

OPINION

From The Publisher...

Our Endorsements

I always hesitate to tell someone else how to vote. By and large, I think most Americans are smart enough to make up their own minds.

That said, I can certainly tell you what I think and why.

Let's start at the top.

I don't think Barack Obama deserves another term. I actually didn't think he deserved his first term but the voters disagreed with me by a wide margin and here we are.

He was incompetent the day he took the job because he had no experience doing anything but making soaring speeches from a teleprompter. And he did not grow into the job. In fact, he had some infantile concepts about how government should work embedded in his mind and only deviated from those infantile concepts when he was forced to by events.

Ergo, he is just as incompetent today as he was four years ago and does not deserve another four years.

So, we endorse Mitt Romney.

Romney was not our first choice to be the GOP nominee. Candidly, we didn't think he could win. We were wrong.

Not only did he win the nomination in a very tough field, but the process has made him into a winner in the General Election.

His qualifications to become President were never in doubt. He was a successful Governor (as much as you could be in Massachusetts), a successful businessman (a good thing despite what you hear from the Obamaites) and a very decent, warm, engaging and funny human being. I met him once when I was working for ABC News and it struck me at the time that he certainly was not the stiff in person that the media portrayed him to be.

The choice is simple. Another four years from the people who brought you a dead Ambassador in Benghazi or someone who will surround himself with infinitely more competent people and get the job done.

In Nevada, we have an important Senate race between Shelly Berkley and Dean Heller.

Regular readers of this publication know that when Heller was Secretary of State, we had a big enough issue with him to declare him Osama Bin Heller. And that we were quite upset with his Congressional vote to extend unemployment past 26 weeks which is a back door tax on employers.

That said, I'm happy to report that as a Senator, I cannot find a

vote Heller made which would be different from what I would have done in the same situation.

I saw him in Washington a year ago to discuss an issue important to all of us and he had done his homework and was on top of that and many other issues we discussed.

In short, here is a guy who actually has grown in the job and we are happy to endorse him over an incredibly corrupt woman who has absolutely no business representing us except for her union connections.

In my congressional district, I also think Mark Amodei has done a very nice job and deserves a return trip to Washington—as long as he doesn't make the mistake of putting down permanent roots there since Congressmen and Senators should spend most of their time with the people they represent.

If you are reading this in Congressional District 4, the good folks in Ely, where we own KELY-AM, should vote for Danny Tarkanian because they would not have a Congressman if Steve Horsford were to be elected.

Ron Knecht is the biggest policy wonk on the Nevada Board of Higher Education Regents. He has served as the vice chair of the Budget Committee and, given his conservative approach he certainly deserves another term.

In Elko, Grant Gerber would be a welcome addition to the County Commission, John Ellison deserves a return trip to the Assembly in Carson City and Janine Hansen would be a great representative of her State Senate 19 district.

Hansen does not have either an R or a D next to her name but she is endorsed by over 100 prominent Republicans which should tell you something about her Republican opponent.

Gerber is the founder of the infamous Shovel Brigade and has forgotten more about land rights issues in Northern Nevada than most bureaucrats with the BLM or the Forest Service ever bothered to learn.

And Ellison has become an ever-present representative of his district. If there's a problem, he's there and willing to work on it.

These are the races we're close to, but you should remember that these are merely our personal opinions. Please do your own research and however you vote, please vote.

FRED WEINBERG