People of color, young people and progressives made the defeat of Donald Trump possible yet Democratic Party leadership still marginalizes us.

Pia Gallegos, 11/11/2020

I.   People of Color and Young People made defeat of Trump possible.

Just like in 2016, while the Biden campaign poured in vast financial resources to pander to white suburban voters, relatively little was focused on those who most made it possible to overcome Trump's election-night lead—people of color and the young.

A. **13% of the vote for Biden came from Latinos** *See analysis of Juan Gonzales and his chart at Democracy Now:* https://www.democracynow.org/2020/11/5/2020_election_ballots_electoral_college. *See also* *https://www.democracynow.org/2020/11/9/2020_election_democratic_party_future*

For the first time in U.S. history, about two-thirds of the eligible Latinos came to the polls.

20.6 million Latinos voted in this election. That is an incredible increase, 8% over the last election.

CHART

1. Eight million more Latinos voted in this election than voted in the last election.
2. Asian Americans had a phenomenal turnout in the Asian American community, 3.6 million more votes than voted in 2016.
3. African Americans also had an increase - 17.1 million who voted in 2016 to 19 million, about 1.9 million.
4. But white voters, the largest sector of the electorate, but a diminishing portion increased by just 2.7 million. In 2016, 100 million whites voted in the election. In this election, 103 million voted — just 2.7 million increase in the total white vote in the country.

So people of color votes increased by 13.5 million, and white votes increased by 2.7 million. The bulk of the increase of the vote in this election came from people of color, largely Latinos.

Now mainstream media is saying, "Well, but there was a slight percentage increase among African Americans and Latinos for Trump." *See, e.g.* *https://www.essence.com/news/politics/55-percent-white-women-trump-election-2020/*

Juan Gonzales says, "Percentages don't win elections. Votes win elections."

"Would you rather have 70% of 12 million votes, or would you rather have 68% of 20 million votes?" The increase in the number of voters has been so large, whereas the percentages have stayed roughly the same so there was enormous increase in the

Democratic vote by Asian Americans, Latino Americans and African Americans for Biden and the Democratic Party.

The underperformers were the white voters who not only dropped from 71% of the electorate to 65% of the electorate — but they voted in an even higher percentage for Trump this time than last time or than they did for John McCain in 2008.

And this is especially true among white women. In 2016, 52% of white women voted for Trump. In 2020, 55% of white women voted for Trump. Why is no mainstream media analyzing this phenomenon?

According to Juan Gonzalez, the Republican Party is turning into the party of the white people. And the Democratic Party is turning into the party of the multi-racial majority.

Excerpt from the NYT interview with Alexandra Ocasio Cortez
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/07/us/politics/aoc-biden-progressives.html:

> **Is there anything from Tuesday that surprised you? Or made you rethink your previously held views?**
>
> The share of white support for Trump. I thought the polling was off, but just seeing it, there was that feeling of realizing what work we have to do.
>
> We need to do a lot of anti-racist, deep canvassing in this country. Because if we keep losing white shares and just allowing Facebook to radicalize more and more elements of white voters and the white electorate, there's no amount of people of color and young people that you can turn out to offset that.
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> B. **Young people under the age of 30 cast more than 25 million votes. Young people of color favored Biden by a 76-point margin.** *See Vox article and embedded CIRCLE hyperlinks* Youth vote 2020: 53 percent of young voters cast ballots this year – Vox

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) estimated young adult turnout will top 53 percent, besting the previous high of 51%, set in 2008.

Exit polling indicates that young adults favored Democrat Joe Biden over Republican Donald Trump by a nearly 2-to-1 margin.

Young people of color are leaning significantly more left. According to CIRCLE, Black voters under 30 favored Biden by a 76-point margin; Asian voters under 30 favored Biden by a 69-point margin; and Latino voters under 30 favored Biden by a 51-point margin. White voters favored Biden by just six points.

73-87% of Black, Asian and Latino voters between age 18 and 29 voted for Biden, compared to the 45-51% support from young white voters. Again, the underperformers in the under-30 category were the white voters.

II.   Contrary to statements by Democratic Party leadership and their never-Trump allies, progressives got out the vote.

Naomi Klein says, that because of the participation, organizing and vote-getting of progressive, We are the levees holding back the tsunami of fascism. https://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/66122-focus-we-were-told-joe-biden-was-the-safe-choice-but-it-was-risky-to-offer-so-little

A. Powerful party leaders have already signaled their intentions to aggressively marginalize progressives. *See* Politico reports:

We are already under attack by the Democratic establishment, as it seeks to once again blame the poor congressional showing on progressive Democrats.

