

The Pass Democrat

Newsletter of the Pass Democratic Club—August 2019

Visit the Pass Democratic Club website: www.passdems.org
and the Pass Democratic Club on Facebook and Twitter (@DemocraticPass)

NumbNuts!

Trump—we are just numb, feeling impotent because nothing sticks to him. Some of us can't handle anymore, so weary of the daily barrage of insults and actions we wouldn't tolerate in our children, that we attempt temporarily to ignore the news and forsake involvement for the sake of sanity. One of the emoluments cases was closed, both the Mueller report and SDNY closed cases without being able to charge Trump while in office, and we're unsure if Congress can do anything. We Democrats have good, strong candidates with voices and positions we can ascribe to, but their messages can barely be heard above Trump's racism, crudity and shock value politics. It is inconceivable to us why anyone supports his view of America—and yet they do—rendering us sometimes hopeless, seemingly unable to DO anything to reverse this slide. To what—meritocracy, oligarchy, plutocracy? We try to do what we can, and yet feel it's never enough. It seems impossible that ANY sane human being, much less the maximum 47% who support him to some extent, can't see what's being done to our country. And yet, most are apparently immovable.

Bin Laden sought to harm us financially. Helped by Bush, the banks, war and expensive Homeland security, he succeeded beyond his expectations. Putin knows if he can divide us, break up Western alliances, lessen American world power—Russia's influence and territory will grow. He is succeeding on all fronts with Trump's apparently willing assistance. We can't understand why his supporters don't see this. Are they really so uninformed? So easily swayed by repetition?

This issue will examine the arguments his supporters use to defend him. Good economy? No. Fear of losing the "white" majority? Apparently. Lack of Education seemingly plays a part in rural areas. How did the Democratic party go from being the "workers" party to the party of the "elite"?



August Meeting

Wednesday, August 21st

175 W. Hays St., Banning
(10 freeway, exit 8th St N, right
Ramsey, left 2nd, right Hays)

Doors open at 6:00pm
Meeting begins at 6:30pm

Special Presentation
Crystal Elliott, Riverside County
Youth and Community

Blue News

'Our task was to set Americans against their own government': New details about Russia's trolling operation
https://www.businessinsider.com/former-troll-russia-disinformation-campaign-trump-2017-10?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=topbar&utm_term=mobile&referrer=facebook&fbclid=IwAR2to0F09hhF9I9KhAUbWfVbkspMybr4eI_cIzYMhf0zicRgBK_jHtDNBY

How Republicans went from the party of Lincoln to the party of Trump, in 13 maps
<https://www.vox.com/2016/7/20/12148750/republican-party-trump-lincoln>

This is hilarious!

"We hired the author of 'Black Hawk Down' (Mark Bowden) with illustrations by the art director of 'Archer' (Chad Hurd) to adapt the Mueller report so you'll actually read it"
https://amp.insider.com/mueller-report-rewritten-trump-russia-mark-bowden-archer-2019-7?__twitter_impression=true

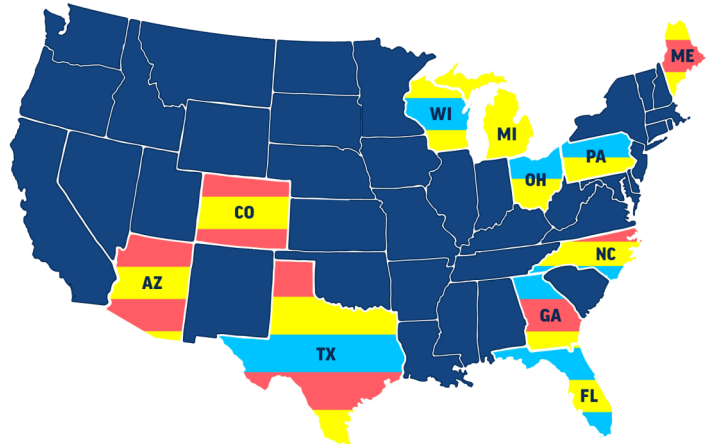
Most Veterans Say America's Wars Are a Waste. No One's Listening to Them. newrepublic.com

