

Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right, here I am, NPA



Welp, it's here again and I couldn't be more excited. I'm always happy and proud to take part in this great democratic design. It's not just a responsibility, it's a pleasure. And, as always, I find myself in the same place. Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right, here I am, NPA.

Trump? What Trump?

It seems a lot of people want to make this election about Trump. Either to protect him or to put a check on him.

Sorry, that opportunity passed in 2016. What is happening right now is all about you and your state. The country is really a secondary consideration (and likely will take care of itself, depending on the results).

Too cowardly to claim a party?

Nope. And while I have consistently stated, throughout my 10 years of blogging, that I decry labels and the pigeon-holing that creates, even that has nothing to do with my no party affiliation (NPA).

I subscribe to two peculiar concepts: fiscal conservatism and social humanitarianism. My basic belief is that we should do everything we can to help all of humanity (since we are all one race),

But, we can't do that irresponsibly. Just like a home budget. It's great to give to charity, but you still have to pay your own bills. It's finding the balance between the two that makes you financially sound and socially responsible.

Get rid of government intervention...except in that case

Small government? You betcha. Well, except, it's good to make sure there are protections for us citizens for things like food processing, drug testing, worker rights, health and safety...

Yup, it's tough to have a small government if you want to protect us from ourselves. If you've worked in Corporate America, you know that companies look after themselves first, their stockholders next and then, well, whatever the government tells them they have to do for their workers.

What do you think would be the starting pay without the minimum wage act? Really? You think "natural competition" would raise wages? Hmm.

These aren't federal issues only, of course. Each state has subsets of these laws and they are on the docket each election in my (and your) state.

Think small, yield big

Of course, what I decide tomorrow will have an impact on the national scene. That's the beauty of our electoral process. We make a difference every time we vote.

But, the "midterm" elections should still be all about you and your state. Getting "distracted" by the national furor may not allow for the careful consideration your local issues demand.

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Okay, it sounds derisive, but it's truly not intended that way. It's about labels and my despite for them. Not people. Gosh, no, People are our salvation.

But, yeah, I don't feel a need to vote because I wear a brand. I won't pick a candidate or select an amendment because my "party" told me to.

I vote because I've read about the people and issues on the docket and I make a decision based on what I want, not some super PAC or TV ad. Not some newspaper or talking head.

It's really not that hard and it doesn't need a party hat or a label sticker. Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right, here I am, NPA. That's my slogan and my mantra.

Whatever yours is, though, remember to get out and vote!