

# NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

## Jennifer Horn: 2019, the year of hypocrisy

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WELCOME TO 2019: The Year of the Political Hypocrite.

Sure, hypocrisy is hardly new in politics. The very nature of politics — primaries, general elections, reelects — practically invites hypocrisy.

History is rife with “he was for it before he was against it” politicians. Remember John “I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it” Kerry? Or, more recently, Hillary “my husband’s affair with an intern wasn’t an abuse of power” Clinton?

Such political duplicity is hardly unique to Democrats, unfortunately, as the past two years have confirmed. For decades, Republicans campaigned on being the fiscally responsible party. Elect us, we said, and we will cut spending and bring you cost-efficient government.

Well, sort of.

President Ronald Reagan expressed outrage during the 1980 elections that the national debt was approaching \$1 trillion. According to the Cato Institute, under the past two years of Republican leadership, an ANNUAL deficit of \$1 trillion is within sight this year.

In spite of all of that, just nine days into the new year, 2019 is on track to become the most hypocritical year in modern American politics.

The current battle over funding for the President’s border wall has laid bare the willingness of both parties to throw credibility to the wind, bring government to a standstill, and battle just for the sake of battling.

Democrat Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama both supported securing the southern border with an extended fence, but now, because Republicans are leading the charge, Democrats find the very concept morally repugnant.

Republicans, for their part, agreed to a plan that allocated \$1.6b to border security and passed it in the Senate with a bipartisan 100 votes. But the President reneged on his word after Ann Coulter was mean to him, and suddenly the Republican line is that anything less than \$5 billion is cause to declare a national emergency.

In spite of spending eight years furious with President Obama for his abuses of executive power, too many Republicans are silently accepting this gross assault on executive limits by Donald Trump.

It’s not just immigration policy that has exposed the hypocrisy of politicians in 2019. After nearly four years of accepting and dismissing the most flagrantly grotesque statements from Trump — including his taped admission to grabbing women in an area of their bodies he

disgustingly described with a word that begins with “p” — the entire Republican Party is suddenly up in arms over a newly-elected Democratic congresswoman using a much worse word.

Their indignation, however, falls flat, as they gave up any claim to the moral high ground on this when they defended or ignored the President’s use of another vulgar phrase in reference to other nations.

The issue that is most revealing of partisan hypocrisy today, however, is the investigation into Russian interference in our 2016 elections and any crimes revealed through that inquiry.

For the past 19 months Republicans have demeaned and attacked the character of Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller and his investigation in a manner we have not witnessed since Democrats did the same to Ken Starr leading up to the Clinton impeachment.

At the same time, Democrats have demanded judgment and sentence before the investigation has even concluded.

It is in our politicians’ handling of the Mueller investigation that a restoration of trust is most critical. The state of credibility in politics is fast deteriorating, at a pace more rapid than any other time I can remember.

It is destructive, threatens the fabric of our democracy and is unraveling at a time when principle and integrity are required more than ever.

We live in a moment that demands our elected leaders abandon the vortex of political hypocrisy in which they are spinning; a moment that calls for good representatives of the people, regardless of party, to respond with honor and integrity.

It is always my sincerest hope that Republicans will lead the way in such a movement.

As long as they continue to blindly defend this President, however, placing party above principle and embracing hypocrisy over honesty, they are abdicating their responsibility to the people and laying the path to pay an even greater price in the next election than they did in the last.