A sample of one week's + exhaustion!

from the Daily Briefing - the-week.com
7/29 Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats to step down, Trump steps up attacks calling Cummings 'racist'
7/28 Democrats, Baltimore push back against Trump's "rat and rodent infested" Baltimore rhetoric
7/27 Supreme Court says Trump can proceed with plan to spend military funds for border wall
7/26 DOJ to reinstate federal death penalty
7/25 Trump vetoes blocking Saudi arms deals, override requires 67 Senate votes
7/24 Mueller testimony, Trump sues to block the release of his NY tax returns,
7/23 Trump administration expands 'expedited removal' of undocumented immigrants
7/22 China's investment in U.S. dives, Trump continues attacks on Democrats in progressive 'squad', Trump administration pauses enforcement of anti-abortion rule barring taxpayer-funded abortion clinics from referring women for abortions
7/21 Trump reignites criticism of Ilhan Omar and continues attacks on Democrats in progressive 'squad'
7/20 Pentagon announces deployment of military personnel to Saudi Arabia

Swing Left

has devised a "Super State Strategy" for 2020 including a letter writing campaign to potential voters to REGISTER and VOTE. Information to participate in this effort may be found at:
<https://swingleft.org/p/super-state-strategy>

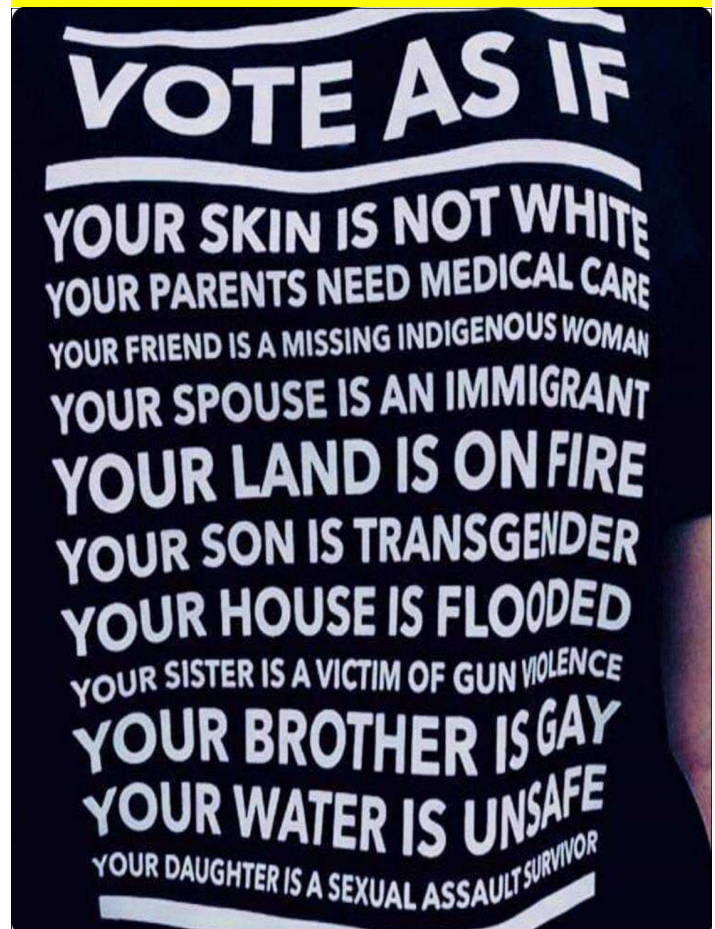


TARGETED STATES!

Yellow—White House

Red—Senate

Blue—Gerrymandering



Trump Says U.S. Economy Is 'Best It Has Ever Been,' But Facts Tell A Different Story

by Yuwa Hedrick-Wong 7/19/19

The current economic expansion in the U.S. is the longest uninterrupted period of growth in its modern recorded history. A development that President Trump has wasted few opportunities to highlight, tweeting just this week "our economy is the best it has ever been. Best employment and stock market numbers ever." Trump's boasting, apart from the usual inaccuracy, is at odds with the reality of a surprisingly fragile U.S. economy.

