

A grassroots perspective of Tancredo

by [Robert Rowland](#) on Monday, August 23, 2010 at 11:10am

Who is the man calling himself Tom Tancredo

(A final appeal)

By Robert Rowland, Elbert Tea Party/912

A friend approached me the other day and asked, "between Dan Maes and Tom Tancredo, who do you think would be a better Governor?" He asked me in a way that made it obvious he is considering both and wanted my opinion on which one has more experience, in traditional political terms. I responded with, "it doesn't matter, Tom isn't an option." This began the same debate and the same question being asked by many folks in the conservative and liberty movements. Based on voter registration and current polling, what Tom Tancredo is doing will split the vote enough to insure a victory for Hickenlooper should he pursue his misguided campaign. The issue isn't what a nice guy Tom is, or how popular he has been, or how qualified he is to be governor. To folks like me in the Liberty Movement, it's the realization that something has gone terribly wrong in our political system. The core values that were in place beginning with our founding fathers and throughout our short 234 year history have either faded into the background or have been totally abandoned by many of those in office today. The values of honesty, integrity, service for the sake of service, national pride and maybe most importantly the belief that the will of the people must prevail at all cost seems to be lost on our elected officials. Instead, our government and our leaders arrogantly operate with the belief that it is they who know what is best for our people and our nation. In spite of our values, our demands for honest, representative government, and in spite of the promises made during campaigns, we end up with elected officials voting in opposition to the overwhelming beliefs and desires of the people they represent. We have elected and appointed judges who overturn our votes on issues-from taxes, marriage, national security and even the very basic concept of protecting our own sovereignty. This while completely ignoring the Constitution and in many cases, common sense. In short, most Americans are fed up, disgusted and angry with our leaders and our government, stemming from the loss of core values and respect for the will of the people.

This brings us back to Tom Tancredo. Conversations about Tom begin with "I really like Tom Tancredo," or "he's the only one who has had the courage to stand up for our views on illegal immigration," or an array of other positive and complimentary statements. Our icon of liberty, the one representative we felt hadn't lost sight of our core values, suddenly did. It's really quite simple for a liberty type like me. What Tom has done has disrespected and circumvented the most important value that we have, the will of the people. At a point in the game when thousands of conservative Coloradoans, with over 35% of whom identify themselves as being affiliated with the Liberty Movement, and who have given their time, money, sweat and hearts by getting re-engaged in the system, they have been betrayed. After all these citizens decided to come out, many after years of complacency, to join in and say, "we will not allow you to take away our rights, we will not allow you to spend our grandchildren's future, to give away our sovereignty, and most importantly to ignore the will of the people. Tom did just that. In effect, what he did and when he did it said, "your nomination, your votes, all your work, your time and your passion were misguided and wrong. I'm going to make everything right by getting on this white horse and saving the day."

Nobody knows for sure why Tom Tancredo is doing what he's doing. Speculation and rumors around the water cooler run all the way from does he now need a job because of bad investments, or because of ego is he seeking a final moment in the sun, does he have some mysterious ingenious plan to actually propel the chosen candidate to victory, or is he now a clandestine insider who has suddenly decided to change sides? Is there a profit motive, a book deal, or is he simply delusional thinking he can actually win? One thing is for certain-he won't save the day. He will destroy any and all chances

of preventing another disastrous four years with Hickenlooper running Colorado. Tom Tancredo, like this nation, this state and all of us in the Liberty Movement are at a crossroads. Many of us feel we are slowly edging toward making the difference that can save and restore our nation from the path that is leading us to disaster. For anything or anyone to put roadblocks in that path is unconscionable and unacceptable, especially after he preached unity and party loyalty to us just a few short months ago. Time is short for Tom Tancredo if there is to be any hope that his stature, his place and his honor among the Liberty Movement is to be preserved. If he returns to us, steps out of our path and rejoins us, he will be accepted as a brother returning, with our love and respect. At some point very soon he will have reached that preverbal "point of no return" and will be lost to our movement and there will be no chance for reconciliation. Then, like everyone else running for public office, the scramble to discredit him will inevitably begin. They will begin looking at things like military service or any deferments he might have received, voting records, finances, partnerships and associations, business dealing or investment involvements, contributions, grade point average in college, and every word he has ever spoken

and anything else that can be dug up that can be used by those who once idolized him to now defeat him in his bid for Governor. Please Tom, come back home and stand with us-we need you with us, not against us.

