

Why we passed out Constitutions

By **NICHOLAS PANUZIO** Guest Comment

At the 300th anniversary of Easton parade, members and friends of the Talbot County Republican Central Committee proudly distributed nearly 1,000 free copies of the United States Constitution.

As you know, this is an election year. We could have passed out literature on Republican candidates or even on the party itself. But it seemed to us that the parade was an opportunity to honor our country, our traditions, and our values.

Understanding how this great country came to be is key to understanding what we need to do to restore American exceptionalism. This is why we passed out Constitutions.

Let me explain with a bit of history.

Shortly after the Revolutionary War, the states recognized that there were certain governmental functions that could best be performed at the national level. These former colonies now sovereign states adopted our Constitution and in the document granted to the federal government fewer than two-dozen specific responsibilities, and explicitly reserved all other powers to themselves with the 10th Amendment.

But over the years vague clauses like "interstate commerce" and "general welfare" have been inappropriately used to justify pretty much anything and everything. (We saw this most recently when the power to regulate interstate commerce was said to justify a federal law requiring all Americans to buy health insurance.) Sadly, there is very little today that the federal government is not involved in.

So today we have a system that is upside down. The federal government has usurped state powers, and is growing its depth and reach daily.

Given this predicament, we shouldn't be surprised that a significant majority of the American people feel that we're on the wrong track. To get back on track, we need to restore our country to its roots of limited government, with federal authority held in check, not let loose like it has been.

Distributing our country's Constitution is, I hope, a way to empower our countrymen into understanding that, in contrast with every other country in the world, the United States of America is a unique nation where power emanates from the people and is only delegated to government in limited ways. When we can return to this standard then we'll restore our country to its historic place as a guardian of freedom and liberty.

Practically speaking, this year's election is very significant: Our country is teetering on the edge of full-blown European-style socialism. The election is our chance to stop this madness by electing candidates who honor and respect the Constitution, and who do not intend to twist the document into justifying a political agenda.

I encourage everyone who received a copy of the Constitution to read it.

For anyone who'd like a free copy, please call our headquarters in Easton at 410-770-4747, visit our website (www.talbotgop.org) or stop by the office.

Finally, there is a great project called "We the People 9*17" to help young people gain an understanding of our Constitution. More information about this exciting adventure can be found online at www.constitutingamerica.com.

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