

The Delray Democrat

Where Have All the Black Voters Gone?¹

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In 2020, when it appeared that Biden would lose the election, Blacks braved the rain, the cold, Covid-19 and long lines to put him in the White House. Looking ahead to 2024, it remains to be seen if they will help to keep him there. Truth be told, Black voters have always rescued the Democratic Party, nationally and locally, but over the last few years, in Florida and Palm Beach County in particular, the Fat Lady looks like she's about to sing despite the hard work of some of the party's Zone and Precinct leaders.

There are plenty of reasons and some have been raised but not addressed for years. For the sake of this brief, however, I will only cite a few.

Conversations with some community groups and their leaders, as well as Black voters themselves, have focused attention on several points of dissatisfaction with the PBCDP that have led many to stay home or even switch their registrations from Democrat to NPA or even Republican. If we have any hope of keeping Palm Beach County blue, this dissatisfaction should be reason for great concern to the Democratic Party.

When I ask some of the Black men in the street why they do not vote, the common response is that the Democratic Party does nothing for them and only comes around when they need their votes. A professor friend of mine even went as far as classifying the Party as a part-time lover. Those who still do vote describe themselves as disgruntled; most believe that Black voters in Palm Beach County have been taken for granted by Party leaders, who have consistently failed to engage them in conversations to learn about their concerns.

Another issue often raised by Black voters about their treatment or lack thereof by the PBCDP is that Party leaders have consistently failed to understand the demographic makeup of the Black population in the county. By doing so, they have further disregarded their cultural norms, thereby missing a great opportunity to coalesce individuals from the Caribbean Diaspora for the expansion of the Party and for the greater good.

We have approximately one year to get our ducks in line if we hope to change the newspaper headlines and if we want to identify quality candidates, win elections, and regain the trust and confidence of Black voters. We can ignore these observations at our peril. The work ahead is not for Zone and Precinct Leaders alone. We need all hands on deck, because as my Grandmother used to say, "*the horse that is doing pulling is not the horse doing the kicking*"

¹ [*The Delray Democrat*](#), October 2023, page 5.