

POLITICAL DISPATCH

FROM THE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE



The articles below are commentary on current events, intended to encourage further reflection and debate. Except for official Board statements, the viewpoints expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Woman's National Democratic Club.

How Did Millennials Vote—and How Should WNDC Respond?

“The Millennial Vote in 2016: What Happened, and What’s Next?”—a recent Brookings Institution event—featured election data analysis by CIRCLE (Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) at Tisch College/Tufts University. Speakers Abby Kiesa and Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg from CIRCLE and respondents—female labor activist Carmen Berkley and an MTV reporter Jane Coaston—explored how and why Millennials voted as they did.

The study’s impressive statistics showed that 50 percent of Millennials (24 million) voted, with 57 percent voting for Clinton, 34 percent voting for Trump, and nine percent voting for Third Party candidates. The racial makeup of Millennial voters was 61 percent White, 17 percent Latino, 15 percent Black, five percent Asian, and two percent others. Those who voted for Clinton were less excited than Trump voters, but many of them—especially voters of color—feared Trump or disliked his sexist approach to women.

Young women voted more for HRC (50 percent) than males (42 percent). Trump Millennial voters tended to be rural, evangelical Christians, who were extremely dissatisfied with the USA (88 percent). They also had a deep mistrust of Hillary Rodham Clinton (93 percent). Many pro-Trump Millennials come from non-urban backgrounds where their families and communities have been broken by job loss, and where there are no blacks, LGBT people, or Muslims.

Recommendations for WNDC

WNDC could mine the study’s statistics for various strategic approaches as we move ahead after HRC’s disastrous loss in the election to Donald Trump.

The most relevant findings for the WNDC are that youth are no longer easily attracted to a political party. Many are ideologically liberal but not necessarily Democrats, preferring to be Independent.

We should recruit Millennials as members to help us plan our strategy and programs, recognizing that we are not in contact with them. We read the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, not *Essence* and MTV. For GOTV, we need to encounter voters where they are, such as at concerts.

In addition, as several respondents mentioned at the end of the meeting, we need to grow our young people’s civic skills. We also need to show that we at the WNDC, and other arms of the Democratic Party, support their activities, for example, in the current rally protests Trumps’ presidency.

The WNDC could prepare a skills development and mentorship program to help Millennials channel their alienation and anger in activism to “mend the social fabric.”

Gretchen Bloom

Public Policy Committee

Read Circle’s full analysis of young voters at www.civicyouth.org.

Let's Show Donald Trump that Democrats Never Give Up

"If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake." Thomas Jefferson

On Election Day 2016, Democrats took a terrible beating from a raging red tide. Angry voters elected Donald Trump president and consolidated Republican control of the Senate and the House. As we survey the wreckage, we must look both back and forward to regain our balance, renew our hope, and set our sights on the future our country deserves.

Twelve years ago, Barack Obama electrified the 2004 Democratic convention with the message that "there's not a liberal America and a conservative America — there's the United States of America. There's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America. The pundits like to slice and dice our country into Red States and Blue States; Red States for Republicans, Blue States for Democrats. But I've got news for them, too.... We are one people, all of us pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes, all of us defending the United States of America."

Today, that vision seems to be in shreds. A furious electorate, blaming President Obama for Republican-inspired catastrophes like the 2008 financial collapse and the rise of ISIS (a direct result of President George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq) unleashed their anger on Democratic candidates. Senator McConnell's cynical strategy of blaming President Obama for the impact of solid Republican opposition to all his proposed solutions has worked brilliantly. Mitch McConnell will remain the majority leader of an increasingly belligerent and solution-averse Senate. The pessimists among us might be tempted to see November's election as the death of Democratic hopes.

But as I read the post-election news stories, I remembered a friend's fierce response to the dispiriting reelection of President George W. Bush in 2004. "The day after election Day 2004, I woke up devastated," she wrote. "I felt a death, the death of my country, as I had known it to be for almost 50 years.... But the next day when I woke up", she said, "I realized "this is a brand-new day."

"On this brand-new day, I will begin the fight anew. Where there is injustice against women, I will be there. Where there is civil injustice, I will be there. Where the American workers' rights are being compromised, I will be there. Where the Constitution is being challenged, I will be there. Where our clean air, clean water, forests and natural habitats are being destroyed, I will be there. Where our right to worship or not worship is being trampled, I will be there. Where our young men and women are dying in an unjust war, I will be there." "On this morning, I will say "thank you, Mr. Bush, for making me stronger in the battle against your unjust policies. There is a new day dawning and I will not turn back!"

As we sort through the rubble of the November 8 election and the pundits' post-mortems, let's remember our president's stirring words and my friend's passionate response to unjust and destructive policies. Let's get back out there and promote our party's ideals, help repair Election Day's damage, and restore the hopes President Obama expressed in 2004. So, thank you, Mr. Trump. It's a new day dawning, and we will never turn back.

This article is an updated version of a WNDC editorial published after the 2014 election.

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See also WNDC President Nuchhi Currier's [post-election message](#) and *President's Letter, Newsletter page 1.*