

## Actions Must Match Their Words

In the latest edition of the Country Courier 11/24/21 - The King William Republican Party ran a full-page ad that naturally caught my attention, particularly the "We Believe" portion that stated among these beliefs

*"That fiscal responsibility and budgetary restraints must be exercised at **all levels of government.**"* While conservatives welcome the sentiments expressed in this paid ad, we have a natural wariness as to their sincerity.....and for good reason.

Under new leadership this group has an opportunity to match their words with action, and the King William T.E.A Party (Taxed Enough Already) would certainly welcome the help. In the 14 years our group has toiled away at exposing local governments wasteful spending we have not had the King William Republicans lift a finger to assist this effort. Maybe this time is different. The last Chairman of this group said as recently as this year that the *"local republican party's job isn't to cut spending but to get republicans elected"*..... This is the baseball game mentality that has pulled the Republican credo far away from what the Republican Party stood for decades ago.

The Republican party stood for fiscal restraint and railed against wasteful spending.....not so much the last 50 years. Politics has become a game of musical Chairs, occasionally trading places in terms of occupying an office, the Dem's are in charge for awhile, then the Republicans get a turn at running things for a spell, then back to the Dem's, all the while government just kept getting bigger, encroaching into new areas of our lives with larger budgets and higher taxes regardless of circumstances, both parties played the game .

Perhaps then we can look to this new leadership turning the page and climbing onboard with some real tangible efforts to rein in local government spending. Our group will begin in 2022 to turn the focus on local contributions to the 4 schools, a dollar amount that exceeds by multi millions of dollars what the Virginia formula requires localities to contribute. With student populations stagnant (almost identical to what student populations were 10 years ago) we will ask for the local Republican Party to help in this effort.

Maybe this new leadership could at a minimum insist that the schools be returned to categorical budgeting, where a measure of accountability would be restored to the current practice of simply handing over of a lump sum and allowing the schools to spend it as they wish. Categorical Spending would be a first step if this new leadership is serious about matching their words with action.

I am not holding my breath. Until shown otherwise the King William T.E.A Party is the only conservative voice in the County.

Bob Shannon