

One Republican

Good news from the Republican Party of Virginia 2004 Convention. The State Central Committee voted to change the Party Plan to require Party registration. Hooah. Here is how it will work and what it means.

The Republican Party has the right of association from the 1st Amendment Right to Assemble. The political Party, like the NAACP and Sons of Confederate Veterans, Rotary and Exchange Clubs, Boy Scouts and Gay-Straight groups, can select its own membership, leaders and representatives. Presently, the Code of Virginia disallows this freedom. So, sometime after July 04, the Republicans will sue the Commonwealth of Virginia. The precedents in the courts – all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court – support the Party.

Then, the General Assembly can write a new electoral law requiring Party registration. Or, leave the default as the details in the Party Plan.

So, any voter who voted in the Democrat primary in 05 cannot vote in Republican primary or mass meeting or convention in 06. Any errant Democrat votes from 04 or earlier are forgiven. The electoral board will have the lists of who voted in different primaries, so they can check easily for cheaters. You can switch Parties one time. If you try to switch back, you can never vote in that Party primary again.

It takes a three-fourths vote to change the Party Plan. Our 1st District Chairman led the effort to gain an overwhelming victory. Sen. Ken “Taxman” Stolle, a member of the State Central Committee, argued against the change. His faction, the tax and spend RINOs defeated Party registration this year in the General Assembly. You see, this is all about making elected officials accountable to political parties.

The State Central Committee passed a unanimous resolution in Dec 03 for Party registration. A conservative delegate and senator introduced a bill in support of the Party and the professional politicians, elected RINOs, killed the bill.

This makes the 06 elections of city and county chairs important. In 07 when the RINO senators see what challengers they earned for raising taxes, their legislative committees – made up of the chairmen – will vote to have closed primaries, open primaries, conventions, mass meetings etc. It will be important for the Senators and Delegates to have their close buddies elected to city and county chairmen. It will be the opportunity for the rank and file of each committee to elect a person who represents their values and the Republican Creed.

So, we get a little more democracy in action. Republicans who want higher taxes and spending can compete with Republicans who want limited government and low taxes for Party offices. If any citizen cares one way or the other, they can get involved.

There's some other news from the state convention. The unity behind Attorney General Jerry Kilgore is overwhelming. But, I don't see how that can continue through 05. The

House Republicans are having a private retreat in June where they are expected to have a love fest and support one another, all for one, as incumbents. Yet, certainly there will be challenges against the RINOs from conservatives and against the conservatives from the RINOs – especially in the Senate.

If the intramural Virginia fighting in 05 is too tough or if President Bush loses in 04, the unity for Jerry Kilgore will be nearly impossible to maintain. It might be a good year for Democrats in Virginia. But, it won't last. The Democrats are on the wrong side of the Culture War and economics. Conservatives – be they called 'republican', 'democrat', or 'new party' – will triumph in Virginia, except for liberal bastions in the Federally-Occupied-Zone of NoVa. Conservative ideas, based on Judeo-Christian values and enriched by Enlightenment optimism, are the direct descendants of the genius of Virginia's Patriot Founders. Our ideas of pro-freedom, opportunity, pro-family, pro-life, Second Amendment rights, pro-equality and integration, justice and capital punishment, pro-defense, free enterprise, limited government, federalism, and Constitutional integrity resonates with Virginians.

James Atticus Bowden