
JOHN GEORGE DEMOCRATIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

ELECTION Re-CAP

December, 2004

Unthinkable Happens!

Four more years of Bush seems unbearable, but that's the hand we've been dealt. Here are some thoughts for the coming year:

Holiday Wish List from Hayward

Demos:

1. Recount in Ohio shows Kerry won.
2. Bush impeached (if election stands).
3. Paper trails for all voting machines
4. Single payer health care
5. Troops out of Iraq
6. Tom Delay forced out of Congress for fraud.
7. Social Security privatization stopped.
8. Government fiscal responsibility restored by reducing the deficit.
9. Repeal the U.S. PATRIOT act.
10. Palestinian statehood, end of Israeli settlements, right of return for Palestinians.

--Harry Scott, President

Amazing Facts About Voting in the USA -- Did you know....

1. 80% of all votes in America are counted by only two companies: Diebold and ES&S.
2. There is no federal agency with regulatory authority or oversight of the

U.S. voting machine industry. In most states partisan politicians are responsible for counting the votes and certifying the election results.

3. The vice-president of Diebold and the president of ES&S are brothers.

4. The chairman and CEO of Diebold is a major Bush campaign organizer and donor who wrote in 2003 that he was "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year." (CBS News Sunday Morning, August 8, 2004)

5. Republican Senator Chuck Hagel, long connected with the Bush family, used to be chairman of ES&S. He became Senator based on votes counted by ES&S machines. (see *Mother Jones*, March 5, 2004, article by Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman-- (http://www.motherjones.com/commentary/columns/2004/03/03_200.html))

6. Senator Hagel was caught lying about his ownership of ES&S by the Senate Ethics Committee. See: <http://www.hillnews.com/news/012903/hagel.aspx>

7. ES&S is the largest voting machine manufacturer in the U.S. and counts almost 60% of all U.S. votes.

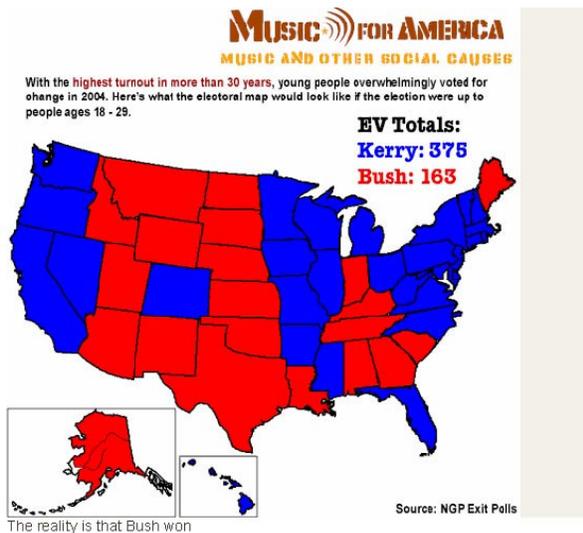
8. Diebold's new touch screen voting machines have no paper trail of any votes. In other words, there is no way to verify that the data coming out of the machine is the same as what was legitimately put in by voters. 30% of all U.S.

- votes are carried out on touch screen voting machines with no paper trail.
- 9. Diebold also makes ATMs, checkout scanners, and ticket machines, all of which log each transaction and can generate a paper trail.
- 10. Diebold is based in Ohio.
- 11. California banned the use of Diebold machines because the security was so bad.
- 12. The governor of the state of Florida, Jeb Bush, is the President's brother.

The following notes are from *The Nation* magazine, Dec. 20, 2004, *The American Prospect*, Dec 2004,

Analysis:

- If people under 30 had determined the election:



--Danny Goldberg

- The election was decided by Latino voters in Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico. President Bush won Colorado with a 100,000 voted lead, Nevada by 21,500 votes and New Mexico by 6,000. That means if 64,000 Hispanic voters had chosen Kerry instead of Bush in those three states, Kerry would have won. The path to the

White house runs through the Latino Southwest, not the former Confederacy.” Of the six states which W won by five points or less, two of them were in the Midwest (iowa, Ohio), one is Florida and three were in the Southwest.. Hispanics care more than most Americans about public education. They want decent healthcatre, good jobs, and living wages. They are open to labor unions, and less supportive of the Iraq war than whites are.—Jorge Ramos, Steve Cobble & Joe Velasquez

