

## **Why NY Governor Andrew Cuomo should NOT resign**

If I may, allow me the grace to inspire your anger. Oh I know full well that what I'm writing won't be popular – leftist or conservative. However, I'm compelled to write something in favor of NY Governor Cuomo. Please understand. I am not a fan of the Governor. I believe his leadership (or lack thereof) and his policies lack even a grain of human decency. I personally find him lacking the moral standing necessary to hold such a governmental position. But I must disagree with those who believe he should resign *because of accusation of sexual inappropriate behavior and comments*. Please let me explain.

The soul of our nation is at risk here, and challenges us as we tread on the razor thin line our country is walking upon – a line which must be noted, not for our comfort but for judicial due process rights. Are we a people who stand on justice trusting our court systems? Or are we people who take the easy way out of difficult situation joining with the cancel culture demanding elimination of anything we don't like? Will justice win or will mobocracy? That is the choice we face no matter our thought of his leadership.

Simply put, the news cycle in New York state and a few other locations in our nation has been consumed by the inappropriate actions by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Accused of sexual harassment, creating an unhealthy workplace, and inappropriate conduct by a man holding such office. It's an example of how fleeting fame is.

Here is a man who was the darling of the mainstream media (msm). He was praised for his "handling" of the COVID-19 pandemic in the state to the point where he signed a book deal to explain his leadership. He also received an Emmy award for his daily briefings on the virus status – briefings which included opportunities for all to watch a nurse stick a swab up his nose for a COVID-19 test. The msm praised him for his continued criticism of then President Donald Trump. So high was his standing that some press reports touted him to be presidential (or vice presidential) material. After the election some saw him as a good pick to be President Biden's Attorney General. But before the echoes of cheers faded so did the glory.

Staffers confessed that the fatality numbers in the state's skilled nursing facilities were deliberately reduced and documents altered so that national eyes could not see the negative impact of his executive order forcing facilities to accept COVID-19 positive patients without testing. Rather than a few women in the media with conservative leanings a number of people began asking questions – including the NY State Attorney General. The Governor maintained his innocence by claiming that any Nursing Home crisis was the work of a political witch hunt. Little attention was given by the msm until greater publicity actually forced the press to do their jobs. Then up pops another staffer who publicly accuses the governor of sexual misconduct and creating an unsafe workplace for women. Over the next few weeks as many as six other women came forward with similar accusations.

Calls began to ring out Como must resign... billboards in the state echoed the sentiment. But Andrew Cuomo has stuck to his guns, refusing to step down despite a growing number of leaders in his own political party (the Democratic party) including the states two U.S. Senators. A few ripples come forward from the “Me Too Movement.” But no tsunamis of condemnation, just a few more calls for him to resign his office and a forced investigation by a State Assembly Judiciary committee.

At this point I must pause to make it clear. I am not in any way shape or form a fan of the Governor Cuomo . As I already noted he lacks in my opinion the key leadership qualities to be effective in such a high-level elected position. I also believe that IF the sexual harassment claims being made by the women and former staffers are credible serious punishment must be enacted. Such conduct cannot be tolerated by any civil society by civil servants. We must demand nothing less that fully respectful behavior by any man no matter his job – public or private.

But with that said, here are three reasons why I believe it is wrong to demand or expect him to resign his office. There, are my conservative friends mad yet?

First, and foremost he is an American citizen and thus is entitled to have charges brought before a court and have him tried by a jury of his peers. He also has the right to due process. The continued harping and calls for him to resign fail to take into account that as a citizen he has these rights. For him to submit to the mobocracy and its political version of cancel culture offer no lasting condemnation of his conduct. A resignation without conviction is nothing but a political chihuahua chasing a Mack-Truck down the road until it reaches the end of its leash. He walks away free with little need for repentance.

Also, along the same lines, the women who are bringing these charges against him have an equal right to have their charges heard in court publicly. They have a right to tell the world the evil in which he engaged. Such is the nature of our judiciary and the necessity of our free society. Have we allowed mobocracy the power to resurrect the lynch mobs and bar room justice? We are a nation of laws and thus must enable the due process they embody. To fail in this regard, we do our children and every woman in America a disservice. We make them the targets of future misguided men who think they can behave however they like without significant retribution or punishment. Also, while I understand that bringing up such accounts is difficult for the women involved, as a society we must demand that their story be told in court and heard if our ideals of due process are to live beyond 2021.

Secondly, we cannot allow the memory of such events to slip into oblivion unevaluated. British historian noted that social order must rely on shared memory in order to succeed. To allow Andrew Cuomo flee justice through resignation places a huge detour sign on the highways of our collective moral memory – no punishment, no price to pay for inappropriate conduct, and nothing to answer for except a short time of humiliation. To allow Andrew Cuomo to simply resign from office without being called to account opens the door for any political wannabe to act like a jerk in office as long as no one else

sees them. We must expect more, and a lot more, from all public officials elected, appointed, or hired through the merit system. Shared memory is a vital way for us to enforce good conduct and good government. This is too important a task to leave in the all too anxious minds of the mainstream media.

Lastly, as a tangent to this point, I return to the fact that the msm of our time takes great pride in looking beyond the indiscretions of political leaders with whom they agree. Consider the fact that in 2016 women came forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against then presidential candidate Donald Trump and they were more than willing to highlight it. In 2020, then candidate Joe Biden was accused of sexual misconduct and little to nothing was reported. Gone are the deep dive investigative reporters who seek the truth as the first rule of journalism. Should Andrew Como be allowed to slip quietly into history with only a resignation our collective moral memory would be endangered far beyond acceptability. We cannot leave such an important part of our social fabric in the hands of individuals who care little for seeking and demanding the truth. More and more over the past few years the msm failed miserably in the quest for the truth – do we leave it to them without the public court records of the stories of women who may have been abused by high-ranking state officials?

This is more than just a case where an elected official has lost his way; this is a place in our nations history where we must step back from the mobocracy anarchy line and regain a solid moral and judicial footing.

Why does it matter if Andrew Como does or doesn't resign? Yes it does and for the soul of the next generation of Americans we must seek justice not convenient mobocracy solutions. The next generation of men will make significant moral decisions based on this decision and our national judicial process demand the correct choice. Yes, it matters a great deal!

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