

EDITORIAL AND COMMENT

Truth will prevail.
"For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known."
Luke 12:2

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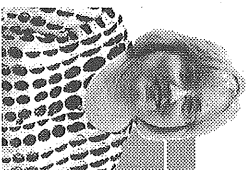
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POSTAL INFORMATION

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One Voice

Sharon Burton

Surviving Trump

There will be a lot of people trying to determine "what happened" Tuesday after so many were convinced that Hillary Clinton would be our next president.

I can't speak for Donald Trump's supporters because I didn't believe he was the best choice for the Republican nomination, or for that matter that he was in the top three during the primary. Even so, I do believe I understand at least a part of the message Americans were sending when they elected Trump.

If nothing else, I think I can clarify what many Americans were not saying when they elected Trump.

For one thing, I don't think Americans were saying it is okay to degrade people for any reason, whether it is gender, race or nationality. Trump has done a lot of things during his lifetime that are not acceptable and those things became public during the campaign. I believe Americans weighed Trump's flaws against Clinton's flaws, and apparently the majority of voters tipped the scales in his favor.

I don't believe 51 percent of Americans are xenophobic. Instead, I think Americans are saying that our nation is spending

too much of its resources caring for others and not enough resources taking care of its own. We have approved trade agreements at the expense of jobs. We have failed our veterans. We have allowed illegal immigration—the key word there being "illegal."

I believe there are many people who don't have a problem with legal immigration. Why shouldn't we expect our government to set policy that works? I think the majority of Americans are okay with immigrants coming into America to gain an education or enter the workforce, to be contributing members of society. Ask farmers how easy it is to obtain legal workers through programs such as the H-2-A program and you will quickly learn their frustrations. The system is broken.

I also don't think 51 percent of Americans are homophobic or any other phobic. I think those same Americans are saying they want to hold on to their beliefs and values. It's okay if others disagree but they don't want to be forced to change who they are to accommodate someone else. It has to be okay to disagree.

I know there are crazies out there, but I'm pretty sure they

can be found on both sides of the political aisle. I think painting Trump supporters as people of hate is narrow minded. Yes, Trump has been a jerk at times, but Clinton isn't exactly a princess.

Trump stood for something that resonated with a lot of Americans. Who knows what that will become in the next four years. I know I have worried about the future of the nation regardless of which candidate won. I have found some comfort in Trump's recent actions, his willingness to surround himself with people who knew how to win an election and his willingness to learn from them.

If nothing else, we need Trump to be teachable. He has no political experience so he needs to surround himself with people who have what he lacks.

I think we can survive Trump. I hope we can thrive with Trump. Mostly, I think our elected officials have been awakened to the frustration Americans feel toward their inability to address the nation's problems.

Frankly, I think the Trump vote was a message to the political elite, and the message is, clean up your act, or "you're fired."



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Senator Matt Wiltse