Post-election analysis

By a Liberal Democrat

Impact of the 2016 Presidential Election on Health Policy - Phil Johnston
Reasons for the debacle

**Hindsight being 20/20**

- Desire to upend the “system”
- Racism, misogyny, xenophobia, etc.
- Lack of powerful economic message focused on middle-class concerns
- A “change” election-- 2/3 of voters wanted major change; Hillary viewed as a status-quo candidate by many
- Emails, Clinton Foundation, FBI
Make no mistake! Democrats were eviscerated across the board

- **Presidency**
- **House** (63 seats lost): Democrats: 194 / Republicans: 239
- **Senate** (6 seats lost): Democrats: 48 / Republicans: 51
- **Governorships** (10 lost): Democrats: 18 / Republicans: 31
- **State Legislatures** (In 2008 Dems controlled both chambers of 27 state legislatures and split control over 8 state legislatures; by 2015 Dem-controlled legislatures plummeted to 11 while GOP’s number increased to 30)
Health Policy

• Total failure by Democrats to tell positive Obamacare story—pre-existing conditions, gender parity, parental coverage for 26 year olds or younger, closing “donut hole”, etc.

• Many Democratic members of Congress walked away from Obamacare once it passed—fear of political repercussions in the face of strong, constant opposition by Trump and GOP.

• Inexplicable failure by Democrats to warn of cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security with Republican control of both the Senate and House, despite Trump’s statements to the contrary.

• Vagueness of Trump’s policy statements allowed supporters to perceive that his views reflected theirs.
Are we headed for the apocalypse?

Likely GOP Health Initiatives

• Block grant programs—Medicaid and Medicare (vouchers, health savings accounts)

• Medicare beneficiaries to be moved to private Medicare Advantage

• Major reductions in funding levels to the states

• Community health centers

• Research funding (potential collaboration)
What to do now?

Instead of crying:

• ORGANIZE

• PROTEST

• RESIST

Impact of the 2016 Presidential Election on Health Policy - Phil Johnston