



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #260 — NOV. 1, 2012

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Get Out and Vote!

(posted by Art, Nov. 1, 2012)

The below article from today's *Washington Post* pretty well captures the lineup for the coming election. I think most on both sides would agree. What is also interesting is the line up for scientists and corporate leaders. You can reach your own conclusions as to what that indicates. Guess the question for each of us is: which column would you rather be counted in?

The second reference was sent by a friend and is a collection of comments on what the citizens of Massachusetts think about Governor Romney's reign. What is a little surprising is that the Romney camp is apparently unable to come up with anything similar. From his side, we have only Romney's self-description of how things went.

Get out and vote!



"A Vote for the Future or for the Past?" by Harold Meyerson, *The Washington Post*

Oct. 30, 2012, (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/harold-meyerson-electing-the-future-or-the-past/2012/10/30/7dd06708-2200-11e2-8448-81b1ce7d6978_story.html)

The 2012 presidential election is fundamentally a contest between our future and our past. Barack Obama's America is the America that will be; Mitt Romney's is the America that was. And the distance between the two is greater, perhaps, than in any election we've had since the Civil War.

The demographic bases of the rival coalitions couldn't be more different. Monday's poll from the Pew Research Center is just the latest to show Obama with a decisive lead (in this case, 21 percentage points) among voters younger than 30. Obama's margin declines to six points among voters ages 30 through 44, and he breaks even with Romney among voters ages 45 through 64. Romney's home turf is voters 65 and older; among those, he leads Obama by 19 points.

Age polarization is not specific to the presidential election. On a host of issues, as diverse as gay and lesbian rights and skepticism about the merits of capitalism, polls have shown that younger voters are consistently more tolerant and well to the left of their elders.

Nor is age the only metric through which we can differentiate our future from our past. The other is race, as the nation grows more racially diverse (or, more bluntly, less white) each year. While the 2000 Census put whites' share of the U.S. population at 69.1 percent, that share had declined to 63.7 percent in the 2010 Census, while the proportion of Hispanics rose from 12.5 percent to 16.3 percent. In raw numbers, total white population increased by just 1.2 percent during the decade, while the African American segment grew by 12.3 percent and the Hispanic share by 43 percent. Demographers predict that the white share of the U.S. population will fall beneath 50 percent in the 2050 Census.

Rather than trying to establish a foothold among America's growing minorities, however, Romney and the Republicans have decided to forgo an appeal to Hispanic voters by opposing legislation that would grant legal status to undocumented immigrants brought here as children and by backing legislation that effectively requires Hispanics to carry documentation papers in certain states. Republicans seek a majority through winning an ever-higher share of white voters. The Washington Post reported last week that its polling showed the greatest racial gap between the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates since the 1988 election, with Romney favored by 60 percent of white voters and Obama by 80 percent of minority voters (a figure that may prove low, if three-quarters of the Hispanic vote goes to Obama, as some other polls suggest it will). The problem for Republicans, of course, is that the minority vote is a far larger share of the total vote today than it was 24 years ago.

By repeatedly estranging minorities and opposing social policies favored by the young, the Republicans have opted for a King Canute strategy: standing on the shore and commanding the tide to stop. Republicans with an eye toward the future, most notably George W. Bush and Karl Rove, have urged the party to embrace immigration reform, but the base is rabidly anti-immigrant and its antipathy is reinforced daily by talk radio hosts and Fox News chatterers who depict an America under siege by alien forces.

Should Republicans prevail in this election and seek to build a more-than-one-term plurality, they will confront a stark choice: Either Romney must persuade his party to reverse its stance on immigration, or the party must seek to extend the scope of its voter-suppression efforts. Put another way, they must try to either accommodate the future or suppress it.

Accommodation with diversity and modernity, however, is simply not part of the Republican DNA. Today's Republican Party has largely cornered the market on religious fundamentalists, even as the number of GOP scientists has dwindled (a 2009 Pew poll of scientists found that just 6 percent self-identified as Republicans, while 55 percent said they were Democrats). Many of the largest Republican funders come from economic sectors hardly distinguished by significant productivity increases or their contributions to mass prosperity (casino gambling, Wall Street), while Silicon Valley remains more Democratic turf. (By the way, all those messages Republican CEOs have

been sending their employees , predicting layoffs should Obama be reelected? Have any of them promised raises if Romney wins? Just askin'.)

Two Americas are facing off in next week's election. By their makeup, the Democrats are bound to move, if haltingly, into the future, while the Republicans parade proudly into the pre-New Deal past — some of it mythic, lots of it ugly. The differences could not be clearer.

["Mass Knows Mitt Romney" by Various, MassKnowsMitt.com](#)

Oct. 31, 2012, (<http://massknowsmitt.com/>)

Those of us from the Bay State know what kind of leader Mitt Romney really is. If you've ever wondered why Romney is down 20 points in his home state, this is your chance to find out why.

[Romney will never win an election here.](#) (from Judith, Worcester, Oct. 31, 2012)

Mitt took tons of state jobs and moved them overseas – computer tech was a hot job at the time and my husband, who is a carpenter was finishing up a computer programming class as something he might do as a second career. Outsourcing all those was a green light to Mass companies to do the same – no one in his entire class got a job.

He then paid increased fees to maintain his professional licenses and certifications, increased fees for pulling a construction permit, increased fees for inspections.

