

The Delray Democrat

Takeaway from Virginia¹

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The number one takeaway from Glenn Youngkin's election as governor is that racism is alive and well in Virginia.

Donald Trump threw away the dog whistles wielded by Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan and began using a bullhorn. It was effective until it wasn't.

So Glenn Youngkin threw away the bullhorn and picked up the dog whistle, as Ron DeSantis is attempting to do in Florida. Anyone who thinks that Critical Race Theory is being taught in public schools is an ignoramus, and anyone who opposes the teaching of America's history of slavery and genocide is a racist. Period.

Of course, there is no shortage of ignoramuses and racists in America. And McAuliffe's comment that "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach" played right into their hands.

But that wasn't the only reason that he lost. Community leaders complained of voter cynicism and apathy among Democrats, but McAuliffe received over 200,000 more votes than Ralph Northam in 2017, so the problem was that there was more enthusiasm (or perhaps I should say calculated and programmed malevolence) among Republicans.

An enthusiasm gap is expected in off-year elections when your party is in power, and as the media never tires of reminding us, a President's party almost loses in first-term midterms.

They don't talk about the most spectacular exception, when, in FDR's first midterm, Democrats gained 9 seats in the Senate, giving them a supermajority, and the Republicans lost 14 seats in the House, reducing them to less than one-quarter of the seats for the first time since founding of the party.

There's a reason that FDR generated such enthusiasm, beyond the fact that he was a consummate politician. It's because Democrats were seen as listening to, and working on behalf of, the American people. And the problem that we face in 2022 is that Democrats are not seen as listening to, or working on behalf of, the American people.

This is not the fault of Joe Biden or the Democratic Party. It is the fault of a small number of Democrats who no longer care what their de jure constituents (those who live in their districts) want because they are beholden to their de facto constituents (those who fund their campaigns).

I'm talking about Joe Manchin, who doesn't work for or listen to the people of West Virginia, the majority of whom support the American Family Plan in its full \$3.5 trillion original incarnation;

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), November 2021, p. 5.

he works for the coal companies that have despoiled a once-beautiful state and sickened its people; and he works for his own and his families' economic interests, which are allied with Big Coal.

I'm talking about Kurt Schrader, who receives substantial funding from the pharmaceutical industry. He voted against allowing government to negotiate drug prices, which is favored by the public by 83-16, and then inveighed against the American Family Plan, favored 61-30 in polls, claiming that it would burden "our kids and grandkids" with debt. He's obviously unconcerned that people like him are burdening our kids and grandkids with a ruined planet.

The circular firing squads are lining up again, and the media is loving it, but anyone who thinks that McAuliffe would have won if Congress passed the bipartisan infrastructure bill has not been paying attention and has learned nothing from Virginia.

McAuliffe might well have won if BOTH the bipartisan bill and the American Families Plan had been passed. The former improves roads, but the latter improves lives.

But some politicians are addicted to their corporate contributions and the media is, sadly, wedded to the false but potentially self-fulfilling prophecy of a failed presidency.