

# The Delray Democrat

## Vote Blue, No Matter Who<sup>1,2</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

It's some comfort that many of the people who said Donald Trump was unelectable are saying the same about Bernie Sanders. It's possible they'll be right this time. It's also possible that the only similarity between the two men is that they both defied the common wisdom. Of course, it's also possible that the issue becomes moot because Biden ends up being our nominee.

What is certain is that the prospect of Sanders being our standard bearer has unnerved Democrats across the spectrum and induced a state of near hysteria among the leadership as well as within the so-called liberal media ("SCLM"). All this angst despite the fact that the polls do not suggest Sanders is unelectable, much less that he is likely to lead the party to a McGovern-style rout.

Indeed, Sanders leads Trump both [nationally](#) and in the [Midwest](#) battleground states, and does so by essentially the same numbers by which Biden leads Trump. The doomsayers are right to point out that the Republican disinformation machine and its paid professional liars have yet to take full aim at Sanders, but the same can be said about whoever is our nominee.

So let's agree that it is impossible at this point to predict the results of a Sanders-Trump race or even which Democrat would be our strongest candidate. But let's put a lid on the hysterical claims that Sanders is unelectable. They are not only premature but reckless . . . they are sound bites for Trump ads should Sanders win the nomination. And they raise the question whether those voicing such concerns are doing so because they fear a Sanders loss or because they fear a Sanders victory even more.

In a [blog post](#) that has come to be referred to as "The Iron Law of Institutions," Jonathan Schwartz suggested that "people who control institutions care first and foremost about their power within the institution rather than the power of the institution itself. Thus, they would rather the institution 'fail' while they remain in power within the institution than for the institution to 'succeed' if that requires them to lose power within the institution."

However the primaries play out, there is no question that our party is as divided as it was in 2016, perhaps even more so. Contributing to the perfect storm that elected Trump were those millennials who stayed home or wasted their votes on Jill Stein. It was idiotic, even if that

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, March 2020, p. 4

<sup>2</sup> I have written and re-written this piece several times as we approached Super Tuesday. That morning I sent the latest draft around to family and friends for comment. My cousin Andy Kulick responded with what I think is a better argued piece, which appears on the facing page. (You don't have to live in Delray Beach to read or write for the *Delray Democrat*.) The articles carry the same title because it reflects our shared belief in the Indivisible Pledge.

election should never have hung by such a slender thread.

[Evidence](#) from the 2018 midterms suggests that millennials have learned from the 2016 debacle: turnout among voters aged 18 to 29 years old was 79% higher than in the 2014 midterms, more than double the next greatest increase (37%), which was found among those aged 30-44. We're daily treated to warnings from the SCLM about offending the swing voters who went Democrat in 2018, but they exhibit little concern about offending millennials.

What is certain is that if Sanders does not win the nomination, and young voters believe that he was treated unfairly, that is as likely to propel Trump to a second term as the prospect that Sanders will alienate swing voters.

So far, and notwithstanding their preference for a moderate candidate, the Democratic establishment (if not the SCLM) has been careful to avoid treating Sanders in an overtly unfair manner. And Sanders did sign onto the post-2016 reforms that prevented super-delegates from voting on the first ballot but allowed them to vote on subsequent ballots if no candidate had a majority on that ballot.

Moreover, there is nothing unfair about the Democratic establishment trying to consolidate behind a candidate that they think can stop Sanders. Indeed, it is good that this is happening now, and not in a brokered convention. That said, it is somewhat ironic that the reason Buttigieg and Klobuchar entered the race was because the establishment had jitters about Biden 1.0, and they are now quitting the race so that Biden 1.1 can be launched.

That said, this is our election to lose. Regardless of who wins the nomination, we will win if we stick together and "vote blue, no matter who."