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 **ELECTION
RESULTS:
A WHOLE
BUNCH
OF FOLKS
ARE
"FED UP"!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  November 26, 2016



What was the Presidential election result all about, and why was it a surprise to almost everyone? What message should we be left with? I'm clearly on record expressing my dissatisfaction with the two final Presidential candidate choices. I'm also on record indicating my choice would be Donald Trump because of certain policies and his list of Supreme Court candidates.

I've been gathering information, opinions, analyses, and taking notes in order to start making some sense of it. As I sit here writing this introduction, I'm looking at just a pile of paper, and have little certainty (nor concern) with how my analysis will turn out. I just hope I learn something.

First some surprises:

- Trump rejected traditional Republican political rules. He was not ideologically pure, had questionable religious credentials, and was not a "deserving next-in-line" party faithful.
- He cleverly perceived an opening for a new kind of "almost absurd" candidate and became an unexpected populist champion.
- A lot of white working class voters who voted for Obama, supported Trump.
- He performed better than expected with Hispanics, blacks, women, and evangelicals.

But why? Consider voter reaction to the following:

- This was a referendum on Obamas administration and his uncomfortably hard move to the left. Obama is perceived as being radical and divisive.
- Some sense that the U.S. is losing its culture. Not black vs. white, but rather losing a culture with some philosophical consistency, respecting the rule of laws based on a moral and ethical foundation – a sense of order.
- The claim of an economic recovery conflicted with perceived reality.
- Healthcare costs are skyrocketing. Americans now see that subsidies just shift costs, not reduce them. And they realize insurance deductibles are exploding. The goals for reducing the uninsured has fallen almost 50% short of the original goal.
- Concern about the obvious threat of radical Islam is dismissed as irrational – that's an insult.

- Establishing “sanctuary cities” is considered absurd by most Americans.
- Legitimate citizen concern with border security made them “haters,” “islamophobes” and “racists.”
- Iran and other enemy countries push us around. This is evidence of our “pretend national security.” Obama’s reaction seems nuanced, timid and uncertain.
- The rush to gender identity issues and “potty politics” isn’t understood or accepted. Sexual and gender identity issues are crowding out other priority concerns.



- A growing number of Americans see the value of debating “the definition of life” as it relates to the abortion issue. Their concern is sincere and not sexist or misogynistic as it is often labeled.
- Support for law enforcement policies and police officers has brought charges of racism and bigotry.
- The President, mayors, and governors – by insinuated word and deed – have given subtle “permission” to criticize police. This slippery slope has led to actual violence against police.
- Older Americans are saddened that younger generations don’t consider America exceptional – some even express hatred. Some Americans blame this on our liberal education system.
- Hillary foolishly predicted wiping out the coal industry and miners, and referred to all Trump supporters as “irredeemable” and “deplorables.”
- Hillary depended on “rich folks” to raise campaign funds. Trump relied on very small average contributions from average income supporters.
- Trump submitted a popular list of Supreme Court candidates. Democrats scoffed at the names.
- “Identity politics” has become prominent with Democrats. That’s when everybody fits into a group. That group may be “favored” or not. The result has been foolish and wasteful programs in energy, education, and you name it. It also often created governmental appointments based on quotas rather than competency.

I’ll stop there Whoops! I forgot to mention Benghazi, emails, the Clinton Foundation, gun control, and the definition of marriage.