To begin with, while the current expansion may be the longest on record, it is also the weakest. Since 2009, the economy has grown by only 25%, which compares poorly against the much shorter periods of expansion in the 1980s and the 1990s, which grew by 38% and 43% respectively. Even the record low unemployment rate is also not what it seems. One key reason for low unemployment is because people are dropping out of the labor force, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. This means that many American workers, chiefly the less educated and low skilled, have become so discouraged that they have simply given up looking for a job. The economy is not creating jobs that they can fill, while companies are complaining about shortages of skilled workers. As a result, households' finance remains extremely precarious.

High debt and low investment are an albatross around the U.S. economy's neck. Corporate debt in the U.S. has reached \$9.4 trillion—equivalent to 46% of GDP, according to the Federal Reserve, which matches the previous peak set in 2007 just before the global financial crisis erupted. Business investment, on the other hand, has remained flat despite the Trump tax cuts, which between 2016 and 2018 roughly halved the effective tax rate for companies on the S&P 500.

This combination of rising debt and low investment is bewildering given the tremendous increase in cash flow to the corporate sector, which the IMF estimates has doubled in S&P 500 companies since 2010. What has corporate America done with its wave of incoming cash? Mostly buy back its own shares. Such unproductive spending props up equity valuations while doing nothing to improving economic dynamism.

Why would corporate America load up on debt even as its pockets bulge with cash? Why spend that cash on buying back stock instead of investing it? The answer lies in yet another unfortunate combination: extraordinarily loose monetary policy and declining business competition. Cheap credit has encouraged massive corporate borrowing.

The highly leveraged companies this creates have become one of the weakest links in the economy. Their debts have fed a fast-growing market for collateralized loan obligations, or CLOs—assets that package up the high-yielding loans taken on by companies with poor collateral and uncertain income. This bears an eerie resemblance to the collateralized debt obligations, or CDOs, blamed for triggering the global financial crisis.

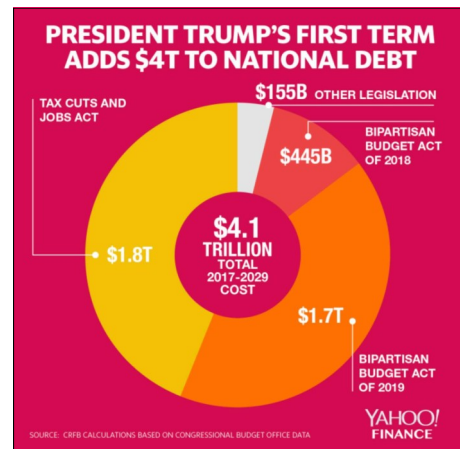
Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, however, assured markets in May that the growth of CLOs isn't a serious problem. At some point, however, America's corporate sector will have to wean itself from its addiction to cheap credit. It's then that the economy's deep and surprising fragility will be fully exposed.

Newsletter editor's note: The "Fed" this week further exacerbated the problem by lowering interest rates by a quarter point, a move ill-advised by economists, but encouraged and Jerome Powell tweet threatened by Trump!

Alex Cole
@acnewsitics

Reagan took the deficit from 70 billion to 175 billion.
Bush 41 took it to 300 billion.
Clinton got it to zero.
Bush 43 took it from 0 to 1.2 trillion.
Obama halved it to 600 billion.
Trump's got it back to a trillion.

Morons: "Democrats cause deficits."



White Supremacy Beyond a White Majority

President Trump is trying to maintain white dominance as the nation's demographics change.

by Charles M. Blow, May 15, 2019

The white male racist patriarchy will not be denied. It is having a moment. It has its own president.

According to a [Pew Research Center analysis](#) of race/ethnicity and sex among validated voters in the 2016 presidential election, white men were the only group in which a majority voted for Donald Trump — 62 percent — although a plurality of white women did also — 47 percent.

We are living through a flagrant display of a white male exertion of power, authority and privilege, a demonstration meant to underscore that they will forcefully fight any momentum toward demographic displacement, no matter how inevitable the math.

