

After the storm Community Comment Mike Goldsby November 8, 2012

It seems like this presidential campaign ^{went} ~~has gone~~ on for years. I was worried that the result wouldn't be clear; Hanging chads, zealous poll watchers, unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud and elections too close to call could have resulted in an election decided by attorneys instead of voters.

Some good news: Neither Romney nor Obama have to move. That must be a relief to them and their families. The election is also good news for conservative talk radio. They do better attacking and tearing down than they do supporting and building.

Interpret the results any way you want. Rush and Hannity have their interpretations. Check out what Ted Nugent wrote about the election on Twitter, then translate it into English for me. To me, Romney was probably a decent guy but about as ^{dull} ~~exciting~~ as Al Gore or John Kerry. I found McCain much more accessible. Romney seemed like a reasonable moderate who then tried to appeal to the far right. He wound up meeting his own positions coming and going. His own party didn't do him any favors, especially with comments about rape that seemed to come from the Dark Ages. I know this election is difficult for sincere conservatives. I was amazed George W got elected once but downright depressed when he was re-elected. I got over it in a year or so.

I still struggle with the idea that a few small states become more important than all of the others. California doesn't exactly get ignored but it is clear both major candidates were more interested in California fundraising than in California issues. I am glad that we were spared the flood of negative campaign advertisements, but I wish our media could realize a little more of that revenue during a national campaign.

Because campaigns certainly generate money. The Washington Times estimates that over 6 billion dollars were spent in this campaign. Obama raised over 1 billion dollars and Romney over 900 million dollars. Romney

had to spend some of his money fighting other Republicans through the primary.

Both Romney and Obama turned down federal campaign finance assistance, as this would have significantly limited what they could spend. Ironically, the Libertarian Candidate was the only one to accept a financial handout.

So now is the time in elections when winners express their desire to “reach across the aisles”. If there is any mandate in this election, it is that all sides need to give a little to get anything done. If not, it’s a standoff.

Reaching across the aisles is not that easy. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie was the primetime speaker at the GOP convention and campaigned actively to support Mitt Romney. But when his state was under water, he declined requests to make more campaign appearances and this enraged Romney’s operatives. Then, Christie actually reached across the aisle and thanked President Obama for a rapid response.

Radio entertainer Rush Limbaugh called Christie a fat fool and suggested there was “man love” between Christie and Obama. OK, Limbaugh has demonstrated both a lack of personal insight and a dirty mind. Actually, if we are talking about how to sustain a long term relationship, Rush could learn a lot from both Christie and Obama. But his attack demonstrates that many people like Rush are more interested in fanning the flames of partisanship than actually addressing real problems or reaching real solutions.

And if somebody doesn’t reach across the aisles, were stuck, 50/50.

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment.