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The Blue Tsunami—Bigger Than a Ripple

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The dust has settled on the American midterms and the analysis is well underway. Even though we are Canadian, there is no shortage of commentary by our own media and politicians. What happens in the United States significantly affects Canada. If you are one to listen and believe the hype, you'd hear descriptions like "Blue Tsunami" or "landslide". The glee over the poor showing of Republicans is vivid and obvious...evident by our leftist leaning propaganda machine, which makes it sound historic and unprecedented. While there are some notables that can be pointed out in a few states, Texas or Mississippi for example, is this really as dramatic as it's being presented?

For those who—after countless elections south of our border—do not understand the American system, you are not alone. It's complex, it's controversial and it's continual. This last feature, more of a perception perhaps, is due in most part to the mechanism called "midterms". Midterms are just that, 2 years after or before a presidential election, the voters in the States have the perhaps enviable opportunity to register a followup vote, a check-in, or a course correction. These midterms are often seen as a critique of the current US President and his/her administration.

While the presidential term is 4 years, a Senator's term is 6 years, and it's staggered. This means fully 1/3 of all senators answer every 2 years to the electorate as well as all House Representatives. For clarity, only 1/3 of the Senate seats were up for grabs last week. I know...I know you wouldn't know it from the signage and coverage. But that was the token, not the whole bag of marbles. This is also why the USA seems perpetually campaigning, the next election is always around the corner—the next presidential election will take place likely before our own PM Carney will face the electorate in our country.

So back to the results—was this indeed the crazy outcome that the pundits are making of it? Was it really the shockwaves that will affect American politics for years? The results are not final, and of course, there is some debate, but as I write this a loose estimate is around 41- 44 house seats were gained by the Democrats and 7 Senate seats. If these numbers congeal, this will change both the Senate and Congress majority to favour the Democrats; this is the long and short of it.

For us Canadian folks, this is what we would call a minority government...with some qualifications. Well, let's take a walk down Memory Lane shall we? The worst midterm loss against the sitting president in American history belonged to Grover Cleveland in 1894. He lost 125 seats—that's the cellar. There are a few other names that I've never heard of because I was not required to memorize even my own Prime Ministers in school. In the modern era, since WW2, there are some more meaningful comparisons. Names that we'd all recognize and have memories of. Topping that list by several degrees and agreed upon by both sides is the truly historic midterm loss of Barack Obama in 2010—down 63 seats. He lost both the Senate and the House. Next—with some debate—is Bill Clinton's 1994 midterm losses, and in 1946, those of Harry Truman. All Democrats! All lost their House and Senate! And, guess who's back for number 4 but Obama again. Rounding out the top 5 was George W. Bush, the top Republican. In fact,

Donald Trump's first term in office (2014-2018) ranks number 17, losing 41 seats in 2018 according to Newsweek. You really don't use the term "wave" until the threshold of 40. Trump in 17th spot wouldn't even give you much of a rise if you were surfing. The current loss might only bump Trump's first loss down by this second one.

Enough of the comparisons. I'd like to suggest two takeaways. Off the top, the media once again is trying very significantly to influence culture, the outcomes and perspectives of the citizens. The modern media reports the news but overtly seeks to create the news through the way they shape, frame and amplify events. Referring to this electoral loss as a tsunami is understandable, but other presidents have been hit just as hard in past midterms. The significance of this loss may lie in the types of candidates who won and the districts in which they won. The new Senator for Michigan is Abdul El-Sayed—a radical Islamist. The new Senator for Texas is James Talarico, a Democrat who believes there are six genders. Both are flaming socialists. They will be in the US Senate for six years. They represent a significant setback for social conservatism in the US.

For us in the CHP, we experience the same callous treatment of facts and perspectives. Increasingly, the woke agenda purports to be the mindset of the masses. While the radical left postures as if it speaks for all Canadians, there remains a significant number of us who cherish our historic rights and freedoms. Like the abortion issue, attempts are made to block opposing opinions by making it a crime to speak openly…in an effort to claim the victory.

Can we call those who demand that opposing viewpoints be silenced, supporters of a free society? Hardly!

We should know the facts better. Let's not be lazy or careless in our search for truth and justice. Let's not sit back and accept the silencing of open discussion. Speak out!

While I, like many, have been on a roller coaster of support and dismay at some of the antics of the leader of our largest neighbour and ally, we should never presume to be arrogant or ambivalent towards the lives of those who would be under our care as leaders. Whether Mr. President or Honourable Prime Minister, it doesn't matter which role you fill, you may face consequences at the polls. But you will ultimately also give an account to Creator God, the True Ruler of heaven and earth.

That day will come when all will be revealed…for all mankind, including political leaders. On that day, may the Lord be pleased with what each of us has done with the positions He has given us.

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Footnotes

[1] www.chp.ca/get-involved/

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