



Tuesday, April 3, 2012

8:34 PM

Romney supporters celebrate projected win

The crowd at Mitt Romney's Election Night party cheered and supporters snapped photos of a TV screen after Fox News projected the former Massachusetts gov would win Wisconsin.

Hundreds of people jammed into a room at the Historic Grain Exchange in Milwaukee. There were no tables or chairs, and supporters were standing shoulder-to-shoulder in the room.

Dale Stearman of Kenosha brought his family to the party, including teen sons Nathan, 17, and Cameron, 15.

"Romney has business experience and as a business consultant. That's what I look for," he said. "The problem I have with politicians is they take our money and make plans and regulations, but don't see it through."

Not long after the polls closed, Romney's campaign released some of his prepared remarks.

Romney plans to tick off a series of negatives about the economy.

"And when you drive home tonight and stop at a gas station, just take a look at the prices and ask yourself, 'Four more years?'" Romney planned to say.

"It's enough to make you think that years of flying around on Air Force One, surrounded by an adoring staff of true believers telling you what a great job you are doing, well, that might be enough to make you a little out of touch."

-- By Kay Nolan

9:03 PM

Romney accuses Obama of trying to create a government-centric society

MILWAUKEE -- Mitt Romney Tuesday accused Barack Obama of trying to create a government-centric society in which the government has to do more because the economy does less and tax increases are not just a necessity, but a desired tool for social justice.

Fresh off projections that he would win the Wisconsin primary, Romney lit into Obama for overseeing more job losses than any president since the Great Depression. He also accused him of making mistakes that have made the nation's economy worse.

"I don't want to transform America," Romney said. "I want to restore to America the economic values of freedom and opportunity and limited government that made us the powerhouse of the world."

Romney, often accused by his critics of being out of touch, lobbed the same charge at Obama, saying the president thinks he's doing a great job. Actually, Romney went on, Obama thinks he's doing a historic job, "And, no, he didn't say that on 'Saturday night Live.'"

"It's enough to make you think that years of flying around on Air Force One, surrounded by an adoring staff of true believers telling you that you're great and you're doing a great job, it's enough to make you think you might be a little out of touch after that," Romney said.

Romney did not mention by name former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, his chief rival for the GOP nomination. But he issued a call to the "good people of Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island to join me" in the journey to Nov. 6, the day of the November election, when "we can give a sigh of relief and know that the promise of America has been kept."

"The dreamers can dream a little bigger, the help wanted signs can be dusted off and put in the front yard, and we can start again, and this time we're going to get it right," Romney said.

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Janesville, introduced Romney, telling the crowd "Obama can't run on his record" and would use distraction to divide voters.

"We don't need a campaigner-in-chief," Ryan said. "We need a commander-in-chief."

Ryan thanked Wisconsin GOP politicians who were present, including U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, state Sen. Alberta Darling and former state Sen. Ted Kanavas.

"Tonight, Wisconsinites have spoken," Ryan said. "It's not late to get our country back on a path of prosperity. Guess what? We have a leader who can do that."

-- *By Kay Nolan*

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10:15 PM

Romney strategist: Obama 'obsessed' with Romney

Romney chief strategist Stuart Stevens told reporters that President Obama "is obsessed with Mitt Romney" to the point of ignoring his focus on jobs.

"If you counted up the number of times the Obama campaign has sent out press releases which have Mitt Romney's name versus 'jobs,' you'd see an overwhelming propensity for obsessing with Mitt Romney rather than obsessing with trying to get people back to work," Stevens told reporters.

Asked how Romney would strive to win the blue-collar vote in Wisconsin, Stevens said, "I think we did well with blue-collar workers. If you lost your job in the last three years or someone in your family did, you voted for Mitt Romney pretty decisively."

Stevens said people who voted for Rick Santorum in various state primaries can still be won over.

"We're doing a lot better against Barack Obama than Bill Clinton had against Bush at this stage and Reagan had against Carter," Stevens said.

-- *By Kay Nolan*

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