[PS—I can testify that Latinos in the Tucson, AZ area were strongly for Kerry from walking Precincts there in October—JLF]

- The key is fear. What right wing fundamentalists share is a determination to repress the freedoms and rights of women. When this is coupled with a sexual anxiety about homosexuals—who after all take the place of women in the imagination—you get a poten substance that feeds the toxin of anxiety. This is what we mean by culture wars.—Mary Gordon
- Bush drew 9 million more voters than he received in 2000, an 18 percent increase, far overshadowing Kerry’s 8 percent increase over Gore. . . Mobilizing the base did not produce victory. So for Democrats the only real option now is to expand their base in part by converting Republican voters into Democratic ones. . .To do so Democrats need to turn much of the voters’ attention away from culture and back toward class. . . Democrats need to revive such issues as health care, the minimum wage, corporate malfeasance, workers’ rights and workers’ safety.—Alan Brinkley
- The Republican combination of hubris

and incompetence creates great opportunity for the Democrats. Rarely have such high-flown visions been pursued with such gross negligence, mismanagement, and lack of foresight. Voters in the red states, if they think hard about it, will perhaps see the Iraq War as a more urgent threat to the republic than same-sex marriage.—Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

- The historic Republican discovery in this election season was that all the sophisticated segmented marketing mattered less than fac-to-face interaction with real members of a community.
- In the last two presidential elections, the Democratic candidate won among women fairly decisively, by 16 points (Bill Clinton) and 11 points (Al Gore). In contrast John Kerry won women voters by a mere 3 points, particularly due to a decline of support among white, blue-collar women.
- See also Bob Wing’s article on the role of race, following these excerpts from *The Nation*.

What we should do:

- Paint Republican plans to privatize social security as an attack on all working Americans. “They are going to take the taxes everyone has contributed for years and use them to pay fees for Wall Street brokers.” “They are going to let richer people opt out of paying their fair share into Social Security—and make the system go broke very soon.” – Theda Skocpol
- Don’t succumb to hopelessness—stake out a clear position in favor of social and economic justice, at home and abroad, and articulate it as clearly and forcefully as possible. Our values—social justice, respect for

international law, religious and moral tolerance—are shared by the rest of the industrialized world. One of these days, the United States will catch up.—Eric Foner.

- Articulate a vision of America based on the moral values we already believe in—fairness, opportunity, and respect for others. Define an America of hope rather than fear. If the other side is the only one articulating a vision, we will continue to lose. John Edwards began a conversation about “the two Americas.” The Democratic Party needs to continue that conversation.—Beth Shulman
- A considerable majority believe that the United States should accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and the World Court, sign the Kyoto Protocols, allow the UN to take the lead in international crises, use force only if there is “strong evidence that the country is in imminent danger of being attacked, expand healthcare and aid to education, defend Social Security, . . . There is ample opportunity for education and organizing to create a functioning democratic culture.—Noam Chomsky
- The Republicans have dug both themselves and the nation into a very deep hole, combining an unwinnable war with policies that have produced the largest gap between rich and poor in all of American history. A day of reckoning will surely come. . . the Democrats should be developing strategies that will provide the nation with alternative and corrective pathways when that day arrives.
- Let’s promote a Voters’ Bill of Rights that includes standardized voting machines with paper trails,

nonpartisan administration of elections, instant-runoff voting, a national election day holiday, and an end to felon disenfranchisement. . .— Medea Benjamin

- Promote the liberal vision like Barack Obama when he says, “Government can help provide us with the basic tools we need to live out the American Dream.”— Rick Perlstein

The White Elephant in the Room: Race and Election 2004

Excerpts from an article by Bob Wing

The emphasis on the evangelical vote is a smokescreen motivated by the attempt by Republicans (and conservative Democrats) to move the country rightwards. Meanwhile, most pundits, left and right, refuse to squarely face the white elephant in the room: race.

The Republican victory turned almost exclusively on increasing its share of the white vote. In 2000 Bush won the white vote by 12 points, 54-42; in 2004 he increased this to a 17-point margin, 58-41. That increase translates into about a 4 million vote gain for Bush, the same number by which Bush turned his 500,000 vote loss in 2000 into a 3.5 million vote victory this time around.

