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### Profile



Ed Brayton is a journalist, commentator and speaker. He is the co-founder and president of [Michigan Citizens for Science](#) and co-founder of [The Panda's Thumb](#). He has written for such publications as The Bard, Skeptic and Reports of the National Center for Science Education, spoken in front of [scienceblogs.com/.../romney\\_and\\_he...](#)

many organizations and conferences, and appeared on nationally syndicated radio shows and on C-SPAN. Ed is also a Fellow with the Center for Independent Media and the host of [Declaring Independence](#), a one hour weekly political talk show on WPRR in Grand Rapids, Michigan.(static)

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## **Other Information**

Ed Brayton also blogs at [Positive Liberty](#) and [The Panda's Thumb](#)

Ed Brayton is a participant in the Center for Independent Media New Journalism Program. However, all of the statements, opinions, policies, and views expressed on this site are solely Ed Brayton's. This web site is not a production of the Center, and the Center does not support or endorse any of the contents on this site.

### **Ed's Audio and Video**

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## **Romney and Health Care**

Posted on: April 22, 2010 9:02 AM, by [Ed Brayton](#)

Here's a video from the Cato Institute that shows all the similarities between Romney's health care bill in Massachusetts and the Obama health care plan. And it's not just Romney care. The whole idea of insurance exchanges has been trumpeted by the Heritage Foundation. And the idea of an insurance mandate has long been advocated by conservatives.

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## Comments

1

the idea of an insurance mandate has long been advocated by conservatives.

Demonstrating once again that a) conservatives are not truly in favor of small government, and b) libertarian != conservative.

Oh, and also Ed's point--that conservatives are hypocrites.

Posted by: James Hanley | [April 22, 2010 9:44 AM](#)

2

James,

I don't think there is even such a thing as a "conservative" anymore. At least not in the sense that there was 50-60 years ago. Over the last 30 years alleged conservatives spent money like crazy and expanded the government like crazy; their policies were quite literally the opposite of their rhetoric. You have this bizarre new Republican that is far worse than the most extreme "tax and spend" Democrat because they're borrow and spend. At the same time they are hypocrites in that they decry government involvement in everything at the same time they push to expand government involvement in everything but the economy.

They are this weird, juvenile combination of all of the worst traits of just about every ideology. They advocate a nanny government far worse than just about anything proposed by a liberal dedicated to ending poverty. They

spend money worse than anyone who believes that the government can solve every problem. They are more selfish and greedy than some of the worst of the Libertarian "I got mine, F\*\*\* the rest of you!" crowd and at the same time they cut taxes more than most of the anti-tax crowd advocate. They are more vicious and threatening than the worst "big stick" old school imperialists while also ignoring kind of corruption that would make 19th century machine politicians blush.

Aside from party loyalty and pipe dreams, I really have a hard time seeing how anyone can vote Republican these days. They don't really represent anything that the party legitimately stood for. Their policies are bad for economic stability, bad for foreign affairs, bad for debt management, bad for individual liberties.

Posted by: dogmeatib | [April 22, 2010 9:59 AM](#)

3

dogmeat,

I agree, I'm just not sure what to call them. Even reactionary seems too tame, but I guess it's the best word I can think of. Maybe just "tribalistic."

Posted by: James Hanley | [April 22, 2010 11:56 AM](#)

4

[Passage Of Health Care Reform Brings Democrat-Republican Score To 317,622-318,047.](#)

Posted by: Troublesome Frog | [April 22, 2010 12:04 PM](#)

5

There was an article about this in Slate by Timothy Noah the other day:  
<http://www.slate.com/id/2251317/>

Posted by: Jeremy Shaffer | [April 22, 2010 12:53 PM](#)

6

Perhaps the problem with identifying conservatives as we know them today, James and dogmeat, is that they are not political conservatives in anything but name anymore. When the religious right became involved in politics, the title of conservative began to get spun in a "family values" and/or "Christian morals" direction. That spin is probably going to be ongoing, as the radical right gets ever more radically right, and the radical left gets ever and ever closer to what at best is right-leaning centrism. Political conservatism is either a dying beast, or an already dead and buried one.

Posted by: Kate from Iowa | [April 22, 2010 3:19 PM](#)

7

If we had Republicans in control of the ship we probably would have gotten something very similar to what we passed. It just goes to show you that the differences between the two parties is growing ever slimmer.

Posted by: Tyler DiPietro | [April 22, 2010 3:22 PM](#)



Tyler, I doubt it. More likely, we'd have gotten the continuation of the status quo.

Posted by: [Modusoperandi](#) | [April 22, 2010 11:23 PM](#)

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