

### BACK TO BASICS

*"Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"*  
- Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence, July, 1776

#### HOW DID THINGS GET THIS CRAZY?

Have you been watching what is going on in our Legislature in Nashville? Things have settled down since the special session to push through School Vouchers (see February's POV), but theatrics are still on display. It would appear we can no longer have debates based on logic and reason. No, we must shout down those who have a different opinion, as if volume makes our position correct. If that doesn't work, then we resort to physical threats, emotional appeals, or organized protests. Logic and reason have been replaced with public spectacle and name-calling.

**Things are worse in Washington.** Every day there are new revelations of how our tax dollars are being wasted. Things most people would ask, "Why did someone ever think this was a good idea?"

As of April 2, DOGE claims on its site it has saved Americans \$140 billion, or \$869.57 per taxpayer.

This kind of wasteful spending should not be a partisan issue. We can disagree on the methods being used to correct it, but we should all wish to see our hard-earned dollars spent wisely. Instead, the undefendable is defended. Rather than offer a logical alternative, protests, name-calling, and vandalism have become the response.

#### JUDICIARY IN CHARGE

This past December, the Constitutional Court of Romania annulled their Presidential election, as they were not happy with the results. We have a Federal Judiciary doing the same in the USA today. Not as overtly as the Romanian court, but with the same result. Whether you agree with our President or not, he is only doing what he campaigned on, for which the American people gave him a mandate.

**Today, un-elected judges are trying to run our country.** Usurping presidential authority in matters of the military, foreign policy, terrorism, domestic spending, and even how the government is organized, staffed, and run.

Is this what we really want? An un-elected ruling class, not a government of the people, by the people, for the people?

#### BACK TO BASICS

The United States was not the first democracy or republic on the world stage, but we have endured 250 years. Whenever things seem to get crazy or out of control, it is beneficial to remember the first principles upon which our nation was founded. One could review thousands of writings and documents our founding fathers left behind, or simply examine the simple phrase above, enshrined in our Declaration of Independence.

#### GOVERNMENTS ARE CREATED

This was truly a revolutionary idea in the 1700's when most of the world was governed by royalty. People who were "born to rule" in an inherited, "God ordained" position. Our founders established no such elite group as having the right to rule. Whether one be a landowner, tradesman, soldier, or even an attorney. Those who rule do so by consent.

#### CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

Have you ever considered the implications of this simple phrase? It captures the essential principles of our democracy. That our republic is based upon the consent and participation of those governed. No one has an inherent right to govern, and no one may claim authority over another without their consent.

#### CONSENT MUST BE VOLUNTARY

There has been many a government in human history that ruled by "forced consent" of its people. Governance should be based on legitimacy, understanding, and consent. Legitimacy comes from free and fair elections, and we all consent to respect the wishes of the majority. Without voluntary consent, governing becomes authoritarian, contradicting the very principles of our republic.

**Legitimacy does not come from a law degree nor judicial appointment.**

We must always remember that our nation is the "Great Experiment" in self-government. This republic was created by men and can be destroyed by men. It is up to us to be good stewards, to insure that "a government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." – Abraham Lincoln, 1863.

***The future of our Republic is in our hands.***