



Nevada Governor Candidate Joey Gilbert Spoke at Ahern in Las Vegas

I Went With an Open Mind and Low Expectations

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With Nevada's 2022 Gubernatorial race, "Low Expectations" is our benchmark. The incumbent has had a disastrous tone deaf administration that is remarkable for an elected official; how could someone up for re-election be so dismissive of the voters' voices unless the elections were fake? That's another long discussion for another time.

All of the opposition party challengers for the governor's seat have various points that have been openly criticized about their policies, current campaigns and past records. There's complaints about corruption, being controlled opposition, fake party loyalty, lack of name recognition, being too connected to the swamp, being bat shit crazy and more. Every single one of these candidates deserves scrutiny and criticism. It also should be said that every single one of them offers bright hope and change beyond the current failed administration.

In my limited perspective- before yesterday- only one candidate seemed to show any redeeming qualities whatsoever beyond the negative points, and that has been Joey Gilbert. Gilbert has developed a noticeable buzz on social media, has lots of followers online, and actually responds to folks comments. There's an internet term 'ratio' or 'ratioed', and our current governor is a great example of this, where critics and haters far outnumber supporters on twitter or facebook. Gilbert is the total opposite; his policies match what the public is loudly declaring online, and his likes far outnumber comments on his posts, which is rare as comments are usually negative in 2022 politics. He's clearly listening to Nevadans, paying attention, and very much on the same page. Gilbert also is very vocal about ending all of the governor's current pandemic mandates, and promoting laws so that endless long term Emergency Directives can never be forced on Nevada again; this legislation has already been put into law in many other states.

At the event last night, right away it was obvious Joey Gilbert has IT. One thing that is under appreciated in politics is that elected officials in higher offices need to be a dignitary and master of ceremonies. Gilbert has a rare and ideal background for this, beyond what ordinary folks are generally capable of. As a successful amateur and then professional boxer, he's experienced at being onstage, under the lights and under literal, physical attack. As a practicing trial lawyer, he's used to appearing in courtrooms, successfully suing the existing corrupt administration, or opposing attorneys in various legal matters before a judge. As the event started- before he was formally introduced- Gilbert himself helped corral all of the attendees into the large seating area on the side of the even larger hall at Ahern. He's fit, alert, well groomed and well tailored, a huge contrast to our sloppy and out of shape governor; Gilbert actively takes care of himself and it shows. At the end of his very well researched and thought out presentation, he patiently let voter after voter speak their truths in a long question and answer session; many of the folks speaking were simply venting their concerns, and Gilbert patiently listened. No one was being rudely cut off or violently escorted out of the session, as we are used to seeing around elected officials throughout today's Nevada. Even Mack Miller could speak his peace at length without fear. In summary, as a dignitary and head of state, your job is to meet with politicians and celebrities of every background, and not hide from constituents in closed sessions as our current administration is so fond of.

There is no question in my mind Gilbert could be onstage at a public event and speak side by side with folks like Kamala Harris, Katy Perry, Conor McGregor, Lady Gaga, Raiders owner Mark Davis, Joe Biden or Joe Rogan. Love or hate any of these folks, this is part of the job description of Governor.

Gilbert's actual presentation focused solely on the Nevada school system, with a heavy focus on CCSD. This lasted almost two hours. He went over an exhaustive 64 slide presentation that was heavily researched, well thought out and offered a long list of bold ideas and solutions. Some of these ideas were borrowed from already proven policies in other states; others were developed solely for the unique problems facing Nevada. Gilbert has spent a year researching this complicated and very ugly topic and it shows. He's approaching it as an attorney, a proud single dad of an eleven year old daughter, and a concerned Nevada native who has had enough. He had education experts available to back his positions. The audience was full of "Mama Bears" who are parents fighting the injustices of our school systems. School administrators, teachers and union members were also in attendance. The presentation was far too complex for me to relay it accurately and in any sort of detail. Gilbert supports school vouchers. Gilbert pointed out a 90% functional illiteracy rate in CCSD high schools and horrific attendance numbers. He pointed out how this doesn't prepare students for the workforce, and as a business owner, Nevada schools aren't developing qualified candidates for businesses like his to hire. He supports a 200 hour private sector paid work requirement for high school graduation. He asked for a show of hands of who had worked a job in high school, and it was shocking how many of the people there raised their hands. Today's CCSD statistics show kids aren't participating in the workforce very much while in high school. He explained how CCSD's budget- in the \$5.2-6 billion dollar range- was horribly squandered, and could both be trimmed and also be adequately used to fix the whole system. He believes in bringing in outsiders from different career backgrounds to solve the entrenched bureaucracy. He believes in privatizing things like school janitorial maintenance to cut costs and improve quality. With Nevada schools constantly ranking worst or near worst in the nation for over a decade, Gilbert points out there is nothing to lose by trying new things, being disruptive and changing course.

For me, with my daughter long graduated from public schools, this was a difficult topic to sit through for several hours. But Gilbert continued to make

the school presentation interesting as it relates to the fabric of our overall society, which impacts all of us, especially into our future. Hearing him honestly criticize the school system was scary and horrific. But his solutions alleviated some of the concerns. This is in huge contrast to our current governor, who publicly praises a school system that: always ranks near last in the country; is beset by student violence; is full of kids who hate wearing masks all day; and has record teen suicide rates.

Over the course of the multi-hour presentation only about schools, many of the other relevant topics facing our state managed to slip in here and there, they are hard to ignore. Talking to some of Gilbert's staffers after the show, they also have lengthy presentations ready on other topics, including election integrity- a huge issue in Nevada- and Gilbert's legal work with America's Frontline Doctors, which impacts the entire country.

“Pandemic of failed leadership” ***–Joey Gilbert***

We are at a unique crossroads in North America where political outsiders really seem to have a shot and are sorely needed. Gilbert is clearly a fresh voice. As I was sitting there watching his presentation, it really struck me that in over two hours, Joey Gilbert didn't ask for money or donations once. He completely failed the career politician test. I've seen many national and local politicians speak over the years. Politicians ask for money constantly, that's their game. Frustratingly, most politicians publicly speak in gobbledegook talking point word salad, saying everything and nothing and avoiding answers to direct questions. I'm used to seeing political speeches that come across like a bunch of wildly unrelated Post-it® notes or bumper stickers all randomly thrown together with no rhyme or reason, even several completely unrelated talking points shoved into a single sentence. Only rabid partisan loyalists can even understand these sorts of messages, I can't. That Gilbert could spend three hours on one topic was way above and beyond what I am used to with politics.

Other bits about the campaign impressed me as well. There's well organized staffers and volunteers. They have a bus covered in Gilbert for Governor graphics. They have all the right swag, even including jewelry for female supporters.

Joey Gilbert is obviously new to politics and he's the first to admit it onstage. As he says, he's learning as he goes. But what he's shown so far is that he's great at researching, learning and listening, and is surrounding himself with impressive people. He's energized and authentic. There's still some areas where he's rough around the edges, but he's a quick learner and study, I have a lot of hope in his immediate future and progress.

“I don't trust Sisolak as far as I could throw him”

–Joey Gilbert

There is no question in my mind that former boxer Joey Gilbert could go toe to toe and eye to eye with our current governor onstage and make the incumbent look like the bumbling clown we have all been sadly forced to see. I do not have this faith with the other competing opposition candidates.

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