He slashed basic services mostly for the poor including homeless vets. He cut higher public ed by 25% which crippled community colleges and state universities which served primarily massachusetts residents. His scholarship program that he has gone on and on about amounted to less than \$750.00 dollars, you still paid for books, housing, dining plans. If you were a commuter there were fees. The best thing about Mitt Romney being governor was that he was out of the state most of the time campaigning for president – at our taxpayer expense. He only seemed to come back to state to veto legislation – a record 704 times, unprecedented for any governor in our state, especially for someone who claims to have been so bipartisan. He is not even trying to contest this state because he will never win an election here.

[Any man that dyes his hair, spray paints his tan, and fakes that he likes average people has no business running for President.](#) (from Carol, Weymouth, Oct. 31, 2012)

Romney brags that he was a Republican Governor in a Democratic state but there were three others him. He raised the cost of state college 65%, he cut state funding to schools and was responsible for the Big Dig mess. He was bad for Massachusetts and will be horrible for the country. Any man that dyes his hair, spray paints his tan, and fakes that he likes average people has no business running for President.

[Mitt created a fee on handicapped children.](#) (from Judith, Worcester, Oct. 31, 2012)

We had adopted a Handicapped child from the state. Mitt imposed fees everywhere, but the most heinous was directed toward the disabled. It cost \$100.00 just to keep my daughter verified as mentally retarded.

[Romney told other governors to "amend their Constitutions before it is too late" on marriage equality.](#) (from Graham, Norfolk, Oct. 31, 2012)

Romney carried to an extreme his personal fight against the right of same sex partners to marry. He not only fought for a referendum in Massachusetts but also spent a lot of time trying to influence Governors of other states to "amend their Constitutions before it is too late." He had a right to his personal opinion but not a right to take time

from his day job as Governor to attempt to gain national recognition and support for his aspiration to become President of the US. Small wonder that he is unpopular with a majority of voters in Massachusetts.

[Governor Romney is not a man interested in leading the downtrodden.](#) (from Monica, Arlington, Oct. 31, 2012)

During Governor Romney's term, I attended nearly every meeting of the Governor's Council on Sexual and Domestic Violence. He offered no leadership on the subject violence, which surprised me because he has spoken about his compassion for rape victims and his belief that strong families are the key to America's future. His Lt. Governor, Kerry Healey, deserves some credit for taking the bull by the horns and attempting to apply some modern criminal justice principles to the realm of sexual and domestic violence, but without vocal support from the Governor, her initiatives were only tepid steps. Governor Romney is not a man interested in leading the downtrodden.

[We, as Massachusetts citizens, know Romney will say whatever he thinks will get him what he wants.](#) (from Linda, Cambridge, Oct. 31, 2012)

Romney poured buckets of money into slick ads—like the one in which he wore neatly pressed jeans and pretended to do blue-collar jobs like pitching hay for cows, unloading a fishing boat, and hauling garbage. He was good looking, he pretended to be a moderate, some people felt a little sorry for him after he claimed the Democrats weren't being fair to him and, after all, the state has a history of electing Republican governors.

Every Republican governor in MA before him ran for at least two terms. Romney did not seek re-election in 2006. After all, now he could say that he had served as governor, so we had served his purpose. When asked, he said was he had fulfilled his objectives (like, using us as a platform for a run as president). By November 2006 (two months before he left office), his approval rating in our state stood at 34 percent—that is, 48th out of all U.S. governors.

We, as Massachusetts citizens, know that he'll say and do whatever he thinks will get him what he wants. I beg of all those who read this—please don't give him your vote.

[Romney has no long-term principles.](#) (from Mark, Lexington, Oct. 31, 2012)

When Romney was governor, for him it was all about looking good, or at least doing what he thought would make him look good. He's a poser, who has demonstrated no long-term principles. And he sure didn't create many jobs while he was here, nor did he associate with folks outside the 1%.

[Romney spent most of his time out of state, complaining about how awful our state was.](#) (from Sally, Worcester, Oct. 30, 2012)

He was hardly here. He only used the office so that he could run for President. He spent most of his time out of state, complaining about how awful our state was to try and drum up support for his campaign.

His running mate for governor, Kerry Healy ran for governor herself after Mitt left office. Mitt left her holding the bag and she paid the price. Her campaign went terribly and he was out of the picture.

[Romney managed to spin his short-term job into a fairy tale of success.](#) (from Carey, Boston, Oct. 30, 2012)

I remember when he came in as governor, excited that he was going to do good – he didn't. The Big Dig overruns happened on his watch, and there's video of him calling the whole project "[a political tar baby.](#)" The press has him running for President for 7 years, but in reality it's been 17 years.

It AMAZES me his record in Mass doesn't come up more, it's the one time he had a job relevant to the presidency. Like Sarah Palin he's managed to spin his short-term job into a fairy tale of success.

There are folks that have gag orders from talking about Mitt.

[Romney accepted a \\$25,000 statue as a gift says former Bain staffer.](#) (from Bobbi, Cambridge, Oct. 29, 2012)

While working at Bain Capital from 2002 to 2003 as support staff, my colleagues and I were instructed to deliver a statue appraised for \$25,000 as a gift to Governor Romney from his partners at Bain Capital. In 2002, I saw a fax from the NY Fed Chairman inviting one of Mr. Romney's chief deputies at Bain to lunch to discuss ways to shape the direction of the economy.

This struck me as Bain having back door access to power that others did not have. While he was Governor, it was not unusual to see Mr. Romney at Bain Capital huddling with his advisors. This, too, was a Bain back channel to power and influence that others did not have.

[Romney's bait and switch on tuition. Fees skyrocket.](#) (from Trudy, Westfield, Oct. 29, 2012)

Romney says those who pass the high-stakes test at a certain rate get free tuition at state institutions, it's really almost nothing. It's the fees that are the killer.