Pelosi warned in a conference call with Congressional Democrats: "Swing too far left, and the Georgia Democratic candidates will blow their chances in the runoff."

House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.): "If we're going to run on Medicare for All, defund the police, socialized medicine, we're not going to win."

The argument is that slogans like "socialism" and "defund the police" scare off centrist voters. These claims are absurd and a transparent attempt to scapegoat and silence the party's activist wing.

B. Progressives delivered the vote to Biden. https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/biden-win-aoc-kasich/

Ilhan Omar delivered Minnesota.

> In 2016, Minnesota went for Clinton by only 45,000 votes. In 2020, Omar's campaign hired organizers to hit the streets in Minneapolis, knock doors, to drive up turnout. In 2020, Democrats won more than 530,000 votes, 71 percent.

Rashida Tlaib delivered Michigan.

> In Michigan, where Trump won by barely 10,000 votes in 2016, Tlaib went to work in Detroit and surrounding Wayne County. "Our team knocked doors, called, and texted residents, and registered folks who had never voted before," she said. This year, Democrats carried the state by roughly 150,000 votes.

> 94 percent of Detroit went to Biden.

Black organizers doubled and tripled turnout down in Georgia and in Philadelphia.

RootsAction spent $200,000 to deliver the votes in Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin.
https://votetrumpout.org/

> **I am a National Endorser on the RootsAction.org Campaign.**
>
> **Vote Trump Out in the swing states. Then Challenge Biden from Day 1.**
>
> This message was spread through videos, aggressive social media dialogue and supporting existing organizers. You may have seen the Noam Chomsky video: "It doesn't matter whether you like Biden or not. That's your personal feelings. Politics is activism."
>
> Rootsaction's message to get progressives to the polls to vote for Biden was that "If Biden wins, we'll be at his door on day one, demanding the kinds of structural reforms that advance racial, economic, and environmental justice."

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez pointed out that every single congressional candidate who co-sponsored Medicare for All in a swing district kept their seat. *See Tweets and 2 charts:* https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/07/every-single-one-ocasio-cortez-notes-every-democrat-who-backed-medicare-all-won

CHART

> C. **Centrist Democrat allies - the Never Trump Republicans are trying to blame the poor congressional showing on progressive Democrats.**
>   **https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/biden-win-aoc-kasich/**

Biden considering Republican and former Ohio Governor John Kashich for a cabinet position.

> Yet there was Kasich on CNN, minutes after Biden's victory had been declared Saturday, arguing that Democrats would have done better "if they'd have been more clear in rejecting the hard left. Frankly, the Democrats have to make it clear to the far left that they almost cost him this election."

John Kasich did nothing for the Democratic Party

> In 2016, Trump won Ohio by 8.1 percent of the vote. In 2020, he won it by 8.2 percent. Ohio didn't flip.

Cross-over Republicans did nothing to increase the vote for Biden.

Edison Research exit polls found that 93 percent of Republican voters supported Trump — three percentage points higher than in 2016, according to numbers from the same firm. The takeaway: There may be a lot of so-called "Never Trump Republicans" promoted in the media and in

politics, but "Never Trump Republicans" are not a statistically significant group of voters anywhere in America. They basically do not exist anywhere outside of the Washington Beltway or cable news green rooms https://www.dailyposter.com/p/six-takeaways-from-election-night

Fox exit polls show Americans in favor of a progressive agenda.
https://www.foxnews.com/elections/2020/general-results/voter-analysis

> 70% of Americans favor "a government-run health care plan,"

> 68 % favor "increasing federal government spending on green and renewable energy."

> 72 % percent think racism in policing is a serious problem

> 68 % percent say the criminal justice system requires major changes up to and including "a complete overhaul."

III. <u>This is class war.</u>

Economist and global activist Yanis Varousfakis, former Socialist Prime Minister of Greece, explains how the original FDR postwar social contract broke in the early 1970s, yielding permanent earnings stagnation.

