

"Once upon a time," the Republican Party stood for conservative values like a small federal government, fiscal responsibility, low taxes, protection of our individual liberty and freedoms, parental rights to control the education and safety of our children, states' rights and national sovereignty, and a moral and ethical "representative" government that reflects our rights to governance "of, by, and for, the People". In fact, both the RNC and LAGOP Platforms still state that these are the principles Republicans stand for. In my opinion, David Vitter's bills, votes, and efforts as our U.S. Senator have embodied and protected these values. Do you really think that John Bel Edwards endorses our conservative principles and will act accordingly? If so, why is he a Democrat? ONE of these candidates will be our next Governor. I am perplexed if you do not recognize the obvious socialist/ big government slant of Edwards and the much more traditional "Republican" values philosophy of Senator Vitter, and that you would continue to express a lack support for Vitter as our next Governor.

LAGOP PARTY PLATFORM: http://lagophub.com/docs/platform_lagop.pdf

REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM: <https://cdn.gop.com/docs/2012GOPPlatform.pdf>

I don't always agree with Senator Vitter. I realize we will have our differences and hope that I can influence his thoughts and actions with reasonable discussion, debate, and factual information. He has, in fact, been very receptive to listening to me on the Common Core State Standards Initiative as well as other issues like protecting student privacy and Federal Government overreach in general. In your email to me, you criticized Senator Vitter for his "flip-flop" on Common Core and questioned my support for him. When an elected official is willing to listen to his constituents, learn the facts, and change his stance on an issue, I believe a "flip-flop" (as you described it) can be a sign of a great leader who is willing to take "the People's" position rather than to refuse to admit he was wrong out of a sense of elitist superiority and/or ignorance. At least Senator Vitter called me on the phone and met with me in person to discuss The Common Core Initiative and listened to my concerns.

In your email to me, you expressed your lack of "respect" for Senator Vitter because he is pointing out ethical violations and corruption within our state government. Surely you do not think that there are NO problems within our state legislature!! Our state "fiscal house" is a mess, there is little if any government accountability, and our representatives are "punished" by party leaders for representing their constituents. WHY can the LA Dept of Education ignore state law requiring an internal audit and the state Superintendent of Education release 700,000 student social security numbers to a third party in violation of state law and a contract without repercussions? Are you OK with legislative Committees who disrespect, berate, belittle and ignore parents who come to plead for policies that protect our children and provide an acceptable "American" education? Why are powerful and moneyed lobbyists from out of state overwhelming the voice of Louisiana citizens? Perhaps, Senator Vitter is expressing some of MY concerns in his criticisms. Seems like you would want to find out what his specific concerns are and address them rather than taking personal offense and criticizing his attempts to make our government work better. You should read his "REFORMING GOVERNMENT" plan on his website. http://www.davidvitter.com/plan_fighting_corruption I would be interested to hear which specific reforms you are opposed to. Is it the one that increases ethics auditing, or perhaps political double dipping, or the misuse of campaign funds, or the abuses of public record laws (which by the way, are

frequently flaunted by our State Department of Education)? This is not a rhetorical question; I really would like to know your answer.

Vitter's plan specifically addresses many of the well documented governmental abuses brought to light by the award winning "LOUISIANA PURCHASED" investigative report from Fox 8 News.

<http://www.fox8live.com/category/273227/louisiana-purchased> Common sense would dictate that the "blame" for any corruption in the legislature is appropriately placed IN THE LEGISLATURE. I am not sure who you think Vitter should "fault". As a citizen and taxpayer, I want these unethical and corrupt behaviors to end!! Do you and the "colleagues" you mentioned, who object to Vitter's stance on corruption, disagree with me?

In case you have not noticed, we have a lawless President who is shredding our Constitution and growing government to unsustainable and unconstitutional levels. The only legislation Obama will approve involves unsustainable spending (such as the stimulus that brought us "Race To The Top" and Common Core); reductions in military spending and national defense; huge power and control grabbing programs like Obamacare and Financial Reform; treaties/agreements with our enemies like Iran; job destroying and economically crippling EPA regulations; unlimited debt ceilings and theft from Social Security and Medicare(that Americans have paid for); and anything else that grows government and destroys our freedoms. The BEST answer to this socialist/Marxist transformation being driven by our president is GRIDLOCK!!! I applaud Senator Vitter and his refusal to vote for the policies that will destroy the foundation of this country. I believe that Vitter's experience in Congress will give him invaluable insight into the dangers and intent of federal government overreach. Edwards has no such advantage and appears either complicit in or naive about the Obama/Democrat agenda, Just FYI: John Bel Edwards TWICE endorsed Obama and thus his radical agenda.