[Mitt Romney made us 47th in job growth.](#) (from Carla, Pittsfield, Oct. 28, 2012)

Mitt Romney claims he was a job creator but during his term as governor MA was number 47 in job growth. His company, Bain Capital, bought KayBee Toys, loaded them with debt and then sold them. Several hundred people lost well paying jobs. The company had been making money but not enough for Mitt. Bain also owned Bright Horizons Day Care in our local hospital but its own employees could not afford to send their children there.

[Romney made our classrooms into test prep factories.](#) (from Trudy, Westfield, Oct. 27, 2012)

I work in Higher Education. Romney slashed budgets and raised fees on students. Romney claims that Mass. students were first in education. While they may score high on achievement tests, they are not college ready as a result of measures pushed by Romney. Classrooms are simply test prep factories. Simply put – his education policy was a disaster and we are still feeling the effects.

[My annual property taxes were \\$4400 per year before Romney took office and \\$6400 after he left office.](#) (from Robert, Winthrop, Oct. 26, 2012)

I am a retired school teacher who resides in Winthrop, MA. Governor Romney slashed state aid to the cities and towns leaving them with two options: Lay off municipal workers or raise local taxes. During his 4 years as governor, less affluent towns were forced to lay off police, firemen, teachers, and other municipal workers to make up the budget shortfall created Governor Romney's policies. Our town was among them. We were down to the bare bones budget until our we voted on and passed a 6.2 million dollar override. My annual property taxes were \$4400 per year before Romney took office and \$6400 after he left office. When Governor Romney says he cut taxes only tells half the story. The state taxes were cut, but the local taxes increased more. Many local and services were cut. Many new state fees were introduced. The net result was the average homeowner of our commonwealth was paying more for fewer services. Governor Romney is a master of this shell game. Governor Romney is a hypocrite as well. Several times he tried to pass pension reform and cited the abuse of the pension system as reasons for reform. Just before he left office he tried to slip a \$125,000 per year pension to his campaign manager Eric Ferhsten. The Boston Globe uncovered his scheme and made it public. His poor performance as Governor is why Massachusetts will vote 2-1 against Governor Romney for President.

[Mass knows Mitt? No one including Mitt knows Mitt.](#) (from Don, Milford, Oct. 26, 2012)

Each morning during the Mitt the Twit years, the Boston Globe would have another crazy idea Mitt had proposed. The following morning there would be a retraction. Most of the time he was out running for President and bad mouthing Massachusetts. We have had some lousy governors but he is right up there with the worst. Mass knows Mitt? No one including Mitt knows Mitt. His position on any issue will change in the next hour.

[Scholarships were really a few hundred dollars.](#) (from Anne, Cotuit, Oct. 26, 2012)

You know that claim he makes about the scholarship for qualifying high school seniors that provides them with a "free ride" to any state school? Well, in reality it amounts to a few hundred dollars; tuition only, no fees, no room and board included. We were so excited when our daughter qualified, and just as disappointed to learn it really didn't amount to much; like most of his proposals, it sounded way better than it was.

[There is a good reason why he chose not to run for reelection.](#) (from Jim, Sudbury, Oct. 26, 2012)

There is a good reason why he chose not to run for reelection. He would never have made it. It should also be pointed out that it was during his predecessor as governor, Bill Weld, when Massachusetts school children performed very well. Weld should be given the credit.

[No wonder he is at 30 per cent here.](#) (from Lynn, North Attleboro, Oct. 26, 2012)

I was an elected member of our local school committee when Romney became Governor. Although we are a suburban community, we have non-English speaking children in our system. Romney eliminated bi-lingual education funds for Massachusetts. Once he decided to run for President after 2 years as Governor, he went around the country making jokes about Massachusetts and its citizens. No wonder he is at 30 per cent here.

[A mortgage now costs more than three times as much to record.](#) (from Claudia, Stow, Oct. 26, 2012)

Mitt always likes to mention how he didn't raise taxes in Massachusetts. What he did do was raise fees in the state. He raised the recording fees for documents related to land. So to record a discharge of a mortgage you paid off it would cost over 3 times as much. To record a trust, it would cost almost 5 times as much. A mortgage now costs more than three times as much to record. It was sneaky.

[You just cannot trust this man.](#) (from Marcel, Pepperell, Oct. 26, 2012)

Mitt Romney brags that he knows how to cross the aisle and work with legislators from the opposing party. Let's be clear. The reason he signed legislation sent to him when he was governor of Massachusetts is that the Massachusetts legislature is so overwhelmingly Democratic that any legislation that he vetoed, or would have vetoed, would be easily overridden by the legislature. It had nothing to do with bipartisanship. As soon as he was elected Governor he went out of state to campaign for President. He was not only out of state more than in it he denegated and lambasted the very state of which he was Governor. You just cannot trust this man.

[Romney didn't care about saving money for a rainy day.](#) (from David, Amherst, Oct. 26, 2012)

We are struggling with the poor financial state of Massachusetts due to the fact that Romney didn't care about saving money for a rainy day. When that day came, his tax policies left us without proper resources.

[Romney emptied the State Rainy Day Fund.](#) (from Roger, Haverhill, Oct. 26, 2012)

Romney emptied the State Rainy Day Fund — used to keep the state economy stable during hard times — in order to give tax breaks to the wealthy. He cut funding to the cities and towns causing our property taxes to go up. Our fees (i.e.: auto license, dog license, business permits, etc) doubled, while teachers, police and fire-fighters were laid-off. He spent his last year bad-mouthing the state at several Republican gatherings. When he left office, his staff removed all the hard-drives from the state computers to bury his tenure, leaving a check to cover the cost for new hard drives. In my opinion: that is like robbing a bank and leaving an I.O.U. I would like to see the campaign wind-down with the slogan: Ask Massachusetts!

