and arduous journey. It is my honor to represent a party whose values align most closely with my own. I look forward to working with our entire slate of 2016 Republican candidates in the upcoming election cycle.

May God's favor be upon us as we march into battle to defend the principles that made our nation great.

Sincerely,
Jill Upson - Kabletown District, JCREC
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Upcoming Events

- August 15th - African-American Heritage Parade
- August 16-22nd – County Fair
- September 12th – JCREC Meeting
- September 13th – Reagan Ranch Picnic @ Sam Michaels Park
- September 19th - Charles Town Heritage Festival
- October 4th – Eisenhower Dinner @ Bavarian Inn
- October 10th - JCREC Meeting
- October 10th – Middleway Days