This increase came mainly from white women. Bush carried white men by 24 points in 2000 (60-36) and increased that margin by only one point in 2004 (62-37). But he increased his margin of victory among white women from only 1 point in 2000 (49-48) to 11 points in 2004 (55-44). This accounts for a 4 million plus vote swing for Bush. (Women of color favored Kerry by 75-24.)

The good news is that people of color-- African Americans, Latinos, Native peoples, Asian Americans and Arab Americans-- surged to the polls in unprecedented numbers and voted overwhelmingly in opposition to the Bush agenda despite an unprecedented

Republican attempt to intimidate them. People of color constituted about 35 percent of new voters and, despite their dazzling diversity, showed uncommon political unity.

The fight for social and economic progress now, as in the past, cannot be won without challenging the racist, militarist right in its historic Southern heartland and its deep Southwestern echoes. We must have the confidence that skillfully doing so will win increased support from whites as well as people of color.

The future of our country and the well-being of the world depend on us. We cannot stop the right's incessant drive to dominate the world's resources and to steamroll all opposition to that program unless we pose a clear alternative. A powerful vision of peace, jobs and justice is our only chance to mobilize the democratic sentiments and courage of all the people of our country.

Quotes from Julian Bond speech to ACLU—N Cal, December 12, 2004 in San Jose

My father taught me that “a pessimist bewails the state of affairs” but “hardships and adversity nerve the race for greater victories.”

The Republicans have dropped “family values” in favor of “moral values” because there are some families they don’t like.

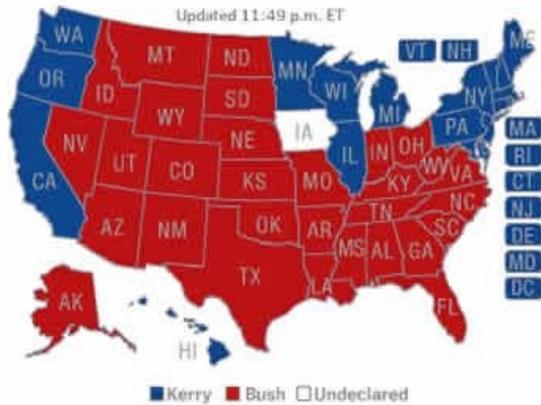
Bush played the race card—“preaching racial equality while practicing racial discrimination.”

The government is controlled by the “Taliban wing of American politics.”

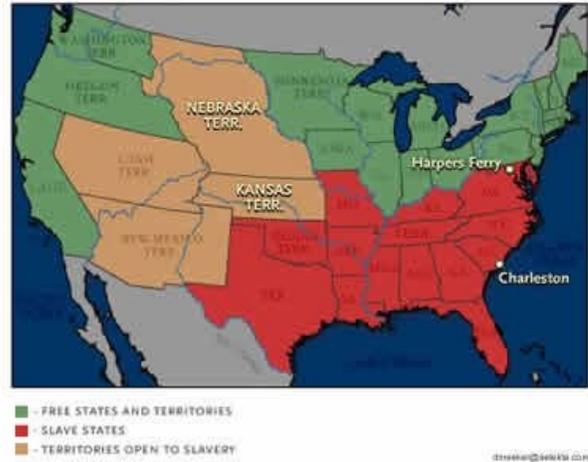
If one party is shameless, the other party can’t afford to be spineless.”

It doesn’t make sense for blacks and Latinos to fight over who has the least amount of power.

2004 US Presidential Election Results



Pre-Civil War Free vs. Slave States



Check out the new JGDC Website!

Log on to www.jgdc.org and let us know what you think. Send an article or link that you would like us to add. You can email the Club at jgdc@igc.org.

Schedule for 2005:

February 26 - Club forum at the Prescott Joseph Center, 920 Peralta in West Oakland (near BART)

May - John George Award at West Oakland Library

September 24 - Club forum at Prescott Joseph Center

November 19 - Club forum at Prescott Joseph Center

Steering committee meets 2nd Monday of the month from 6 - 8 PM. Let us know if you would like to be part of the steering committee!