[He will do anything to put the title President of the United States next to his name.](#) (from Carey, Brighton, Oct. 26, 2012)

I took a giant leap of faith and voted for Mitt. His record as a jobs creator in the state speaks for itself. In the third debate he tried to take credit for Massachusetts' excellent public school ranking, when in fact it was his predecessor who enacted the policy that created the improvements. As was the case of most everything else, Olympics included, he stood on the sidelines and tried and take more credit that he deserved. I truly believe that he has the potential to be a more dangerous president, if that's possible, than George W. Bush. Willard Mitt Romney is a crook who will do anything to put the title President of the United States next to his name.

[I remember being impressed with Romney's "Health Care for All" plan...](#) (from Elena, Cambridge, Oct. 26, 2012)

I remember being impressed with Romney's "Health Care for All" plan, an idea that, for some warped reason, he now disavows. Romney's bid for governor was fueled by his running the Utah Olympics, an event largely made possible through sizable Federal government subsidies. He was a mediocre governor and is completely lacking in the qualities required to be the leader of our country. The polls speak volumes: Romney's approval rating in MA is hovering around 30%.

[Special interests over public interest.](#) (from Carol, Natick, Oct. 26, 2012)

Breastfeeding offers important health benefits for mothers and babies. The American Academy of Pediatrics and many other health professional organizations recommend exclusive breastfeeding for six month. Formula company "goodie bags" for new mothers with samples, coupons and advertising send a message that the hospital providing this "gift" endorses early formula feeding and that this practice undermines breastfeeding initiation. The public health, breastfeeding, and childbirth communities support banning those bags. In 2006, Governor Romney blocked this ban, which was supported by the Department of Health. He stood on the side of powerful corporate interests rather than the Commonwealth's mothers, babies, and families. Since his tenure, all hospitals in the Commonwealth have voluntarily eliminated this inappropriate practice. I cannot vote for someone who repeatedly prioritizes policies for special interests over policies for public interests.

[Romney has no intention of working with us.](#) (from Heather, Cambridge/Somerville, Oct. 26, 2012)

Romney was a carpetbagger taking advantage of a weak Democratic candidate to shove his way into office. He had no interest in running the state and spent most of his time out of state complaining about how mean we all were. Even members of his own party couldn't work with him. It's not because he was a "severe conservative" that he's so unpopular now, it's because he had no intention of working with us, he just wanted a stepping stone to where he is now.

[Disgraceful, disgusting, and amoral.](#) (from C.W., Newton, Oct. 26, 2012)

For the last two years of his Governorship. Romney toured around the country campaigning for his "presidency-in-advance" by telling nasty jokes about Massachusetts, the state he was sworn to protect and promote. Disgraceful, disgusting, and amoral.

[Terrifying to think of Romney as president.](#) (from Alexandra, Wareham, Oct. 26, 2012)

I was a State Employee then, (I've been retired for ten years now) and it was a struggle to get a pay increase, or anything while he was in office. He was the worst governor we ever had, it's terrifying to think of him as president.

[We are still cleaning his BS up all these years later.](#) (from Kerry, Boston, Oct. 26, 2012)

He didn't ask for the binder full of women. Womens' groups brought it to him. He was known to ask why more male weren't sent to him for positions as judges! I could go on. He wouldn't win for dog catcher in Massachusetts! We are still cleaning his BS up all these years later.

[I still remember the humiliation...](#) (from Fern, Williamstown, Oct. 26, 2012)

My daughter shared the experience of what it means to be a leader when Mitt was governor. Mitt likes to brag that he did not raise taxes in Massachusetts and balanced the budget. He does not talk about the impact of his decisions. The public high school my daughter attended was forced to make hard choices to maintain the level of education that it had historically. This meant extra curricula activities such as sports and drama saw severe cuts in funding. The only way too extra curricula activities was by instituting user fees. As the parent of the team captain, I had the unfortunate responsibility to inform parents of the user fees and to gently remind them to pay if they wanted their child to continue in the activity. I still remember the humiliation in the voices of her peers' parents as they told me that their children could not participate in the sports because they did not have the spare cash to pay the user fees for the sports. Ultimately, the teams were not inclusive in her public school because the children from upper middle class families were able to participate because their parents paid the user fees. Parents who did not have the extra money did not have the reward of seeing their children succeed in areas that were outside of the academic classes. As for me, the amount I needed to pay for user fees for her to participate in extra curricula activities year round at a public high school exceeded how much taxes had gone up in previous years.

[Liar, Faker, Millionaire.](#) (from Janet, West Falmouth, Oct. 26, 2012)

Yes, I know Mitt. I'm a resident of Cape Cod and I think the most astounding fact about Mitt is that he brought Obamacare to Mass, though like a wolf in sheep's clothing. I knew, from the moment that he chose to be a Mass Resident what he came here for. And yes, he ran for President more than six years. Liar, Faker, Millionaire.

[Romney's war on EMTs](#) (from Todd, Framingham, Oct. 26, 2012)

Governor Romney promised not to raise taxes when he was governor, but what he did do was raise fees. As a certified basic EMT in Mass, I have to re-certify every two years. I have to pay for continuing ED classes, then I have to take a 24 hour refresher course, all so I can work for a company that starts pay at 11 dollars an hour. I also have to pay a fee to the state to process the re-certification paperwork. When Romney came in as governor, that fee was 75 dollars. When he left, it is 150 dollars! That is so I can do a job that pays less than 30,000 dollars a year.