The fear of white male displacement is a powerful psychological motivator and keeps Trump's base animated and active. It keeps farmers holding out hope and making excuses for him, even as his trade war devastates their operations. It keeps coal country loyal, even as the promises of a revitalized coal industry ring hollow. It keeps white voters in the rust belt on the edge of their seats, waiting for the day that he will magically bring back manufacturing. It keeps white voters in the South heated over the issue of immigration and an "invasion" or "infestation" of Latin Americans.

Trump's central promise as a politician has been the elevation, protection and promotion of whiteness, particularly white men who fear demographic changes and loss of status and privilege.

As Vox [reported](#) in 2017, white people of all ideologies, including liberals, become more conservative when confronted with the reality that a rising minority population means a loss of white dominance.

As the psychologist Jonathan Haidt [recently told](#) Vox:

"As multiculturalism is emphasized more and more, there emerges a reaction against it on the right, which is attractive to the authoritarian mind and also appeals to other conservatives. And this, I think, is what has happened, this is what Trump is about — not entirely, of course, but certainly this is a big factor."

It is about stacking the courts, controlling the bodies of women (look no further than the raft of state abortion restrictions recently passed, including the outrageous new [abortion law in Alabama](#)), fighting the redefinition of gender as personified by the advances in liberty among people who are transgender, restricting the voting of nonwhite, less conservative groups, and controlling the flow of migrants into the country who do not bolster the white population.

But the stacking of the courts may well be the thing that makes all the others possible.

While much of the country tries to contend with the unending stream of outrages in the White House, the Senate majority leader is pushing through a steady stream of Trump's far-right federal judges, often breaking precedent and allowing for their confirmations over their home state's senators' objection.

The recent confirmation of Joseph Bianco to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, based in New York, was Trump's 38th confirmed circuit court judge, [HuffPost reported last week](#), adding:

"That's more circuit judges than any president has gotten by this point in a first term, and means that one in every six seats on the nation's circuit courts is now filled by a Trump nominee."

These are lifetime appointments. Even if demographics change over one's lifetime, these judges will not.

As a recent Congressional Research Service report [pointed out](#), 90 percent of Trump's circuit court nominees have been white and 92 percent of those confirmed have been white. Among recent presidents, only Ronald Reagan — who opposed making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a federal holiday, but eventually reversed himself, and [who vetoed](#) the Comprehensive Apartheid Act, which, with a congressional override, leveled sanctions against South Africa for its oppressive racist social architecture — appointed and confirmed a higher percentage of white judges.

Eighty percent of Trump's judicial nominees have been men, and men have been 74 percent of those confirmed.

None of this can fully prevent change, but it can slow it.

The strategy is to find a way to maintain white supremacy, white dominance, without the necessity of a white majority in the U.S. population.

The point is that once white people become a minority in America, the country itself will move from a majority rule ideal to a minority rule one.

Trump will be president for only two more years — or, God forbid, six more — but this tension and standoff over power and status will continue. At present, white men still control much of the power in this country.

Frederick Douglass once said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand." I speculate that this power may not concede until its death rattle.

Why I'm a Democrat

- Women's Suffrage Amendment
- Social Security
- Minimum wage law
- 40-hour work week
- Overtime pay
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- Works Progress Administration
- Workers Compensation Act
- National Labor Relations Act
- Unemployment Compensation Act
- Clayton Antitrust Act
- Agricultural Extension Service
- Soil Conservation Service
- Rural Electrification Act
- Federal Housing Administration
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.
- Securities & Exchange Act
- G.I. Bill of Rights
- Marshall Plan
- NATO
- Pell Grants
- School Lunch Program
- Occupational Safety & Health Act
- Operation Head Start
- Peace Corps
- VISTA
- AmeriCorps
- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Equal Pay Act
- Older Americans Act
- Guaranteed Student Loans
- Freedom of Information Act
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting
- PBS
- NPR
- National Science Foundation
- Apollo moon program
- National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Food Stamps
- WIC
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Motor Voter Act
- Family & Medical Leave Act
- Balanced federal budget

