

## Chuck Muth: Two gubernatorial transitions heading opposite directions

BY CHUCK MUTH  
FOR THE [NEVADA APPEAL](#).

After his election to the presidency in 1980, Ronald Reagan, believing in the axiom that "people are policy," immediately turned to the free-market conservative movement to help pull the country out of Jimmy Carter's recession, high unemployment, 20 percent interest rates and general malaise. Gov.-elect Rick Scott is traveling down a similar path in Florida.

But so far here in Nevada, Gov.-elect Brian Sandoval is sticking with the status quo, surrounding himself with many of the same people who were captaining the SS Nevada when it hit that economic iceberg three years ago and started taking on water.

In Florida, Scott has put together a transition team which the Naples News refers to as a "hall of fame of conservative economists."

"Mr. Scott is consulting with the state's conservative think tank: the James Madison Institute," Stephen Moore of Political Diary reports. "Bob McClure, the institute's president, says that top JMI scholars have been tapped for key transition team slots. ... Budget experts from the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute will also be consulted."

In addition, Moore reports that among Scott's top priorities are "the elimination of the state's corporate income tax," as well as "pension reform that requires higher contributions from state employees" and "budgets that limit the growth of government spending to the rate of growth of the private sector."

Wunderbar! So shall it be written; so shall it be done.

On the other hand, Sandoval so far has hired a moderate Republican establishment figure to be his chief-of-staff, an executive from the state's biggest public relations/lobbying firm as his senior adviser, and an anti-school choice public school official as his Southern Nevada director.

In addition, Sandoval's recently announced 29-member transition team includes a couple of longtime gaming executives, a Mercedes Benz dealer, a union boss, a "Republicans for Reid" state senator, a founder of a Democratic special interest caucus, two public school board members, one public school bureaucrat, a former Democratic mayor, a former university president, an energy company executive, the water authority czar, an executive from a Nevada law firm powerhouse, the ol' Chamber guy, a former labor commissioner and a mining executive.

Not one readily recognized movement conservative among them.

Newt Gingrich is fond of saying, and accurately so, that real change requires real change. Which means you don't change the captain of the Titanic with the captain of the Exxon Valdez.

Nevada's economy, budget and government demand real change. Unfortunately, we're not likely to get it from the status quo folks currently filling up the Sandoval administration. The counter-argument is that while they may not be conservatives, at least they're all "competent." And we all know how well that worked out for Mike Dukakis, don't we?

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