[He was pro-choice as governor; now he's pro-life. I think he's just pro-Mitt.](#) (from Nancy, Malden, Oct. 26, 2012)

He was pro-choice as governor; now he's pro-life. I think he's just pro-Mitt. He was in favor of Obamacare; now he's against it. He was pro-gay rights; now he's against them. Romney is a well-oiled weathervane. He will do anything, say anything to get himself elected.

[Constant Bickering](#) (from Maureen, Bradford, Oct. 26, 2012)

The only thing I can remember about Mitt as governor is his constant bickering with the turnpike authority. I don't think he accomplished whatever he was all worked up about, but there was a lot of noise. I will give him credit for signing in Romney Care. It has saved me a lot of money on my own insurance and on that of my employees. It works really well. What I can't understand is why he doesn't think its good enough for the rest of the country.

[I pray he does not become our President.](#) (from David H, East Brookfield, Oct. 26, 2012)

Mitt was gone almost half the time that he was "Our Governor." I would like to have a Governor like our President. I wrote to our First Lady, Mrs. Obama and within one week, I received an answer and an instruction to always let her know if there was anything else that she could help me with. Of the four letters sent to Governnor Romney, no answer. I pray that he does not become our President.

[He cut local aid to towns, causing towns to raise property taxes.](#) (from R. Wayne, Holbrook, Oct. 26, 2012)

When Mitt Romney was Gov. of Massachusetts he cut state taxes, but raised fees on everything making it very expensive for small businesses. He local aid to towns, causing towns to raise property taxes. Mr. Romney did no favors to Massachusetts business or tax payers.

[I wanted to throw a shoe at the T.V. when he said he was proud of my state.](#) (from Carolyn, Cambridge, Oct. 26, 2012)

Romney spent more time bashing Massachusetts than he did governing it! I wanted to throw a shoe at the T.V. when he said he was proud of my state. It isn't his state. He is going to lose Massachusetts by 20 percentage points. That should say it all.

[Mitt Romney did not go out and SEEK "binders" of resumes...](#) (from Donna, Winthrop, Oct. 26, 2012)

Actually, Mitt Romney did not go out and SEEK "binders" of resumes of prominent, capable women to help head up his cabinet and departments. Instead, women's groups sought HIM out and asked why he had so few women as candidates for his cabinet and departments. That's how it really happened.

[His positions change as readily as the weather in New England.](#) (from Robert, Newton, Oct. 26, 2012)

Romney's record in job creation was appalling and his management of the state's budget left huge deficits. He is a pragmatist whose positions change as readily as the weather in New England. He is not a reliable national leader for the future of the United States and our standing internationally.

[He was not a governor, but a boss.](#) (from Ruth, Acushnet, Oct. 26, 2012)

He was not a governor, but a boss. He sent 800,000 jobs to China, and my poor mother in law at 80+ years, saw her home taxes go up every year so that she had to have help from all of us to keep her home. Her daughter and son in law lived with her along with another son so she could get by. We are still trying to bail out from him. But I think the strangest thing I was told by someone that worked for him was the elevator in the State House. He

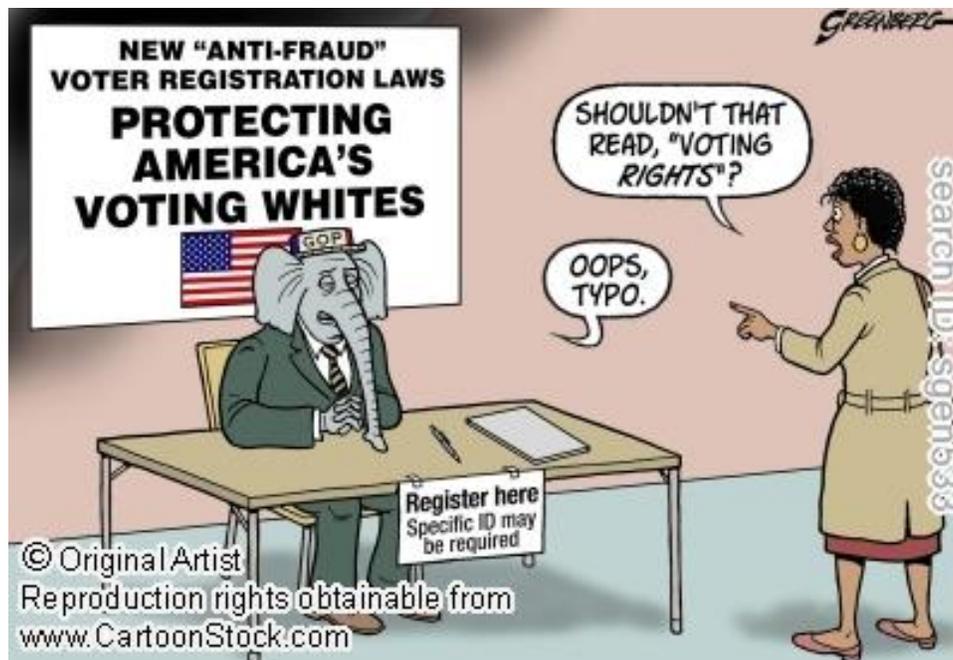
decided it was going to be his. So no one was allowed to use it, and I mean NO ONE except him and everyone else had to use the stairs. Now I have to wonder if a person working there had a medical problem, or a heart attack while he was in office, on the 4th floor, the paramedics would have had to carry that person down 4 flights of stairs as the elevator was off limits! Far as I know, this is a very true story. It was such a relief to see him go.

