

Beyond the Letters #1
The Senate of the United States Can Save the Republic -
but Not as It Is Currently Performing

If you are reading this you are likely at least somewhat familiar with my book, titled *“Letters from an Establishment Republican.”* Included herein are references to several of the Book’s 58 Letters should you wish to dive more deeply or refer back to the book. This first additional post book “Letter” will be joined by others written by myself or other contributors on the website under “Beyond the Letters.”

Thank you,
Marty Morris

Dear Reader:

There’s a rather foolish idea on the far left that’s gaining some media attention, advocating for the complete abolition of the Senate. While such an apocalyptic notion isn’t likely to garner much consideration from serious people, it is worthwhile to spend some time examining how the Senate functioned in more productive times, and how it has strayed from its constitutional responsibilities. To fully assess this, it is also necessary to consider the (current and prior) relationship between the Executive and Legislative branches and their intended roles.

Presidents should be chosen for their exceptional leadership skills in foreign policy. House of Representatives members should be elected for their strong connection to the people they represent, actively engaging with their constituents, reading polls and having frequent conversations with them. Senators, on the other hand, should focus on long-term planning, considering the needs and concerns of the next generation. Instead of closely analyzing surveys, Senators should engage in thoughtful study, learning, and debate with each other toward the goal of securing the future of the nation. Briefly the House should look to today, and the Senate to 10 years off.

Finally, let’s clarify the Senate’s responsibilities beyond confirming judges, treaties and executive department staff, and collaborating with the House on legislation. In essence, a well-functioning Senate should be:

- Slower than the House, but not stagnant.
- Deliberative, but not evasive.
- Protective of minority participation but not governed by minority obstruction.
- Respectful of party organization, but not subservient to party leaders.
- Willing to compromise, while still requiring members to cast accountable votes.

A Senate that merely obstructs action or blindly follows leadership instructions may retain its constitutional powers, but it neglects its constitutional purpose, as any political science student can observe.

Now I believe that no single President is responsible for the decline of effective democratic governance in the United States. The people themselves have responsibility for this problem. Democracy demands hard work and requires individuals to sift through information, discern what is beneficial and detrimental, and what is right and what is wrong. This process demands discipline and care. However, what we are witnessing from both MAGA and progressive left wing politicians is the promotion of simplistic solutions to questions that are not even at the core of our challenges and opportunities.

It's the reason we inherited a federalist republic. James Madison and the other framers were acutely aware of and concerned about the potential consequences when the masses gained control over the nation's governance. They understood that history had demonstrated that the masses would govern poorly - every time.

Any student of our budgetary situation (letter 29) understands that we are on a slippery slope, with only economic growth (letter 3) as our guardrail, preventing us from a major catastrophic reckoning.

Congress's great tool for maintaining the balance of power, the power of the purse, is rapidly being transferred to the President. While Regular Order (letter 16) of both houses should govern the use of the purse, it has effectively been rendered obsolete. Perhaps it will remain so forever. Consequently, we are governed by "continuing resolutions" negotiated between the Speaker of the House, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the President. The rest of Congress, fearful of negative attention for its inaction, remains in the shadows. The danger of this continuance, absent the return to Regular Order in Congress will be the gradual but steady decline of the Republic.

Currently, Congress is divided into two teams, with survey takers, internet influencers, cool guys (letter 46), powerful lobbyists, and Super PACs (letter 20) running the game plan, all simply designed to maintain their team's power. The Senate of the United States has become truly unrecognizable to those of us who worked in it a generation ago. It's unrecognizable because it is unable to perform its duty.

The Senate, in my opinion, while capable of rising from the ashes, requires a different type of nominee from the Republican Party. This new kind of candidate should include men and women who diligently study the workings of government that will become their eventual committee assignments. These senators should enter a problem with the understanding that they must independently acquire the knowledge necessary to master the most challenging issues.

The collapse of our Republican Party's nominating power (letter 19) has left senate candidates adrift, lacking a solid party structure to guide them. Consequently, they resort to running and seeking Super PAC backing by conforming to the dictates of these organizations' lowbrow dogma. Naturally, these maneuvers will not yield statesmen and stateswomen.

In another "Beyond the Letters" piece, I'll delve into the process of identifying and electing these future Statesmen and Stateswomen.