It was replaced by a promise to America's working class of another route to prosperity: rising house prices and financialized pension schemes. When Wall Street's house of cards collapsed in 2008, so did this postwar social contract between America's working class and its rulers. After the crash of 2008, big business deployed the central bank money that refloated Wall Street to buy back their own shares, sending share prices (and, naturally, their directors' bonuses) through the stratosphere while starving Main Street of serious investment in good-quality jobs. A majority of Americans were thus treated, in quick succession, to negative equity, home repossessions, collapsing pension kitties and casualized work – all that against the spectacle of watching wealth and power concentrate in the hands of so few.
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/08/hoping-for-a-return-to-normal-after-trump-thats-the-last-thing-we-need

America is reverting to being a kind of caste society.
https://www.npr.org/2020/08/04/898574852/its-more-than-racism-isabel-wilkerson-explains-america-s-caste-system The middle class is still imploding, the working class is still cratering, America is still becoming a society of one giant underclass, beneath a tiny elite of super rich and their lieutenants — half of American's work what is euphemistically called "low wage service jobs." Given all that, you'd think the Dems would have made inroads with the working class. *But they didn't.* Trump's share of the white working class appears to have been as high as it was in 2016, if not higher.

When Pelosi & Co. try to stamp out the genuinely progressive upsurge in congressional ranks that is fueled from the grassroots, they're doing the bidding of their donors—the corporate elites. This is an extremely lucrative approach for those politicians who get money and resources from

the Democratic National Committee, the Senate and House party campaign committees, the House Majority PAC and other fat-cat political campaign entities. Consultant contracts and lobbying deals keep flowing, even after Democrats lose quite winnable elections. https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/11/06/progressives-made-trumps-defeat-possible-now-its-time-challenge-biden-and-other

The message we get from the Democratic leadership is that they have nothing for us.

Biden did not energize working-class voters.

54% of Biden voters in swing states - more than half – stated that they were primarily voting against Trump, not for Biden, according to a national CNBC/Change Research poll. https://www.cnbc.com/2020/11/02/2020-election-polls-biden-leads-trump-in-six-swing-states.html

The Democratic ticket pretty much ran away from economic issues — economic transformation was not a huge part of its public messaging, and that failure assisted Trump. According to exit polls, Trump won 82 percent of the vote among the third of the electorate that listed the economy as its top priority.

Healthcare is obviously a central concern in people's lives in the midst of the coronavirus but Biden fell back on Obamacare rather than advocating for a genuine guarantee of healthcare as a human right.

IV. It's time to engage with the battle that must happen inside the Democratic Party.
https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/11/06/progressives-made-trumps-defeat-possible-now-its-time-challenge-biden-and-other

Starting now, confront Biden and other elected officials on the issues of climate, healthcare, income inequality, militarism, the prison industry and corporate power.

Show those officeholders who are serving Wall Street instead of Main Street that we're ready, willing and able to "primary" them.

To end systemic and massive income inequality, we have to fight for—and achieve—massive long-term public investments, financed by genuinely progressive taxation and major cuts in the military budget.

We need vigorous successors to the New Deal of the 1930s and the Great Society programs of the mid-1960s.

The public sector has been decimated, and it needs to be revitalized with massive federal spending that goes way beyond occasional "stimulus" packages.

President Biden will have a profound choice: to either fight Senate Republicans or "cooperate" with them.

If McConnell refuses to confirm a Cabinet that reflects the country's desire for an aggressive response to the pandemic and economic crisis, Joe Biden has tools to ensure he still fulfills his presidential mandate.

● Biden can use the Vacancies Act to fill positions on a temporary basis when confirmations are delayed.

● Biden can adjourn Congress and make recess appointments. Section 3 of Article II of the U.S. Constitution gives the President the power to adjourn Congress "to such time as he shall think proper" whenever the House and Senate disagree on adjournment. And after 10 days of recess, the President may make recess appointments to fill positions requiring Senate confirmation. https://s3.amazonaws.com/demandprogress/letters/The_Legal_and_Political_Context_for_a_Biden_Transition.pdf

POC voters, young voter, progressives did not organize and turn out in such big numbers so Biden could turn around and cave in to the same extremist Republican Party that governed us for 4 years.

If Biden's idea of a deal is to shaft progressives, he and Kamala Harris are going to have a colossal party insurrection on their hands. If Joe Biden is willing to toss aside the progressive base of his own party in order to cooperate with Mitch McConnell, the new president will be starting a fierce civil war inside his own party. https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/11/09/progressive-message-joe-biden-dont-you-dare-cooperate-mitch-mcconnell

Now it's time to get on with grassroots organizing to challenge corporate Democrats.