[Betrayal of same sex couples.](#) (from Cara, Framingham, Oct. 26, 2012)

I will not be voting for Mitt Romney because of his despicable betrayal of same-sex couples and their families in Massachusetts. When he campaigned for the Senate in 1994, and again for Governor in 2002, Mitt Romney claimed to support gay rights. But after the state Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to bar same-sex couples from marrying in 2003, Romney began pushing for a constitutional convention to overturn that ruling. The Boston Globe revealed today that as Governor of MA, he refused to allow the state birth certificate form to be amended for babies born to same-sex couples, instructing that the words "father" or "mother" be crossed out and "second parent" inserted by hand. I have two gay siblings, and I will not forget Mitt Romney's betrayal of them.

[Romney made it so it took a year to get my Social Security Disability Insurance.](#) (from Judy, Holyoke and Springfield, Oct. 26, 2012)

How he affected me? I had to wait about a year before I was able to receive my SSDI and it was a very difficult year for me.



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<u>DATE-ID</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TITLE</u>
20121101-00		Art	Get Out and Vote! by Art ("A Vote for the Future or for the Past?" & "Mass Knows Mitt Romney")
20121031-01	11:08	Pam	Re: Sad Loss ("Sandy Gains Power & Aims for Northeast") (reply to all, FotM Newsletter #259)
20121031-07	23:03	Ken	Re: Sad Loss ("Sandy Gains Power & Aims for Northeast") (reply to Pam, above)
20121031-02	11:39	SteveB	October, 2012 Friends of the Middle eBook Announcement
20121031-03	17:55	Tom	Fw: New Commemorative Pistol from Ruger
20121031-04	20:51	Tom	Quote: Will Rogers on Prohibition & Learning
20121031-05	21:04	Tom	Graphic: Stupid People
20121031-06	21:54	Tom	There, I Fixed It! #1 (Video: "Guy Makes 14-Foot AT-ST Walker as a Halloween Costume")
20121031-08	23:56	Marci	Photo: Special Moments #13
20121031-09	23:57	Dennis	Graphic: Why We Can't Let Our Newspapers Go Out of Business #8
20121031-10	23:58	Tom	Anti-Obama Graphics: You've Been Warned #4
20121031-11	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Spectacular 9-Gigapixel Image of the Central Milky Way Galaxy

20121031-01	11:08	Pam	Re: Sad Loss ("Sandy Gains Power & Aims for Northeast") (reply to all, FotM Newsletter #259)
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The day after...

Things are very quiet here in NC today. The sun is shining; the sky is blue. I feel very fortunate when I think of all the people up and down the coast who are struggling and will be struggling for a long time. I was especially struck by the doctors and nurses who got all those patients out of their hospital, including intensive-care newborns. It must have been terrifying for everyone. I can't imagine.

Those of you in the path of Sandy, please let FotM know how you are. I was disgusted by Romney's and Ryan's "plans" for disaster relief. Jeez. You'd think the private sector was a sacred cow.

20121031-07	23:03	Ken	Re: Sad Loss ("Sandy Gains Power & Aims for Northeast") (reply to Pam, above)
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Amen to all that, Pam. My gym usually has Fox News on in the locker room. I figure a little passive exposure can't get me too riled (but it does). Today their analysts were decrying Obama's rapid deployment of FEMA assistance as grandstanding. Gore also took heat for stating (the truth) that global warming caused this extraordinary storm and worsened its coastal impact due to the gradual rise of the oceans. Fox could use a dose of Fresh Air (T Gross, NPR) to learn what Meteorologists have to say about Sandy and predictable future storms.

20121031-02	11:39	SteveB	October, 2012 Friends of the Middle eBook Announcement
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The latest Friends of the Middle eBook, the compilation of October, 2012 issues, is now available online.

This ebook is FotM #12, 431 pages out of total eBook pages of 6695.

It can be downloaded or perused using the following link:

<http://www.friendsofthemiddle.org/2012-newsletters/201210-FotM-Newsletters.pdf>.

Thanks to you all and I hope all of you affected weathered the hurricane unscathed.

