

## GUEST COLUMN

# Mitch Henck: Who's voting for Trump?

February 28, 2016

"I would not vote for Trump under any circumstances," said former Conservative Madison school board member Rick Berg. A former Tommy Thompson speechwriter and longtime Dane County Republican, Berg is appalled by Trump. "He is rude and crass and mean. He is also non-Conservative. He isn't even a Republican." Berg thinks the G.O.P. made a mistake by letting Trump in the debates. Berg isn't alone. "I would never vote for Trump," said former Dane County Board member and Conservative Blogger David Blaska. "He reminds me of Mussolini. He would just be a dictator," Blaska said.

Outgoing Green Bay Congressman Reid Ribble said in December that he would never vote for Trump. Trump's proposed ban on Muslims was the straw that broke the camel's back for Ribble. "If he wanted to restrict jihadists and terrorists from coming into the country, I would have applauded that. But that's not what he said." Ribble added, "Trump loses in a run and, quite frankly, it's likely Republicans would lose the U.S. Senate," Ribble told a reporter two months ago.

Berg and Blaska hope Trump is stopped short of the delegates he would need to be nominated. They both hope for a draft Paul Ryan move at the Republican Convention. "If Trump and Hillary are the nominees, I think Bernie and a Conservative could run as Independents. We could have a four-person race," Blaska says.

But a long time staffer for Republican State Senator Steven Nass, and local talk show regular Mike Mikalsen says Trump is a response to the establishment. "The intellectual Republicans have not done the job," says Mikalsen. "Blue Collar Conservatives and Reagan Democrats are fed up with the Establishment." I reminded Mikalsen that given Trump's national numbers with Latinos he would have to win 65% of the White vote like Reagan did in 1984. "That could happen," says Mikalsen.

Berg calls Trump a narcissist and a demagogue who would embarrass the country on the international stage. I asked him whom would he choose between Trump and Hillary one on one? "That would be a hellish choice but I would consider all options, including writing in someone else's name," Berg said.

They would be doing the same thing to Trump that Republicans criticized millions of Conservatives of doing in 2012. They stayed home because they thought Mitt Romney was too moderate.

The funny thing is that the first presidential candidate Ronald Reagan voted for was FDR in 1932. He voted for Truman in 1948 while Reagan headed the Screen Actors Guild. Reagan once called himself a "Hemophiliac Liberal." By 1952, Reagan had "evolved" enough to vote for Republican presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower. 14 years later Reagan successfully ran for governor in California and the rest is history. So maybe Trump uses more profanity and had one more divorce than Reagan, but after all, nobody's perfect.

*Mitch is a Madison, Wisconsin based commentator, broadcaster and standup comic.  
The Mitch Henck Show is broadcast live 8-11a.m. Monday-Friday at [www.mitchhenck.com](http://www.mitchhenck.com).  
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