

 **MARCHING ON!**  
**WE MUST WORK TO**  
**STOP OBAMA'S**  
**DANGEROUS**  
**AGENDA!**  
**- Part One -**

Stephen L. Bakke  November 18, 2012



*These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.* – Thomas Paine, writing in "The Crisis," December 23, 1776

*I'm not an idealist, just an optimist!* – obscure but very wise political pundit, Stefano Bachovich

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Let's face it, Obama is an important historical figure and that was part of what propelled him over the line, but that's not the real explanation. If there is something to be learned from the results of the election, it's time to get started "taking stock" and planning for future opportunities.

### **Let's Be Honest and Not Sugarcoat the Election Loss!**

Some observations:

- The recent defeat lets us peek at a society that many of us don't want to see. It's a **society that seems to devalue pride, honor, honesty, and the value of life.**
- It's a society that **no longer values and insists on an independent press.**
- We see old fashioned **admiration being somehow distorted** into something closer to **outright jealous envy.** We see a society that often demonizes the prosperity that results from hard work.
- The democrats have proven by their short term success that **demonization works; as does encouraging class warfare, character assassination, and demagoguery.** Race-baiting is generously employed by the democrats and the press.
- Has the liberal demonization resulted in harsher, **more negative feelings toward minorities?** I hope not, but am not sure. **Decency was once the expected standard.** The balance has now changed.

Have we the American people lost our basic morality and our love, knowledge and respect for the U.S. Constitution. I'm confident we have not! Yet it does seem that the **collective values of our country seem to be changing.**

### **Unhelpful Conservative Actions**

With the benefit of hindsight, let's ponder the damage done by some conservatives. "**Purist showoffs**" (Ann Coulter's term) definitely helped beat up on Romney during the **republican primaries.** Some of these "showoffs" were involved in the debates as declared candidates - you

know their names. They tore each other, and Romney in particular, to shreds. Remember though, Romney was a willing and active participant in the activities, and perhaps even an instigator.

The result? The **main “talking points”** used by Obama in the campaign were **born during those debates**. Consider the following characterizations and accusations by the democrats: Romney and Bain Capital the profiteers; Romney ruthlessly laying off people; Romney, the exporter of jobs; Romney the supporter of a version of “ObomneyCare”; Romney the “out of touch rich guy”; Romney the chameleon, changing political positions with the changing wind – and on and on! **Those fabrications didn’t independently decide the election, but were certainly UNHELPFUL!**

And let’s face it, the **ideological libertarian republican** wing couldn’t get enthusiastic about Romney. They were **bent on achieving libertarian perfection, and nothing else would be good enough!** Romney wasn’t philosophically in line with them in many ways. Many were looking for direction from Ron Paul as to what to do – and came away with very little. They put up a separate libertarian candidate who captured a small but measurable portion of the vote. In fact, if all the libertarians had been included in Romney’s total, the voter deficit compared to Obama would have almost been cut in half! Many libertarian policies are very attractive, but **politics and elections are best applied tactically and practically**, or else the result is one of unsatisfying futility.

I can’t turn a blind eye to the **two ideologues** who, late in the election, decided to (apparently) **come out against abortion in cases of rape and incest**. Whatever one’s heartfelt opinion on the “pro-choice/pro-life” debate, the timing was awful, it was **unhelpful** and served no useful purpose. Little things add up, for goodness sake! We need to be smarter!

We can’t forget about New Jersey governor **Chris Christy**. Some would blame his fawning over Obama during Hurricane Sandy as being **decisive in the Romney loss. That analysis I can’t buy** – it’s just too easy an answer, and has not been proven out after the fact in polling results. Frankly, I think **he was doing what any credible governor would have done** – milk the system for all he could as long as it **benefited the state that is his first priority**. Ladies and gents, Christy was **picking Obama’s pockets** and his New Jersey constituents were significantly benefited. His actions were not helpful to Romney, but his job was to help his state which was in a dire emergency, and he was not focused on helping Romney. **The timing was unfortunate, but I find no fault there!**

And **conservatives turned out in relatively fewer numbers**, compared with the liberal turnout, than in recent elections. **Bad for sure, and harmful! But fatal?**

These are all important, informative, and we must seriously take note and learn from them. But these things didn’t individually, nor perhaps even collectively, determine the outcome. If taken together they could be part of the solution, it would still be a waste of time to try. **Causing all these individuals, groups, claims and reactions to respond and change in unison would be like herding feral cats – absolutely no chance!** And that really isn’t the best path to success in any case. We need something more relevant to the world we live in.

**And I don’t mean to imply we should compromise our conservative principles!**

**Premise: America is Changing, and the Republicans Have Missed the Boat! True or False?**

True in the short term but not necessarily in the long term! America is changing, but notwithstanding the above discussion, it’s not all for the worse, or at least not irretrievably. Take a look at the following electorate map which gives the presidential popular vote, **by county**. What

does it tell us? **PLEASE NOTE** that the creator of this map (the Patriot Post) has changed the common red/blue convention. Here **BLUE is ROMNEY** and red is Obama!!!



