

## All politics is local - QSA

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The phrase, "**All politics is local**" is a common phrase in U.S. politics. The former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill coined this phrase which encapsulates the principle that a politician's success is directly tied to his ability to understand and influence the issues of his constituents. Politicians must appeal to the simple, mundane and everyday concerns of those who elect them into office. Those personal issues, rather than big and intangible ideas, are often what voters care most about, according to this principle. Politicians often use this against one another, as well, to hit each other where it hurts most— back at home— rather than on the floor of Congress. The concept is contrary to the notion that most people, somehow, in local elections are casting votes to "send a message" to the highest levels; instead, the principle predicts that most people will not vote for local politicians simply as a means to act on feelings about higher politicians, such as concerns about a current U.S. President. The prediction is that most people who vote, or debate issues, are focused on resolving their local issues.

### Example

During the 1982 Congressional elections, O'Neill's seat was challenged by Massachusetts lawyer Frank McNamara, who had financed most of his campaign with money from oil interests in Oklahoma and Texas. Voters in Massachusetts, plagued by oil prices and a poor economy for many years, felt no love for McNamara and his oil money and instead mocked him as he announced his candidacy on the steps of the US Capitol.

Later during those elections, O'Neill introduced a \$1-billion jobs-bill to the table. House Republican Leader Robert H. Michel of Peoria, Illinois opposed the bill, but O'Neill delivered an address broadcast in Peoria that showed how many infrastructure problems in Peoria would be fixed by the bill. "By hitting his rival where he lived, O'Neill translated a wholesale debate over national economic policy to the local, retail level" (Matthews 53).

1. Prove that "All politics is local" by quoting one sentence of this article.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Prove that "All politics is local" by summarizing this article.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Perform the following steps to analyze the text above.

- a. Who wrote this article? \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Who was the intended audience of this article? \_\_\_\_\_

- c. When was this article written? \_\_\_\_\_

- d. What was the purpose for writing this article? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**All Politics Is National - QSA**

**The old adage, "all politics is local" no longer holds true.**

*by Memphis Flyer Staff*

One of the more abused quotations of modern times has been the one attributed — perhaps erroneously and perhaps even apocryphally — to the late former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill: "All politics is local."

One application of that idea is that voters everywhere, even in national elections, when asked to consider issues of great pitch and moment, examine them for their local relevance. That's yet another reason why, in the presidential election just past, both major candidates bore down on the matter of jobs-jobs-jobs and why their competition was so avid in large states like Ohio that had been particularly hard hit by the never-ending recession and were as rich in electoral votes as they were poor in material fortune.

We would suggest, however, that the old chestnut needs to be retired. If the presidential election of 2012 proved anything, it was that national tendencies influenced local outcomes. There is, for example, the much-discussed "browning of America," a phrase used to describe the increasing percentage of the American population that is African-American, Asian, Latino, or some ethnicity other than Anglo-Saxon or Northern European. Hispanics, in particular, clearly had a hard time trusting in the GOP's Mitt Romney after he advocated "self-deportation" as a remedy for what may not even be a problem, much less one that should be solved that way.

There was the so-called gender gap, too, the traditional preference of unmarried women for Democratic candidates. The Romney-Ryan ticket tried to defuse that one by arguing that women were much more concerned about pocketbook issues than those having to do with, say, reproductive freedom. Wrong.

...

1. Prove that "All politics is national" by quoting one sentence of this article.

-----

2. Prove that "All politics is national" by summarizing this article.

-----

3. Perform the following steps to analyze the text above.

- a. Who wrote this article?

- b. Who was the intended audience of this article?

- c. When was this article written?

- d. What was the purpose for writing this article? How do you know?

-----