

Post-election analysis

By a Liberal Democrat

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**