

November 9, 2006

1. The old liberal vs. conservatives split is over. Conservatives lost years ago when we let liberals define themselves as moderates. They aren't moderate at all. They're liberals. I'm a moderate. I believe in mainstream Midwestern values. Limited government. Low taxation. The worth and strength of individuals rather than over reliance on government. Basically, the Republican Platform. But we let liberals call themselves moderates and the American voting public likes the sound of the term "moderate". It sounds middle-of-the-road. Compromising. Bringing people together. That is not what liberals like Nancy Pelosi, Howard Dean and Hillary Clinton do.
2. Republicans have also lost the war in Iraq. We lost years ago when, after a military victory, we accepted without question the liberal's argument that after a regime change, the United States had an obligation to stick around and defend the Iraqi people from themselves. Nonsense. If in the future, in our own interests and the interest of worldwide freedom, we must seek to overthrow a tyrant such as a Hitler or a Saddam Hussein, we must work with local people before the military action and then count on them to rebuild their own country, not us. The war on terrorism is likely to be a long battle. We must learn from our mistakes and not repeat them.
3. The battle between the "insiders" who are involved in politics for financial gain and power and the "reformers" is now moving into the middle stages. We can and must win this battle if we are to turn around the Republican party in Illinois. No more back room deal making among the powerbrokers. No more lucrative state contracts to political contributors at the expense of taxpayers. Thanks to people like Patrick Fitzgerald, our U.S. attorney. Shame on "Individual A", Bill Cellini of Springfield, "Individual K", Bob Kjellander, our own National Committeeman, and Rod Blagojevich, our very own "pay to play" Governor.
4. It is time to take back our party, starting at the precinct level, the County Chairman level, and the State Central Committee. We have many good precinct committeemen and County Chairman already and we must build on those and add many more. We have some solid State Central Committeemen like our own Gene Dawson. But we also have many who have been around a very long time and who try to keep out new ideas, new volunteers and new candidates who will challenge the system. Those challengers are precisely the people we need to revitalize our party. Voters must know that we are serious and that we will support individuals who are involved in politics to serve the people of Illinois, not for financial gain. We must all be willing to give of our time, our energy, and our financial resources for the good of our country, our state, and our party.

Respectfully,

Jim Oberweis