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[Tom Buchanan](#) Very astute letter Robert

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[Brooks Imperial](#) Tom never frustrated the "will of the people." He frustrated the will of the anointed caucus delegates. And I hope he keeps doing it because that's the system that's broken in Colorado. And the threats from a non-party political party that can't or won't actually endorse a candidate or an issue, seem hollow at best.

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[Robert Rowland](#) Guess I'm having a little trouble figuring how Maes is an "appointed caucus delegate".

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[Brooks Imperial](#) First, I said "anointed," not "appointed." Second, it was the anointed caucus delegates, not an appointed Maes. Third, Maes is a product of the caucus system in Colorado, run by birth-right delegates who didn't do their due-

diligence on the candidate. Tancredo knows all this and he's doing something about it. And the tea party, until it officially acts like a party and produces a candidate or an issue, is a paper tiger--which is a pathetic end for a lot of noble political energy.

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[Robert Rowland](#) Appreciate the clarification, though I know many of these "birth-right" delegates and while I can't speak for wherever you hail from, in our County nothing could be further from the truth, and we all know the % of grassroots folks at the Assembly, I think you're conclusion about these fine folks is quite wrong, just my humble opinion.

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[Brooks Imperial](#) Fine as they may be, they gave us a couple lemons. I blame the process.

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[Robert Rowland](#) I'm sure Thomas Jefferson has his distractors too.....you can blame the process, and there is plenty of room for blame in it, but unless we honor and respect the will of the people, even when we don't agree with it we are in big trouble. Whatever happens we must continue talking and finding our common ground, divided we also fall.....

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[Robert Rowland](#) detractors

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[Brooks Imperial](#) You trot out this "will of the people" fiction as if the caucus delegates faithfully represent it. They don't. That's the whole point. "The people" have a lot more resources than the anointed self-selected caucus delegates. Caucus delegates deserve no honor and respect for the lame candidates they produced this year.

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[Robert Rowland](#) Then we must agree to disagree, I will respectfully refrain from further comment as we seem headed to at least one of us making this personal, "trotting" out, "deserve no honor" when referring to fellow Americans trying to make a difference. I wish you well....good day

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[Brooks Imperial](#) I'm an outcome-oriented political type. If they had done their jobs successfully, I would feel differently. There is no try. There is only do. Yoda.

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[Patti Meyer Conroy](#) Yoda?????? LOL!

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[Robert Rowland](#) I was tempted to mention that YODA isn't real.....

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[Brooks Imperial](#) When political types start channeling "the will of the people" it's time for a jedi master to step in.

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[Robert Rowland](#) Good luck, and may the force be with you. Hey, we do have to keep our sense of humor in all this.....

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[Donna L. Reese](#)

I am a card carrying Republican and have been for many years but this year I have joined the tea party and have found the real Republicans who want to get our country back to what our founding fathers had in mind. In other words back to ou...r Constitution, where we have gotten clear away from, over the years. I want my candidates to act and do what they say they will, while campaigning after they are elected. I want truth to come into our politics for a change and that is what the tea party wants also. I pray this will happen. We are in a real battle folks its time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. See More

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[Cindy Lyons](#) From what Tancredo said today he will need grassroots volunteers to help him lose with less of a losing margin. [paraphrased]

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[Robert Rowland](#) I haven't heard that, but if I'm hearing right, his goal to to lose by less, that's sick! To knowingly be doing this and knowing how much he is hurting all of our work and efforts, and that he and Dan will lose to Hickenlooper can only leave me with one conclusion. I won't even say it, but there is no longer a logical, rational reason for him to do this.....what does that leave one with when they've lost those human traits.....very sad