This absolutely screams for a “demographic” explanation! Not necessarily severe shifting, but certainly something that has possible demographic interpretations. It also screams out the geographical advantage Romney had – a good thing! Of course that isn’t how we vote, but it’s noteworthy nonetheless. And take a look at those “hotbeds” of Obama support. What should we infer from that?

I’ve been reading election “post mortems” for over a week and very few convince me 100% in any one direction. What I see from this map, and from many other analyses, is that the conservatives have left several (but not many) geographic areas unimpressed to say the least. Some observations:

- In the west, southwest and other southern border areas the influence is obviously **Latino**. It’s foolish to interpret otherwise. And other minority influences just “pile on” the result.
- In Florida it’s mostly Miami-Dade County and environs that stand out. This certainly means first **Latino and** secondly **African American** dominance.
- The Midwest red counties obviously have to do with metro areas, and public/industrial union influences, as well as some **youth** and minority influence. No real surprises there.
- And slicing out the information from these red areas tells us one more thing. A huge bias among **youth** in the favor of Obama. He is just too cool for them to disregard.
- **Look at the battleground states.** Most results are significantly influenced by Latinos, African Americans and young voters. In just four of these states (Florida, Ohio, New Hampshire and Virginia), **a margin about 330,000 votes made the difference** for who won the overall electoral battle. **That’s how close it was!**
- And all over the U.S. we see a growing influence of the **elderly** as “baby boomers” get gray hair. Many are conservative, but many are not and the population is aging dramatically.

Dramatically shifting demographics? Not really as I see it – the election was incredibly close! But certainly there have been **important changes that must be addressed**. More importantly, conservatives must FINALLY face the obvious! We may lament loosing the enthusiasm of white male voters, but basing our strategy on recruiting that group, and other diminishing groups, will end up sadly empty handed.

I believe the **new emphasis must be on Latinos, African Americans, the young, and the elderly**. That is not to be done to the exclusion of other segments, but in the past, conservatives have either ineffectively dealt with these groups, or avoided them altogether. That won’t be possible in future!

### **But Why Should We Even Try to Gain Favor of these Groups? “Gone and Lost Forever”?**

There are several reasons why these groups are possible fertile ground for reasonable and logical conservative arguments. Consider:

- **The Latino vote is important and it is proven to be approachable by conservatives!** If Romney had received the 44% of Latino votes that Bush got in 2004, rather than his meager 27% in 2012, we would be celebrating a Romney victory today. We’ve been down like this before – 1996 was even worse than this year – so it can be done!

- **Latinos have been naturally imbued with certain conservative tendencies and ideals.** Many are devout Catholics, believe in traditional family values and other well known Catholic beliefs, want choice in education, and want the government to stay out of their way. Conservatism is a natural fit for them. But it must be presented in a smart way.
- **Low and middle-income blacks and Latinos are disproportionately hurt by this miserable economy** that can only be revived by more conservative approaches to taxing and spending. But the story must be effectively conveyed!
- **Senior citizens are more naturally owners of conservative ideals** than are most other groups. But we have lost many of them to the demography of the liberals. Stop the bleeding!
- **America's youth, no matter what ethnic background, are disproportionately hurt by this economy.** Youth unemployment is a "biggy"! And the impact on them reaches way into the future, beyond the time when today's seniors are affected. For decades to come, today's youth will be burdened with, and making payments on, today's enormous debt.
- I think engaging the youth should also comprehend engaging many voters who **mistakenly view conservative policies as a war on women.** This topic must be addressed with this group in particular. This is a "tough nut to crack" because Obama has really impressed them with the "cool factor." But would it be worth it? Is there any hope?
- Yes, there IS hope! **Romney would've won the election had he won the same percentage of the youth vote – 45 percent – that George Bush had won against Kerry in 2004 in the swing states** of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Romney didn't even come close. Why? Because he didn't force President Obama to run on his youth economic record!

### **Immigration Policy? No I Didn't Forget!**

There's absolutely no way I would try to introduce the Latino discussion without acknowledging a glaring need to solve the immigration problem. There are two reasons conservatives have lost "big-time" in the contest for Latinos:

- First, we have avoided seriously engaging them so that we could really understand their concerns. **We think we understand, but we really don't.** We conservatives are conspicuous by our absence from their list of viable political alternatives.
- Second, the democrats' scare tactics have been successful in branding conservatives and republicans as anti-immigration and anti-minority. This strategy has worked because of **our failure to reach out and explain what we actually stand for**, with the result that republicans are losing the Latino vote by an increasing margin each election cycle.

Sadly, this is one area of controversy that I have always felt there is room for an immediate compromise and solution. Shame on us for not pursuing it! The bottom line is that we must put together **an immigration system that works.** I believe we can do something that will satisfy most in both political parties as well as the existing and future voting immigrants in the US. **Can you hear the collective sigh of relief when we get that done?!** How? Stay tuned.

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Have faith! We don't need to change the noble basis and goals of most of the conservative agendas. Recent exit polls show that America is still a center-right country. For example, 41% of voters described themselves as moderate, 35% as conservative, and only 25% as liberals.

*Failure is not a bad word -- just as long as it is followed by a comma or semicolon and not a period.* – Susan Brown

**NEXT: How? And soon after that, more on Why?**