

Local Politics Matter

Where Do We Go From Here

Back to the Drawing Board



The presidential election from hell is finally over. I thought I'd feel a sense of relief, but what in my opinion is the worse possible outcome has left me with such a profound sadness that I've given up watching all news programming at least for the next few weeks. I need a break, time to grieve and time to contemplate even though Mr. Trump winning the election didn't come as a complete surprise. When he brought [Bannon](#), [Bossie](#), and [Conway](#) on board, I feared that the campaign would be played out in the gutter. Guerrilla warfare! These were people who'd been after Secretary Clinton since the 1990's and they'd demonstrated that they'd go to any length to bring her down. I just hoped against hope that she'd have enough support to overcome the forces that were being unleashed against her. Unfortunately, they were relentless, ruthless and omnipresent.

Trump's surrogates, the media, the GOP, the white nationalists and the FBI were all out in force.

They held her responsible for the perceived ills of both the Clinton and Obama administrations. But, I kept telling myself that she's a fighter, she's strong and she's still standing. She began to develop her own coalition. Hooray, she's the dragon slayer (Trump being the dragon). All was good. But I underestimated the seductive pull of bigotry, hate and misogyny. Suddenly from nowhere Rudy Giuliani gleefully announced that the Trump campaign had a surprise for the Clinton campaign and everyone would know what it was in a couple of days. Sure enough, two days later, the Director of the FBI dropped a bomb on the Clinton campaign. Against agency protocol he issued what appeared to be a deliberately vague letter indicating that Secretary Clinton was guilty of mishandling classified documents. Eleven days

before the election! What the hell? This was just too much. The Trump campaign leapt into action taking full advantage of the opening that [Director Comey](#) presented to them. Trump and his surrogates stated with certainty that Secretary Clinton was under indictment and would be charged for something or other in the near future causing a constitutional crisis if she were to be elected. He intimated that it would be risky to elect her. The phrase "lock her up" was shouted with renewed vigor at all of his rallies.

Secretary Clinton's campaign never saw it coming and never really recovered despite their best efforts. All forward momentum stopped, you could see and feel the change in her campaign like a balloon slowly deflating. It seemed that people on the fence either fell off and decided not to vote or turned to Trump. Either way she was the loser. Progressives were the losers. This was going to end badly.

So now we have President Elect Trump. What comes next? The Republicans have control of three branches of the federal government along with most state and local jurisdictions. Despite all of this, they did not win the popular vote. Will this mean anything to them? Will they proceed with caution?

If history is any indication, the GOP will overreach. They always do. And they've been working towards attaining this level of control for more than fifty years. They've had their conservative agenda ready and waiting and they won't have the presence of mind to proceed in a measured way. They will force their agenda through.

In gaining control of the government, they ripped the country apart. Will they have the insight and the inclination to put it back together? I don't think so, but I hope that I'm wrong. Starting now, progressives must begin the long march back. They need to plan for winning the battle and the war. They should start by educating all of the electorate on why and how we vote. But you know what, after a few months of GOP extremism, I think their job will be made easier. The electorate will know the answer to that elusive question. What do you have to lose? Everything! Everything!

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