

Community Comment
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A Stable Government

It's been said that government is like a big ocean liner. The ship of state is big and when it is at cruising speed it takes some time to stop and is slow to turn. When you change the captain every four or eight years, there is a tendency to want to change course or speed. But the captain can find this to be more difficult than he or she thinks.

The United States, in its two hundred year history, has shown many positive traits. It has been creative, resilient, bold, and stable. Perhaps this awareness of the value of stability in governing has been one of our greatest achievements.

Democracy builds into its governing style a resistance to change. With elections every two years for some offices, four years for others and six years for senators, the process alone that is required to pass new legislation takes time. It takes time to get other legislators, let alone the general public to support specific new laws; especially laws that change the way we live our daily lives.

Stability occurs as the result of establishing successful communities. When public funds build roads and bridges, establish communication systems, build water and sewer systems, we understand that these attributes require long term financing, commitment to maintenance, and plans for expansion. For these things, stability is natural and necessary.

The same is true of programs that are not structural but provide services to the public. Think of such programs as social security or medicare or veterans services. These services are enacted because they are needed and successful because the public wants them to continue.

Most people, when they enter a public service position understand their position on various issues and these issues affect structural or social programs. Most office holders will study the affect of proposing a new law and the consequences on existing programs. Most realize you can't just stop a sewer system to do something different with out providing for some time to phase out one system while another is developed.

This is also true of social programs. The DACA program is a good example of this. By executive order, President Obama begin a program protecting children of undocumented immigrants from being targeted for deportation. There are about 800 thousand such children that signed up with the government under this promise. No law suites were served so this is the law of the land until challenged and changed in court. As of Tuesday, we the people thru our government have broken this promise. We know that most of these young adults are in school, the military, or working legally. We know who they are because they signed up for the program. This make them especially vulnerable.

This is exactly the kind of decision that causes instability; as a culture and in individual lives.

To break this promise is immoral and quite possibly illegal. Many states have already taken legal action to oppose this decision.

America used to be better than this. This administration continues to embarrass.

This has been Sam pennisi for community comment.