

# The Delray Democrat

## An Existential Election<sup>1</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

It's a cliché to warn that an election is the most important in our lifetime. That doesn't make it less true. Moreover, every time we ignore the true threat to our community, the consequences of our failure to act are worse.

It was true in 1980 when a genial snake-oil salesman replaced FDR's New Deal with a Raw Deal, launching four decades during which inequality has risen to the highest level since the Gilded Age in which Robber Barons ruled.

It was true in 2000 when the corporate media decided the most important qualification for the presidency was which candidate would be the most fun to have a beer with, and when too many people failed to learn the lesson of 1980, namely, that the perfect is the enemy of the good.

It was true in 2016 when we elected a man who is morally, temperamentally, psychologically, and intellectually unfit for any public office, much less our highest, a man beside whom George W. Bush appears thoughtful and compassionate, Ronald Reagan appears coherent and focused, and Richard Nixon appears honest and forgiving.

What is different about 2020 is that the threat is to our very existence. Now there may be 140 discrete reasons Trump is in the White House, as a friend recently suggested, but chief among them is that far too many people failed to vote . . . or voted for a third party candidate with no chance to win.

Have we learned nothing? I hear constant complaints about our candidates – Too old! Too young! Too progressive! Not progressive enough! What would they prefer? Children in cages? A planet past the tipping point? Endless war? A theocracy? Well, that's what's coming folks, unless we get together behind whoever is our nominee. See our back cover and “take the pledge.”

And remember, there's reason for hope. The corporate media that is so fond of pointing out the weaknesses of each of the Democratic candidates is the same corporate media that was so certain Donald Trump could never win in 2016. They were wrong then, and they'll be wrong again, so long as we stick together. Solidarity Forever!

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, January 2020, p. 1.