

Where to Now?

by Vic Berecz

The Girls ... our 4½ year-old twin granddaughters ... have learned to recognize "Obomba [sic] and his best friend Mitt." When asked how they knew the two were best friends, their reply was "they're always on TV together so they must be best friends."

When things get a bit dicey, we often choose pragmatism over virtue. That's what I did Tuesday. As I've noted, the candidate whose positions on the issues are closest to mine was Gary Johnson. But, he didn't have a "snowball's chance" and Florida was supposed to be a close race. So, essentially, I voted the lesser of the two evils. So what should I talk about here?

There's the logistical problems we faced in voting on Tuesday. Florida again leads the nation in ineptness when it comes to putting on an election ... and our own Lee County did more than it's fair share in making Florida again the laughing-stock of the nation in that regard. Fortunately, this year the national result doesn't depend on the Florida result. So the heads that ought to roll probably won't.

There's the concept of "battleground States" that truly ought to be relegated to the trash-heap of history. Those nine States got all the attention and all the money, as if none of the other Americans are worth a damn. All but one of the battleground States went to the President ... that assumes the folks down here in Florida ever get the votes counted ... and in several of them his plurality was greater than his national plurality. Maybe the other States should take a hint from Nebraska and Maine on how they allocate their Electoral Votes.

There's the big tent concept. Several Republican bigwigs commented that President Obama didn't win the election ... rather, they had lost it by diss-ing the fastest growing group of voters ... the Latino community. Maybe they'll get the message and consider open primaries and other measures that will replace stridency and an "all-in" mentality with a degree of pragmatism and a step-wise approach to attaining your objectives. If they did, they'd still have Richard Lugar and Olympia Snow in the Senate ... which I think would be a plus for all Americans.

Then, there's the first statement I heard from one of the TV gurus after President Obama completed his victory speech ... "I can't believe we spent \$6 billion to maintain the *status quo*." Enough said!

In truth, the phrase "lesser of two evils" that I used earlier is metaphoric ... I don't consider either President Obama or Governor Romney evil. In fact, I agree very much with Kathleen Parker who wrote in her *News-Press* column today: "... both are good men. Decent, smart, gifted men. Good husbands and fathers. But, our political system could suck the goodness out of a saint" Maybe *the Girls* were right ... in a slightly different situation maybe they could have been "best friends." Let's demand that the system be fixed!