

The Delray Democrat

Vote Blue, No Matter Who¹

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Specifically regarding the general election, you are obviously correct in that no one knows for sure what would happen in a Sanders vs. Trump or Biden vs. Trump election. So, all we are left with is our best guess, based mostly on reasoning, facts, experiences, etc. Bernie and his fervent supporters believe he has as good of a chance, if not better, of beating Trump than Biden or anyone else. That's a legitimate opinion. My personal opinion is that he has less of a chance of beating Trump than Biden (though I don't love Biden's chances either). My view is not an "establishment" view or one that I've brainwashed into thinking from the SCLM. My view is formed in part from experiences I've had and discussions I've had living in the South for 15 years and for living the last 15 years in a comfortable Chicago suburb that is probably a 55-45 Democratic split at best, but it's also informed from listening to how Bernie speaks and gets his message across, particularly in the era of Trump. And from the fact that turnout thus far doesn't seem to support the narrative that Bernie will win because of his high turnout and also from the fact that numbers seem to clearly show that the top agenda in the democratic party is defeating Trump and not aligning strictly to ideology in this election cycle.

Bernie is not going to change who he is or how he delivers his message, but if he did, I think that it could make a difference. My opinion is that he comes across as only inclusive with his current supporters and the "working class". His level of anger, vitriol and contempt for anyone and anything else comes across as demeaning and antagonistic. I guess he needs to rail against "the establishment," the top 1% and moderate Democrats in order to keep the revolution going, but my view is that if he wants to expand his current base of support (even in the Democratic party - let alone nationally), he needs a more inclusive tone and message and to ramp down the anger towards anyone else who has a different view of how to get to where he wants to country to go. I don't see any signs of outreach from him at this point in a way that will bring more people to him. Even in the speeches last night, Sanders was more of the same, while Biden seemed to be at least making an attempt at being more inclusive.

I fully recognize that I have lived a privileged life and been given opportunities that the majority of the country was not. I'd love for everyone in the country to have been as fortunate as I have been in my life, but Bernie makes me feel like I'm the enemy. And if he makes someone quite liberal like myself feel like the enemy, I imagine that he's making many more feel the same way. Much of our current capitalistic system needs change and there is a horrible wealth inequity in the country, but he's alienating people instead of bringing them on board.

Did the "establishment" just rally around Biden over Sanders? Yes. Do I think that Beto, Klobuchar and Buttigieg did this because they only want to hold onto power or really want the

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rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer and for not everyone to have affordable healthcare? I personally don't think they do. I think that they see a different path to getting there, which involves getting Trump out of office, gaining seats in the Senate and increasing control of the House and they (like me) don't see Sanders as the best chance to make those things happen. AND, these are people that to a large extent agree with Bernie's end goals for healthcare, drug costs, economic divide, etc. For non-Trump beholden Republicans and Independents, they are even further away from thinking that Sanders can make all of this happen or that they even want Sanders to make that happen.

I do think that you are exactly right in that there is a large part of the country (and a good chunk of the Democratic Party) that fears a Sanders victory potentially more than losing the election to Trump. I'm clearly not in that category, but I think that's just a fact and it's not a small group. And, it's not because they all want to stay in power at all costs. It's because, right or wrong, they don't think the time is right for an all or nothing agenda fight for the white house.

I fully agree with you that the whole of the Democratic party needs to fully come together at the end of the day and vote in very large numbers to defeat Trump, because despite who/what he is, my view is that Trump is going to get a big turnout because of his hardcore base AND if Sanders is the nominee, that Trump turnout is only going to be bigger. I just wish Sanders would stop alienating the big swath of the party (and Independents and disillusioned Republicans) that don't hold the exact same view as how to get to where we basically all want to end up as a country. Based on the numbers from Super Tuesday, turnout, if anything, favored Biden. If Sanders can't bring the huge turnout in the primary, I just don't see it happening in the general election.

I will gladly vote for Sanders if he's the nominee. I just hope that you are right and the Bernie Bros don't stay at home and basically give a vote to Trump if Biden ends up the nominee.