IF YOU THINK THIS COUNTRY IS GOING BROKE TAKING CARE OF THE POOR, YOU SHOULD SEE HOW MUCH IT SPENDS TAKING CARE OF THE RICH

\$59 BILLION*



SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS

\$92 BILLION*



CORPORATE SUBSIDIES

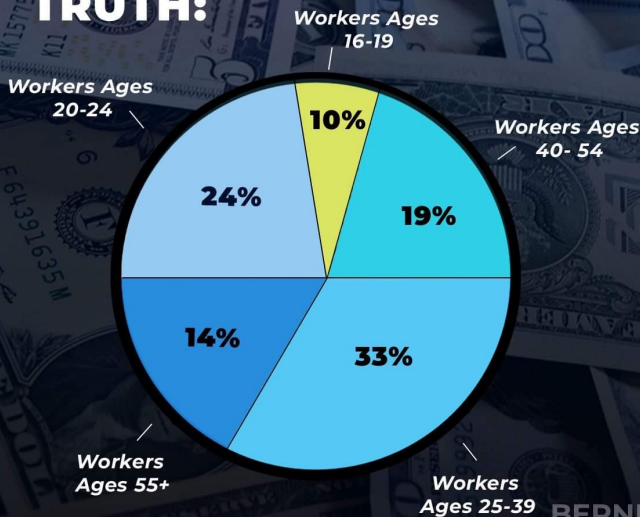
*per year - <http://thinkbynumbers.org/>

ther98

When Republicans Whine That House Dems Are "Getting Nothing Done," Show Them This

MYTH: MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS ARE TEENAGERS

TRUTH:



Source: Economic Policy Institute

BERNIE SANDERS
U.S. SENATOR for VERMONT

When 1 man has this much control over our Democracy...it's no longer a Democracy. McConnell is now blocking 121 bills.

JUST A FEW OF THE BILLS DEMOCRATS HAVE BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE FLOOR WITH NANCY PELOSI IN CHARGE	PASSED BY DEMOCRATIC HOUSE?	GIVEN A VOTE BY REPUBLICAN SENATE?
HR 1 -- Anti-corruption legislation to get big money out of politics	YUP	NOPE
HR 7 -- Ensures that women are paid equally to men for the same work	YUP	NOPE
HR 8 -- Requires anyone selling a gun to run a background check on the buyer	YUP	NOPE
HR 987 -- Reduces the cost of prescription drugs	YUP	NOPE
HR 1585 -- Reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act	YUP	NOPE
HR 1644 -- Ensures ISPs provide equal access to the Internet	YUP	NOPE
HR 1994 -- Helps people save more for retirement	YUP	NOPE



DEMOCRATICUNDERGROUND.COM

How Did Democrats Become the Party of Elites?

by Leonard Steinhorn

In order to win back statehouses and Congress, Democrats must rewrite the political narrative that now has them on the side of the establishment and Republicans on the side of sticking it to the man.

How did it come to pass that of the two political parties, the Democrats — who have long fought for the underdog, civil rights, consumer protections, universal health care, the minimum wage and for unions against powerful interests that try to crush them — have now been branded in large swaths of the country as the party of the establishment and the elites?

And how did it come to pass that Republicans — whose policies, regardless of stated intent, benefit polluters, entrenched interests and the upper brackets of American wealth — are now seen by many as the anti-establishment populist party which delights in flipping off elites on behalf of the Everyman?

For the moment, keep Donald Trump out of this conversation — after all, Democrats have been hemorrhaging seats in statehouses and Congress for decades. Also set aside any talking points about which party's policies truly benefit forgotten Americans or which short-term trends show up in the polls.

More important for Democrats is whether they can rewrite the political narrative that now has them on the side of the establishment and Republicans on the side of sticking it to the man.

If Democrats want to regain their electoral stride and recapture defiant voters who once saw the party as their advocate and voice — the same voters they need to establish a sustained governing majority throughout the land — they must think less about policies per se than about how those policies translate to messaging and brand.

Just as consumers purchase products not merely for what they do but for what they say about the people who buy them, voters are drawn to narratives, brands and identities as much as the policies that affect their lives. These narratives give voters meaning, define who they are, and become an essential part of their identity and self-image.

