



Paradise Valley Republican Women's Club Gov. Jan Brewer's Remarks Saturday, June 13, 2009

Thank you for that nice welcome, it's great to be back with all of you and I appreciate being invited here today.

To start off, I want you to know that I am standing here today, largely, because of the hard work that you and other Republicans always provided throughout my career to help me,... and I cannot say thank you enough.

It has always been clear to me throughout my 27 years in political office that the real backbone of this Party is the people behind the scenes.

The people who put in the long hours, the people who work for free, stuffing envelopes and going door to door. The people willing to spend their weekends in the heat, collecting signatures, because they believe in a cause bigger than themselves.

As Arizona's Governor, I want you to know I am working very hard and doing the best job I know how to do, to solve the many problems we currently face.

Indeed, it seems wherever I go nowadays, I am asked to discuss the State of Arizona's budget shortfalls,...but I'm not going to spend a large amount of my time today talking about the budget.

That's because I've been very clear about the long-term vision needed to get Arizona out of the fiscal problem we're facing.

You all probably know, that for the upcoming fiscal year 2010, we have more than \$10 billion in state spending obligations, and roughly \$7 billion in revenues.

To put things in perspective, if we don't adjust our spending habits, and we don't commit to ANY new spending, (we simply hold the line and pay for what we're

already obligated to fund), then Arizona will have a cumulative overall deficit of \$14 billion by FY2014.

That's worse than California per capita!

So we're left with some very difficult choices to make. Your Arizona lawmakers and I must come up with \$3 to \$4 billion this year, and many of the budget accounting gimmicks, or math tricks, have already been utilized. So what is left?

Basically, we have four options left on the table: federal stimulus funds, spending cuts, a tax increase, and massive borrowing.

I have put forward a 5-point plan that uses all those options (and even proposes tax cuts to spur job growth) to get Arizona on the road to recovery.

I was very heartened this week that Republican Leadership recognized that our problems are so great, that we must consider a temporary tax increase to bridge the gap towards a better future.

Now, raising revenues is always politically charged, but it is critical that everyone understand that more revenue is truly necessary. This increase together with my plan for additional spending cuts will help prevent catastrophic long-term cuts in education, public safety, and basic health care.

So this is a tough problem to handle, and there is no shame in allowing the people of Arizona to decide.

When presented with an honest and fiscally conservative plan to balance the budget, I have great confidence that voters will provide their approval.

But that's not really the message I wanted to focus on with you folks today.

Instead, I would like to concentrate on this: Republicans are responsible for Arizona's government,...and it is up to us to lead Arizona through these challenging times.

Either we Republicans seize this moment – this opportunity in Arizona history to not just generate solutions that will simply patch the problems - but ultimately reach solutions that will actually solve our difficult long-term problems. Or we all fail as Republicans.

As Republicans, we aren't afraid of hard work, in fact I believe, we embrace the challenges that lie ahead of us and will do everything we can to make Arizona a better place.

In preparing for today's event, I was reminded of a quote by Ulysses S. Grant back in 1880 when he uttered what I think were some pretty appropriate words about the Republican Party.

He said, "I am a Republican, because the Republican Party... is seeking the greatest good for the greatest number of citizens.

"The Republican Party assures protection to life and property, the public credit, and the payment of the debts of the government.

"The Republican Party is a party of progress, and of liberty... It encourages the poor to strive to better their children, to enable them to compete successfully with their more fortunate associates, and,... it secures an entire equality before the law of every citizen, no matter what his race, nationality, or previous condition. It tolerates no privileged class. Every one has the opportunity to make [themselves] all [they] are capable of."

To be sure, President Grant was a wise and educated man, yet he was also a student of history. He knew that most great organizations and civilizations don't fall to external forces, but to the steady erosion from within.

So it seems to me, today, we should remind ourselves that we as Republican's have got to do a better job of ensuring our Party organization does not erode from within. We simply **MUST** stand together!!

I have no doubt, the Democrats will do all in their power before the next election to smear our Republican efforts and minimize any accomplishments, so as to try and retake control of the Executive and Legislative branches of state government.

The important thing is that we, as Republicans, re-energize ourselves for the clear battles that await us. Now is the time to evaluate where we can improve on our shortcomings, and determine as a Party, how best to position ourselves as we move forward.

And let us not forget, that in just the first 5 months since taking office, there are many accomplishments that the Republican led Legislature and I have made that don't get the attention they deserve.

Together, the Legislature and I cut government spending by more than at any time in Arizona history. The fact is, Republicans made state government smaller. Republicans got HB 2001 passed and signed into law. That legislation allows parents of disabled and foster children to continue to choose and utilize the school that best serves the needs of their children. And we accomplished this in a budget neutral way.

In March, I formally urged the Secretary of Defense to put up to 400 National Guardsmen on our border to help law enforcement do their part. That's because we Republicans have not lost our focus on Protecting our Borders.

As your Republican Governor, I was pleased to sign an executive order to reaffirm the State of Arizona's longstanding prohibition against mandatory union activity as a condition of employment in Arizona, we still have a Right to Work!

And in March, I was very pleased to join with the House and the Senate Republicans to approve an important Arizona childcare program for the working poor. That's because as Republicans we understood that this program allows working parents to keep their jobs and their childcare without interruption. This is truly a hand-up, not a hand out.

So in closing, I think there is a lot that our Republican Party has to be proud of in these last few months. We're clearly up to doing the job necessary for our State.

The values of our Republican party mirror the values of millions of Arizona families. Every good family has its clashes, but families find a way to get along. And as we prepare for upcoming elections next year, I think we political committeemen and women, have got to get along, get coordinated, and get to work.

We are all committed to electing Republicans, and getting back to the principles that make our party great.

Thank you, and thank you all for being here.