

Editorial

It's time cut the RINOs from the herd

Oregon just suffered a major setback in the November general election. And the reason is the republican consultants' fascination with all things RINO (Republican In Name Only). And leading the herd over the cliff in 2018 was the quintessential RINO, Knute Buehler.

You could talk to any republican in the run-up to the November General Election about the race for Oregon Governor, and the Republican nominee, and the very best you could come away with was; "He's better than Kate Brown" or "He's a RINO, but I'll hold my nose and vote for him anyway, it beats the alternative".

What these comments (and there were other variations, but with the same theme) all had in common was they were not happy with the nominee, but felt they had no choice. Kate Brown was a disaster!

The irony is that Kate Brown, who came in under a cloud of suspicion, being appointed for the remainder of Kitzhaber's

term, and has since been embroiled in scandal after scandal, was a very weak incumbent, and should have been easy prey for any credible challenger. And on top of that, it was the most expensive gubernatorial campaign in Oregon history at more than \$20 million combined. So what happened to Buehler?

It's simple; he started out day one by alienating his base. The first issue was his obvious support of abortion on demand. But the Rhodes Scholar wasn't happy with a moderate 'abortion should be rare but available' stance, oh no, he made it clear that he favored abortion right up to the day of delivery and at no cost to the victim! He said he would not support changing a single law on the books in Oregon supporting the "right to abortion" including late term, partial birth abortions, even when used simply for sex selection. Even for illegal aliens in our state, and most fantastic of all, at taxpayer expense!

On the issue of

abortion the two KB's, Kate Brown, and Knute Buehler, were trying to show who was the most lenient when it comes to the prospect of killing the unborn.

Buehler even went so far as to state he would not even support Measure 106, which didn't in any way limit or restrict abortions; rather it simply would have put an end to taxpayer funding of the elective procedure. I hold Buehler directly and personally responsible for Ballot Measure 106 losing by a two-to-one margin, in part due to his dragging the entire republican ticket down, and causing the conservatives to sit this one out.

By contrast at the national level, pro-life senate candidates were the solid winners in their races.

Oregon had a solid pro-life candidate for Governor in Sam Carpenter, but the RINOs in the ORP collaborated with Buehler's campaign and threw in a spoiler at the last minute, Greg Wooldridge, which split the conservative

pro-life vote and put another RINO up against a weak Kate Brown. I am convinced that had Carpenter been the nominee he would have crushed Brown!

One thing is for certain, it would have been a race with stark contrasts, not a "me too" snooze fest like the Kate and Knute.

Buehler wasn't just a rabid pro-abortion progressive, he also catered to the LGBTQ crowd, marching in their parade and changing his logo to a rainbow. He was weak, very weak on the second amendment, and he favored increasing spending on primary education, which means more tax increases. He also was against President Trump from the word go, including opposing his Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. One might ask since he ran completely against the Republican Party platform, why didn't he switch parties and run against Kate in the primary?

Republicans in this state had better come to grips with the fact that if they are going to win

any races in the future; statewide, local, or federal, they have got to get back to basics. Now with a Democrat supermajority in the Oregon House and Senate and a socialist Democrat governor, Republicans must face the fact that they had better change their losing strategy, and start backing grassroots conservatives, if they have any hope of turning the state red. A RINO will not win in Oregon. It's time for a shake-up at the Executive Committee level and to elect new officers who support our values, and who will recruit and support candidates who will do the same.

The 2020 elections will start in earnest this spring and the ORP must be prepared to support our president and win back control of the Oregon legislature.