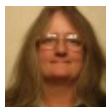
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[Virginia Young](#) Yes come to the aid of Tom,
<http://www.tancredoforgovernor.co/>

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[Cindy Lyons](#) He was on Caplis and Silverman today at 4PM... sorry I didn't mention that fact. I know Robert... it is sad. I have only one thing to say is that he lost 1.1 million in the Madoff scandal and perhaps the campaign money or worse a backdoor deal? Don't know. Something seems very wrong here.

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[Brently Keen](#)

Tancredo is trampling on the will of the people, and so are Brooks. Dan Maes won both the delegates and the Republican party primary, he won the nomination fair and square, running a completely grassroots and tea party supported campaign wh...ere ordinary, conservative Republicans had the most input and say. It was McInnis that had the "birthright" establishment support, including Tancredo until it became apparent that he wasn't going to win. Furthermore the clear majority of the people of Colorado including Republicans, Independents, Libertarians and even many Democrats do not want Hickenlooper. But with TT in the race they are practically giving him the keys to the Governors mansion. See More

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[Robert Rowland](#) I heard it was closer to 3.1 million, what a shameful way to end one's political and public life. I hope he has all the mirrors in his house removed, for his own sake.

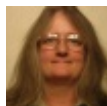
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[Brently Keen](#) “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? ~ Mark 8:36

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[Cindy Lyons](#) Mirrors... ROMCLMAO! [MC: my couch]

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[Robert Rowland](#) Amen!

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[Brently Keen](#) Anybody have a link for the latest poll info?

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[Brooks Imperial](#) President Obama is committed to governments that "reflect the will of the people." More damage to citizens in countries all over the world has been done in the last century under the rubric of "the will of the people" than perhaps any other political corruption. No thank you. A thousand times, no thank you. Keep your interpretations of "will of the people" well away from me.

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[Brently Keen](#)

You confuse "will of the people" with the so called people's party or worker's party of socialism. When I say will of the people I mean those that voted Republican in the primaries. And those Coloradans that will vote in November. You sound... like an elitist in favor of a ruling class and opposed to elections (when they don't go your way). And Tancredo is running like one, bypassing the process, imposing and appointing himself, trying to tell everyone what to do when Republicans just had a primary where the voters told everyone who they wanted to be their nominee, Dan Maes. See More

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[Brooks Imperial](#) I am not confused. I can't help what you think I sound like. I will resist all who channel the will of the people, and you can't swing a dead cat around here without hitting someone spouting off about what the will of the people is. The tea party demonstrations I attended in Washington and at the capitol in Denver were not venues for socialist rhetoric about the will of the people. Words have meaning. Socialist slogans do to. You need to find some better rhetoric.

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[Judy Rydberg Reyher](#) That was an amazing letter. It put all of this in perspective. The financial aspect of Tom's motive is the only thing that makes any sense. Better men than Tom Tancredo have been destroyed by their quest for money and fame.

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[Michelle Miller](#)

Excellent letter. Well said.
Brooks... your understanding of the caucus process is obviously misguided. Based on your statements you do not understand it. Any and all citizens are welcome to attend, have their say and run for a seat at county... Assembly. Again everyone at that level is welcome to run for State Assembly delegates. It truly is grass roots and a process that TOO FEW have taken time to get involved. The more involvement from the beginning the better we all are. See More

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[Brooks Imperial](#)

I understand the caucus system intimately. I participated in it and was a precinct committee person. The fact is that it would be generous to say that 1% of the

voting population shows up at precinct caucuses to select, among themselves, ...delegates who will determine at their various subsequent assemblies the nominees for the primary ballots. These delegates may or may not represent the precinct caucuses from which they came, however, they definitely do not represent in any sense "the will of the people" at large. They are self-selected, self-referential, non-representative of the voting population, and non-democratic. Anyone who says that a 1% group of self-selected individuals who go out to a meeting one night earn the mantle of spokesmen for the will of the people is delusional. See More

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[Robert Rowland](#) Mr. Imperial, I think we understand your perspective on the will of the people now. And to use your own analogy about the insignificance of the minority (1%), I'm glad in this situation at least that you are clearly in that category.