Are you seriously proposing that to prevent GRIDLOCK, Senator Vitter should abandon our traditional Republican values and vote for Obama's socialist agenda and thus the further destruction of our now struggling nation? In my opinion, a real Republican would be cheering Senator Vitter for his courageous and principled stand. Are you even aware of what is happening in our nation's capitol and Congress? In addition to his refusal to approve Obama's agenda, Senator Vitter has introduced many excellent bills that would restore our republic and our liberties. Of course his "conservative" efforts have been rejected and blocked by the liberal leftist DEMOCRATS (like John Bel Edwards) who support Obama's agenda. Once again, I refer you to Vitter's plan on his website for an accounting of many of these bills and his commendable efforts : http://www.davidvitter.com/together_louisiana_strong

By publically criticizing Senator Vitter and stating in your email that you are "NOT SUPPORTING" him, I feel you have, by default, endorsed John Bel Edwards for Governor. There is NO ONE else in the race. Therefore, essentially you are rejecting the conservative principles of a Republican candidate and supporting the very liberal and Obama-like policies of Edwards. In my book, any "Republican", who facilitates the implementation of socialist/Marxist policies in Louisiana is a Republican In Name Only!

Perhaps as a state Senator you have not scrutinized the HOUSE record of Edwards and his bills and votes. His record reflects an assault on many traditional Republican values:

Edwards does not support our First Amendment right to religious freedom as evidenced by his vociferous vocal rejection and "NO" vote on HB 707 by Rep. Mike Johnson that would have protected our right to conscience in our religious beliefs. Edwards "did not respond" to the Louisiana Family Forum's request for his stance on 15 issues of faith..... but Senator Vitter did.

<http://mylff.lafamilyforum.org/site/DocServer/2015RunoffPrintedGuide-FINAL.pdf?docID=802&autologin=true&AddInterest=1021>

Edwards does not fully support our Second Amendment RIGHT to keep and bear arms as he voted "YEA" on a bill to INCREASE FEDERAL gun registration and controls over our rights. He also voted "NO" on HB 5 in 2013 that provided for citizens in our state to be unencumbered by the ridiculous Obama Executive Orders attempting to restrict our gun rights.

Edwards is prepared, "on day one" as Governor, to adopt Obamacare 2.0 in our state by accepting the unsustainable Obamacare Medicaid expansion mandates. This will further FEDERAL government control over our healthcare and result in more skyrocketing insurance premiums for everyone in our state.

Edwards supports tax and spend policies and, according to the questionnaire he completed for Vote Smart, he even favors INCREASING our alcohol, cigarette, and internet taxes.

Edwards is also soft on illegal immigration, EPA encroachment, public safety, and other threats to the well being of Louisiana citizens.

Here is a very insightful statement from Louisiana REPUBLICAN state Rep. Mike Johnson regarding the policies and plans of his colleague , John Bel Edwards. <http://www.louisianaforliberty.com/#!/hb-707/c199t>

I encourage you to review Edward's voting record on traditional Republican values and compare that to Vitter's. As a "Republican", who do you think better reflects our party platform and values? In my opinion, your de facto support for Democrat John Bel Edwards and his leftist policies is a blatant rejection of the Republican Party and what it stands for and a nudge toward the Obama agenda.

It is my hope that you will take immediate action to distance yourself from Jay Dardenne who endorsed Edwards for Governor yesterday and was appropriately chastised by both the LAGOP and the RNC. While Dardenne was still pretending to be a REAL Republican, here is what he said about Edwards (It really reflects what I have just outlined for you above): <http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=3302177a320983d559c9bfb6a&id=e334c05922&e=d20b11812d> I assume that since you endorsed Dardenne in the primary, that you then agreed with his assessment of Edwards and his policies. Can you explain your position now? Your position is very confusing to me. Do you support the conservative Republican values of Vitter, or the "liberal fantasyland", "more debt", "Obama policies" of Edwards that Jay Dardenne cited?

And lastly, your assumption that I consider you "the enemy" because we disagree is erroneous. A free exchange of ideas is essential to the proper functioning of our representative republic and is our First Amendment right and obligation as citizens. If we are going to stop the "fundamental transformation" of this great country and our state , we are going to have to work together in the advancement of real Republican principles .

Please step up as a "Once upon a time" Republican and help to prevent a socialist induced decline in our conservative state. It is my hope that you will put your personal feeling aside and "flip-flop" in support of Sen. David Vitter for Governor for the benefit of the good people of Louisiana and our future.

Best regards,
Terri Timmcke

'All that's necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing.'
Edmund Burke