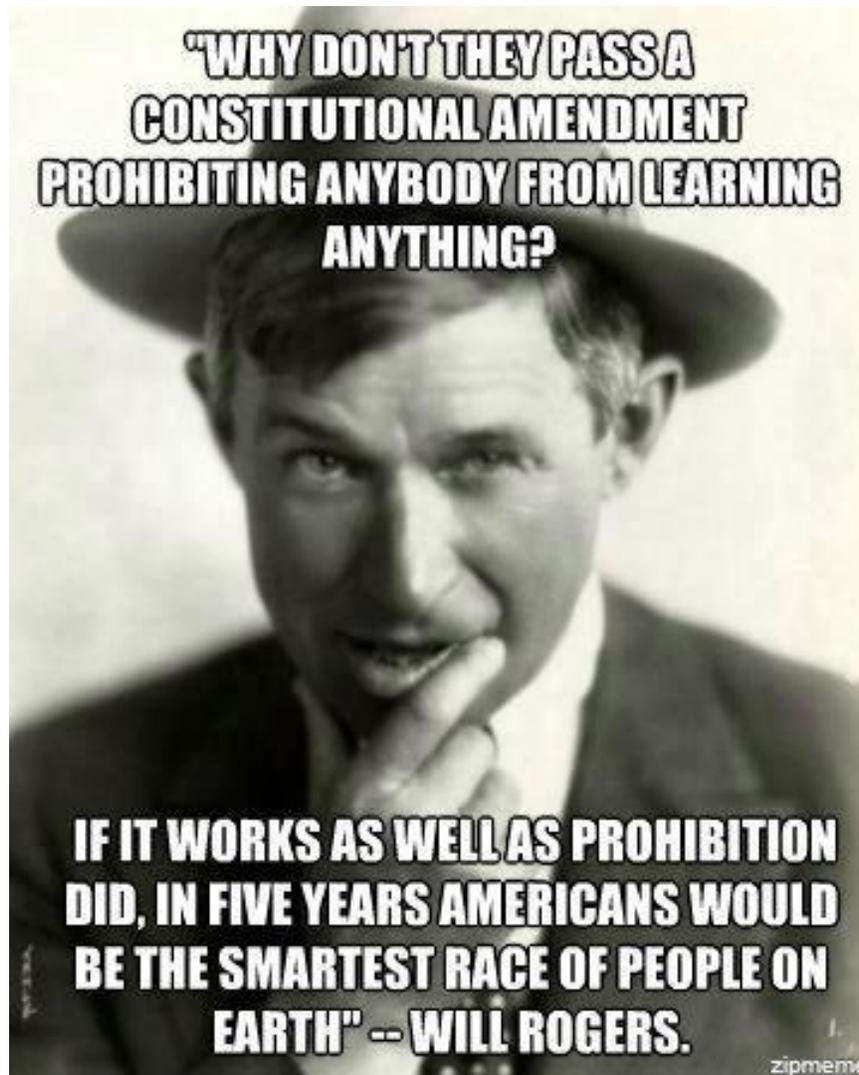
20121031-03 17:55 Tom Fw: New Commemorative Pistol from Ruger

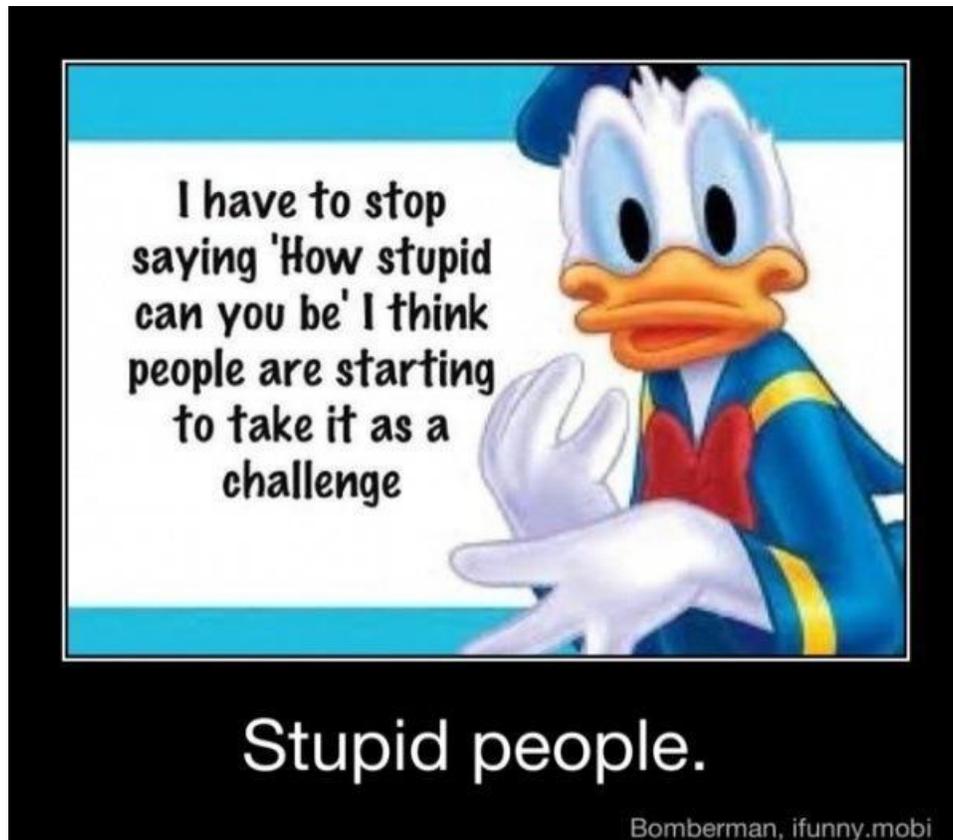
[Source of original email unknown. --SteveB

New Commemorative Pistol

Ruger is coming out with a new pistol in honor of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. It will be named the Congressman.







Video: "Guy Makes 14-Foot AT-ST Walker as a Halloween Costume" by unknown, Cheezburger

Oct. 31, 2012,

(http://cheezburger.com/43983105?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ThereIFixedIt+%28There%2C+I+Fixed+It.%29)

Halloween is here already, but if you want to get an early start on next year's festivities, here's where the bar is set. Judging by this guy's costume, it's set pretty high (14 feet high, to be precise!).



