



April 4, 2013

The Case of Nathan Fletcher and the State of San Diego Republicans

by Francine Busby, Chair, San Diego County Democratic Party

An April Fools' Day post on a local right-wing blog this week brought to mind the sorry state of San Diego Republicans – and the reasons they're continuing to lose ground here and in the rest of the state.

This spoof proclaimed that independent former Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher was rejoining the Republican Party. It added that as part of his about-face he would be releasing a "Road Map to Repentance," presumably an apology for supporting a woman's right to choose, working to protect our environment, and taking tough positions to stand with students, farm workers, and working people.

For the record, Fletcher has made it clear that his departure from the GOP is permanent. And the local Republican Chair has repeatedly confirmed that, in any case, he wouldn't be welcome back.

In all seriousness, though, the joke betrays the fact that the party Nathan Fletcher found too extreme has only continued to drift to the right. Chair Tony Krarvic famously declared that they didn't need to change anything after their shellacking in November. While the rest of the world moves forward, they only move backward, embracing the hard-line positions that voters continue to reject.

Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 20,000 more voters countywide than we did just a year ago. Republicans now account for fewer than 29% of registered voters in California. Fletcher is just one of millions of Californians who have left the Republican Party in recent years – and I will echo my predecessor in inviting him to take the next step and join the Democratic Party.

Last year, then-Democratic Chair Jess Durfee sent Fletcher a letter that read, in part: "During your time in the Assembly, you've voted to support numerous Democratic priorities. You authored bills to help homeless youth, assist our aging veterans, and let workers who have lost their jobs keep their health insurance... I hope you'll take the opportunity to continue that record of service as a Democrat."

Today I repeat that sincere invitation for Nathan Fletcher – and like-minded San Diegans – to join us. I and many other Democratic Party leaders believe that Nathan Fletcher's values are in line with ours, and we would gladly welcome him.

Our Party is strong and growing. We welcome those who share our broad commitment to service, growing our economy, and ensuring that all people have the basic necessities like access to education, healthcare, and a shot to find success.

At the end of the day, the real joke is San Diego's GOP.

Powered by YMLP.com