

Sen. Brogdon pledges to adhere to constitutional values

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=4158#more-4158>

Last week my article was about my interview with Senator Randy Brogdon and why I am endorsing him in his race for the governor's seat.

I am impressed with Senator Brogdon because he is a strict constitutionalist, that is to say that he rejects the notion that the Constitution is a living document and embraces the belief that it was written with the timeless concepts that our freedoms come from God and that our property rights must always be respected and protected.

The senator is also very interested in leading this state to fiscal responsibility that will bring prosperity to Oklahomans.

He has been relentless in his effort to curb state spending and to establish a reasonable budget.

I asked him specifically what he would do as governor to make Oklahoma a state that would attract business.

He said, "Oklahoma is among the lowest states in the nation for income, but has some of the highest taxes. One of the first things we have to do is to revise our tax policies to reverse both of those conditions. But in order to do so we must curb overspending at the state level."

"There is a simple concept that always works," he continued, "and that is that you tax less what you want more of. So, for example, if we want to create more jobs, we have to reduce taxes on businesses. We have to change our economic policies to be more business friendly if we want to convince businesses to move here."

I asked him what he thought Oklahoma had to offer that would make us more attractive than other states.

He said, "Well first of all, we are in the middle of the country, which places us in a very good location to do business with the rest of the nation.

"We also have a very low cost of living and some of the lowest utility rates in the country, which reduces the cost of doing business here. And one of our greatest assets is water. Most people don't realize that Oklahoma has more shoreline than the East and West coasts combined."

I expressed my concern for small towns in Oklahoma, and how so many of them were slowly dying for lack of business and asked what could be done to help our smaller towns thrive again.

He replied, "We have to get government out of their way. Regulations are bankrupting them. They need to have more local control and funding instead of being forced to comply with federal

mandates. We need to stop taxing capital and investments to allow more free enterprise to take place.”

On the question of federal mandates, I asked if the Constitution gives us enough power under state’s rights to reject laws coming from Washington that are not in our interest. Brogdon said emphatically, “We have all the power. It’s in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, which specifically says that states are not obliged to obey federal laws that are outside of the enumerated powers listed.”

He gave an example of one of the issues he has been fighting recently, the health care bill that will require us to purchase health insurance and greatly limit our health care options.

“If we are successful in resisting federal regulations, other states will do the same and follow our lead. For example, the Real ID bill that the federal government tried to impose on us was dropped because so many states refused to participate. We can do the same thing with the health care bill.”

Brogdon was instrumental in passing a bill that would have allowed Oklahomans to opt out of “Obamacare,” but Governor Henry vetoed it, and there were not enough votes to override his veto. It is critical to this state’s future to elect a governor that will act in the people’s interest.

The good news is that we will get a chance to vote for a constitutional amendment next November. Florida and Arizona have similar referendums on the ballot as well.

Brogdon also wants Oklahoma to join a lawsuit along with about twenty other states that would challenge the constitutionality of the health bill, but Attorney General Drew Edmondson (who is also a Democrat candidate for governor) refused.

The House and Senate have enabled the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate to circumvent Edmondson so that we can participate in the lawsuit.

I’ll be writing more about Randy Brogdon in coming issues between now and the primaries in July.

In the meantime, get on the web and get to know Senator Brogdon. I believe that he is the right person to be our next governor.

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