And what's most toxic in American politics today — as it has been throughout our history — is to become the party associated with domineering overlords and supercilious elites who seem to enjoy wielding power over the rest of us.

To some extent, the Democrats have only themselves to blame for their elite, establishment image.

Few question the party's need to build its campaign coffers in what is now an arms race for political dollars. But by cozying up to Wall Street and the privileged — and appearing more at ease hobnobbing among them than among those who work in factories, small businesses and call centers — Democrats have sent a subtle message about the people they prefer to associate with and seek out for advice. To many Americans, it reeks of hypocrisy at best.

Republicans, who unapologetically celebrate wealth as a symbol of American dynamism, face no such messaging dissonance.

But perhaps more important is the jujitsu maneuver that Republicans have used to turn one of the Democratic Party's strengths — its good faith use of government to level the playing field and help the little people — into a weakness.

From the New Deal through the '60s, the Democrats were able to show that government was an essential tool to correct market inequities, protect the little people from unchecked power and special interests and ensure that the American birthright included safeguards against crippling poverty and misfortune.

Government, most Americans believed, was their defender and their voice. In 1964, according to the the American National Election Studies, more than three-fourths of Americans said they trusted government most of the time or just about always. It was the Democrats that stood for grass-roots change and the Republicans who represented the powerful and resistant establishment.

Democrats then expanded their vision of a righteous government by exercising its power to fight segregation, discrimination, environmental blight, corporate malfeasance and consumer hazards — and to advance health care as a right and not a privilege. All of that seemed to follow the New Deal script of government as a force for good.

But with Richard Nixon channeling George Wallace's racialized anger at the federal government and Ronald Reagan saying that the only way to christen our shining city on a hill is to free up aggrieved entrepreneurs and ordinary citizens stifled by burdensome red tape and regulations, the Democratic association with government began to turn noxious.

As Reagan put it in his 1981 inaugural address, we should not allow "government by an elite group" to "ride on our back." For four decades now, Republicans have succeeded in framing Democrats as the party that uses government to bigfoot rather than aid the American people. Democrats may celebrate public servants for keeping our food safe and our lakes healthy, but Republicans have successfully portrayed them as a humorless bureaucrats who salivate at the urge to exert power and control over taxpaying Americans.

And Republicans have very artfully created a counternarrative, turning the market into a synonym for liberty and defining it as an authentic expression of American grass-roots energy in which small businesses and entrepreneurs simply need freedom from government to shower benefits on us all.

Of course the market's magic may be more mythical than real — given that powerful corporations and interests dominate and exploit it often at the expense of workers — but that inconvenient fact is immaterial to the brilliant messaging advantages Republicans have derived from it.

Indeed, in the Republican playbook it's the teachers, unions, environmental groups, professors and civil rights organizations that constitute the establishment whereas Koch and other industry-funded astroturf groups are the real gladiators fighting the status quo.

But it's not just the Democratic association with government that Republicans have used to brand it as the party of the establishment and elites. Republicans have also turned the table on the liberal values that Democrats embrace.

Beginning in the 1960s, liberals have sought to flush prejudice, bigotry and discriminatory attitudes from society by turning diversity into a moral value and creating a public culture intolerant of misogyny and intolerance. On the surface, that should be a sign of national progress.

But conservatives — with help from an unwitting or overly zealous slice of the left that too often overreaches — took these healthy normative changes and cleverly depicted them as an attempt by condescending and high-handed elites to police our language and impose a politically correct finger-pointing culture.

In effect, conservatives have rather successfully portrayed liberals and Democrats as willing to use cultural and political power against ordinary Americans. They want to take my guns, regulate my business, dictate who I can hire, and tell me what I can buy, which doctors I see, how I live, when I pray and even what I say — so goes the conservative narrative.

That their definition of "ordinary Americans" is quite narrow — meaning whites and particularly men — is beside the point because it's the political branding that matters, not the fact that liberal economic policies and efforts against bigotry and discrimination have helped millions of ordinary Americans.