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[Brooks Imperial](#) You people misrepresent me at every turn. I never said the minority is insignificant. In Colorado this minority - the 1% of self-selected caucus attendees - is statutorily empowered. Fair enough. That's the law. All I'm saying is don't delude yourselves that just because it's legal means that it's also moral, reasonable, just, or representative of the will of the people. The hubris here continues to amaze me.

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[Craig Steiner](#) Brooks, no gubernatorial candidates were eliminated by the caucus/assembly system. If you are unhappy with the candidate(s) before you, blame the candidate(s) that didn't run. We have a democratic process and anyone can participate as a delegate or as a candidate. It's not the fault of the caucus system that some people choose to do neither.

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[Robert Rowland](#) Ah, the difference emerges; "You People" Vs "the will of the people" As I said, I think your view of the process and the right of the masses to participate and select their leaders is quite clear. I know, more hubris.

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[Brooks Imperial](#)

Tancredo is not faithful to the Republican party caucus aparatchiks. Get over it. Look at Maes' platform. <http://www.danmaes.com/wp-content/flyers/dan-maes-plan-for-a-better-colorado.pdf>

Look at Tancredo's platform.

<http://www.tancredoforg...overnor.co/contractwithcolorado.html>

Start dealing with the substance of these two. Stop blaming. Stop elevating yourselves. It's not about you.

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[Craig Steiner](#)

As a matter of principle I support the democratically elected nominee. And as a matter of pragmatism, Tancredo cannot win. Any way you cut it, despite Tancredo's own conservative credentials, he is the single biggest threat to a conservat...ive victory in the governor's race this year.

You said "just because it's legal doesn't mean it's moral, reasonable, just, or representative of the will of the people"--that could be better applied to Tancredo's run than the statutory democratic process you seem to want to apply it to. See More

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[Robert Rowland](#) Well said Craig, concur, a voice of logic and reason, refreshing

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[Brooks Imperial](#)

By "you people" I meant the people writing on this thread. I can name y'all individually if you like, or you can read up the thread for yourselves. The generality applies here, however the generality that "you people" here represent "the ...will of the people" out there, has been refuted by what I said in this thread, and there has been no rebuttal. In the law, the lack of a challenge to the substance of the argument means you accept the point.

My speculation is that Maes can't win under any circumstances. There's been too little about his accomplishments to come out and too much about his failings. I thought he sounded great early on when he first sold himself at the various political meetings I heard him speak at. But as time went on it appears that was mostly just good salesmanship on his part. As for Tancredo, he's got all the substance in the world and whatever else you say, he's not a good salesman.

Could the caucus delegates have upheld a higher standard and not stampeded toward the good salesman? Well, I wasn't there, but it certainly seems that they could have. See More

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[Craig Steiner](#)

Brooks, Tancredo can't win under any circumstances. It's a mathematical certainty that Hickenlooper will win in a 3-way, and Tancredo himself admitted on the Boyles radio show a couple of weeks ago that "it would've been tough" for him to ...win against Hickenlooper in a 2-way--and I think he was being very generous in that assessment.

No candidate is perfect and I'm not saying Maes is. But Tancredo has a very real ceiling as to his potential support, and that ceiling is not high enough to win. If Tancredo withdraws can Maes win? It'll be plenty of work and there are no guarantees. But I absolutely believe that the possibility of Tancredo winning a statewide race is zero. So I'll roll the dice with Maes who also happens to be the democratically elected nominee. [See More](#)

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[Brooks Imperial](#) Rowland, did you invite me to be your FB friend just so you could demagogue me? Or is this how you usually deal with dissenters?

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