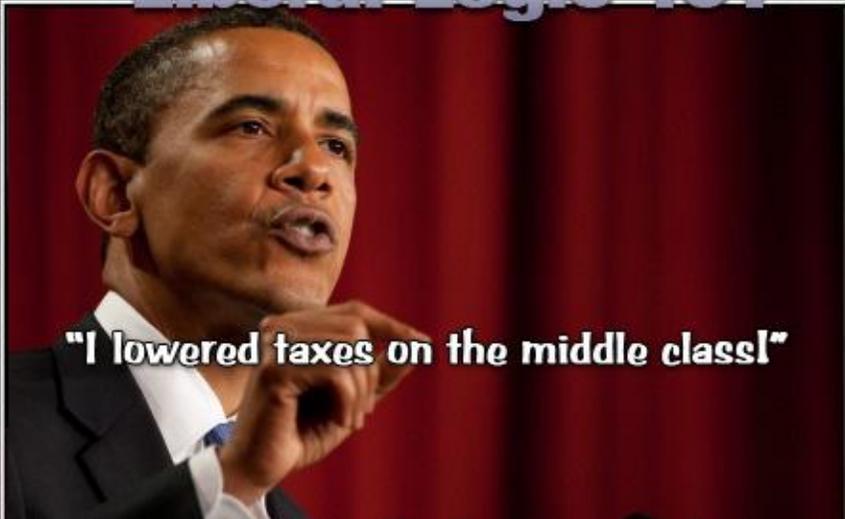
ON TEENAGERS, ADULT:

Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25.

*Mary Anne Tebedo, Republican state senator from Colorado Springs
(contributed by Harry F. Poncec)*

MONDAY DECEMBER 1999

Liberal Logic 101



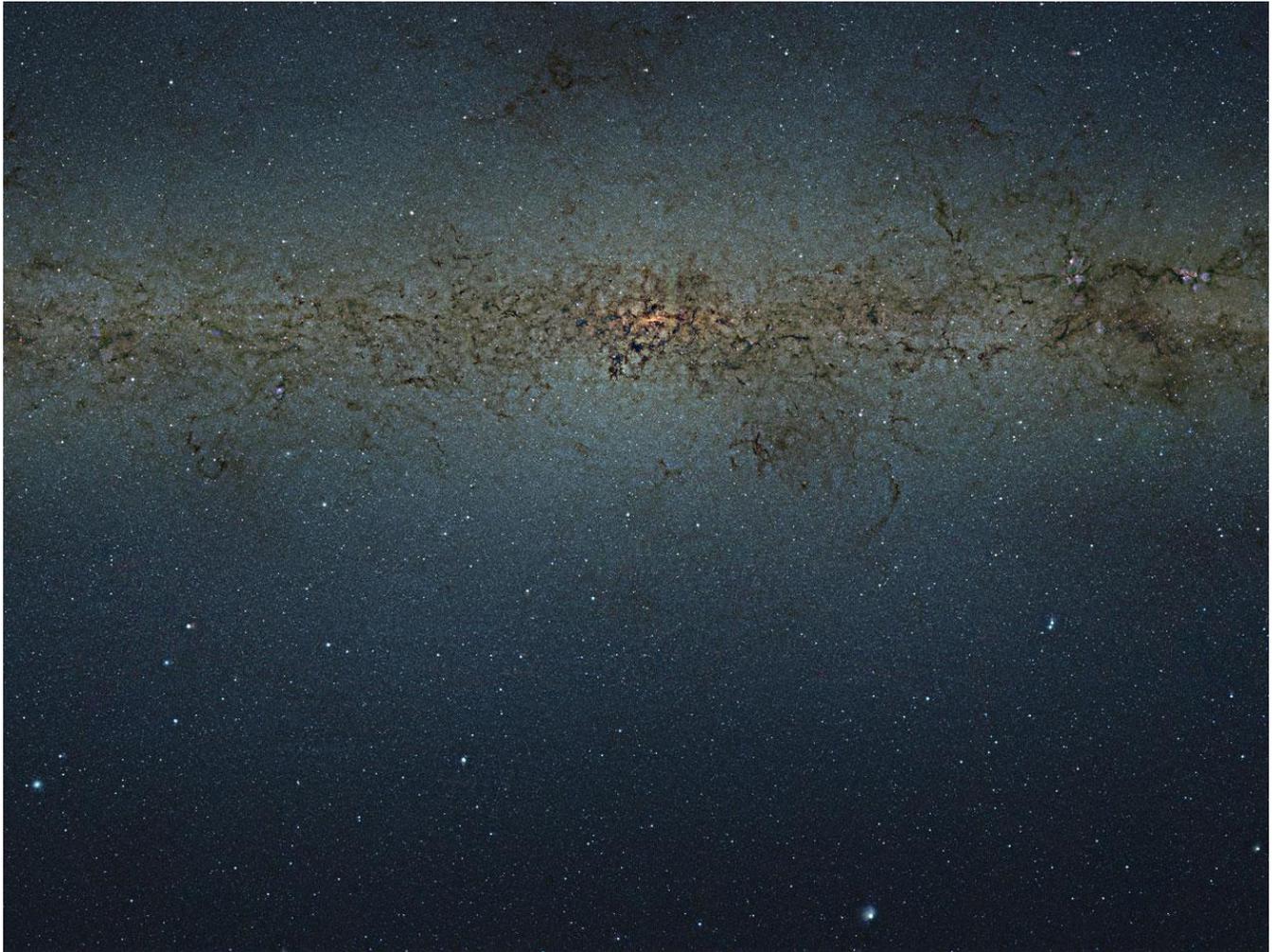
"I lowered taxes on the middle class!"

True, but you did it by trashing the economy so the average middle class income dropped, and of course when personal income drops, personal tax liability drops as well.

<http://LiberalLogic101.com>
(Yes, they are that stupid)



<http://www.eso.org/public/images/eso1242a/>



—Friends of the Middle,
Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

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<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org>
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