



COMMUNITY COMMENT re Mantova

1 message

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This is AM for Community Comment

We have the approach of a new year with a President Elect who thinks outside the box, so we need to be ready for some new ideas. Just for fun, I made a list of great ideas that would help the country, but will never happen in our lifetime.

The first ideas to dramatically help the country--raise congressional salaries to two million dollars a year. Yes, you heard that right. I first heard the idea years ago in a piece by economist Thomas Sowell. The problem currently is that only power hungry maniacs want to run for Congress. As it stands today, most successful CEOs and people of talent, would be taking a massive pay cut and would be subjecting themselves to significant risk, to serve in congress.

To be blunt, the low pay is a barrier for actual talent, and the only incentives go toward the power hungry. Trump is a rare exception, a man of great business accomplishment who reached a sunset part of his life where he could afford the risk. Wouldn't it be great to open our Congress to more people like Trump? Can-do people that are used to making more money would willing to serve in Congress if the job paid 2 million dollars a year. I would rather attract the best candidates to Congress, than the busybodies who sell out to special interests. The only way I see that happening is a dramatically bigger salary.

The second idea to improve the country--that will never happen in our lifetime--is to repeal the 17th amendment and give states equal representation in Washington. Instead of electing our senators directly they should be chosen by the state legislatures. While that might seem undemocratic it is the only way to give states the ability to check and balance the federal government.

The third idea. Repeal all campaign finance laws, but insist on full transparency, accounting of individual contributions. Money will always be in politics, and the laws on the books ironically make it impossible to track. I'd rather see who gives how much, rather than hear about super PACs.

The fourth idea to improve our country--that will never happen in our lifetime--Bring back the practice of Letters of Marque. It might appear antiquated, but empowering licensed contractors in the private sector to go after terrorists would be a great cost saving measure that would also present a wide net for capturing terrorists. Ron Paul brought it up and i think its worth a look as Letters of Marque give limited, and specific war-making power function to the private sector. The american govt. used it in the early years to fight the Barbary pirates that threatened our merchant vessels. Obviously times have changed and it will have to make sense in the international community, but there should be a way to make it work. It's not a free-for-all, participants are registered and briefed on the limits of each target. Maybe something as simple as the president recommends a target and a congressional panel approved it,. One thing is for sure, it would make the bad guys think twice!

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