Taken together, Republicans have successfully defined Democrats as a party of bureaucrats, power brokers, media elites, special interests and snobs who have created a client state for those they favor, aim to control what everyone else does and look down their noses at the people who pay the taxes to fund the same government that Democrats use to control their lives.

And why is this so damning for Democrats? Because our nation was founded on resistance to power, and it's part of our political and cultural DNA to resent anyone who exercises or lords that power over others.

Read past the first paragraphs of our Declaration of Independence and it's all about King George III and his abuses of power. Our Constitution encodes checks and balances and a separation of powers. Our economic system rests on anti-trust law, which is designed to keep monopolies from crushing smaller competitors and accumulating too much power.

So if large numbers of Americans see Democrats as the party of entrenched elites who exert power over the little people, then Democrats have lost the messaging battle that ultimately determines who prevails and who doesn't in our elections.

And let's be clear: Donald Trump didn't originate this message in his 2016 campaign; he simply exploited, amplified and exemplified it better than almost any Republican since Ronald Reagan.

The Bernie Sanders answer, of course, is to train the party's fire at banks, corporations and moneyed interests. After all, they are the ones exerting unchecked power, soaking up the nation's wealth and distributing it to the investor class and not the rest of us.

And to some extent that has potential and appeal.

But remember, most Americans depend on corporations for their jobs, livelihoods, health care, mortgages and economic security. So it's much more difficult today to frame big business as the elite and powerful establishment than it was when workers manned the union ramparts against monopoly power. Working Americans today have a far more ambivalent relationship with corporate America than they did in the New Deal days.

Somehow Democrats have to come up with their own jujitsu maneuver to once again show that theirs is the party that fights entrenched power on behalf of the little people. Liberals have to figure out how to merge their diversity voice with the larger imperative of representing all of America's underdogs. These are not mutually exclusive messages.

Democrats can preach all they want on health care and Trump and the environment. But if they don't correct the larger narrative about who holds power in America — and who's fighting to equalize that power on behalf of us all — then whatever small and intermittent victories they earn may still leave them short in the larger battle for the hearts and souls of American voters.



Great times at our debate watch parties with up to 50 devoted Sun Lakes, Four Seasons and Pass Club Dems, even a few newcomers from voter reg lists. The atmosphere, food and company were wonderful and thanks to Dix Henneke for the technical expertise!

Join or Renew Invite a Friend

Pass Democratic Club
PO Box 724
Banning CA 92220

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer Name _____

Employer Address _____

Must be a registered Democrat.
Enclose \$30 individual
or \$50 for two at same address

Important Contacts:

Senator Diane Feinstein: DC Office (202) 224-3841
L.A. Office (310) 914-7300

Senator Kamala Harris: DC Office (202) 224-3553
San Diego Office (213)894-5000

Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-36) DC Office (202) 225-5330
Palm Desert Office (760) 424-8888

CA State Senator Mike Morrell (R-23) State Capitol Office (916) 651-4023
Rancho Cucamonga Office (909)919-7731

CA Assembly Member Chad Mayes: (R-42) State Capitol Office
(916) 319-2042 Rancho Mirage Office (760) 346-6342

Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Hewitt (5)
Riverside Office 951)955-1050 Perris Office (951)210-1300

PASS DEMOCRATIC CLUB E-Board Wednesday, 8/7 & 9/4, SLCC Atrium 6PM

Executive Board Members:

PRESIDENT - Nancy Sappington, nrhsappington@me.com
1st VP MEMBERSHIP - Kathy Katz, kkatz@iinet.com
2nd VP VOTER REGISTRATION AND
POLITICAL ACTION - Sylvia Carrillo, syllycarr@verizon.net
RECORDING SECRETARY - Dianne Anderson
CORRESPONDING/LOGISTICS - Remy Altuna
TREASURER - Leeann McLaughlin, casakel@msn.com

Committee Chairs:

COMMUNICATIONS—Leeann McLaughlin, casakel@msn.com
PROGRAM—DeniAntoinette Mazingo
PARLIAMENTARIAN - Pelton Teague
SCHOLARSHIPS - Blanche Teague, Margaret Coleman