

Ten reasons why Trump could lose the election

Writing an article like this only twelve days before the election and a few hours before the final Presidential Debate sounds like a justification for an impending loss, but it's really not. Instead, it's an attempt to describe all the many reasons that a non-traditional leader like Donald J. Trump, who has literally broken the mold for Presidents, could be toppled in one of the most unusual election years in our history.

All candidates have Achilles' heels and faults that are usually evident to the average voter, and every voter chooses to ignore them, forgive them...or vote for the other man if those faults are in conflict with their core beliefs. This happens in a normal election year, but this year is not normal. In 2016, Donald Trump said that he could shoot someone in NYC and his supporters would continue to stand with him. He meant it figuratively of course, but he was right. The past four years have proven how loyal millions of his supporters are to him. On the other side of the aisle, Democrats are proving that they are willing to look the other way, hold their noses, and vote for a man who is obviously past his prime, has acute memory loss and perhaps other more serious cognitive problems... and who is a 'creature of the DC swamp'. Top that off with a recent scandal involving his son and millions of dollars in payments for alleged 'access' to him when he was VP and you have an unabashed desire for power that has blinded the Dems to any semblance of reality. They are willing to sacrifice the very stability of our country by ignoring obvious facts and promoting a doddering fool to become our 46th President.

This election has ripped off America's scab and has revealed just how deep our ideological, political and cultural divisions are AND it has showed us something else far more dangerous...how anger and hatred for Donald Trump has clouded the judgment of half of the American electorate. That hatred is now driving the Dems' support for a failed candidate.

Candidates lose their elections for any number of reasons and Donald Trump is no exception, but he has other vulnerabilities specifically because he is not a traditional politician. Here's my list. 1. Donald Trump, himself, 2. Social media censorship, 3. Unrelenting traditional media attacks, 4. High Democratic voter turnout, 5. Low Republican turnout, 6. High turnout of specific demographic groups, 7. Insufficient campaigning in previously-won states, 8. Perceptions of Coronavirus mismanagement, 9. Mail-in ballot fraud, 10. American voter ignorance

Reason #1: Donald Trump, himself

I've identified this as the first reason because I believe it is THE principal one that is motivating most of the Democrats' opposition to Trump's re-election. Put plainly, Democrats fall in love with political *words* rather than political *actions* (though they're perfectly happy to complain about those actions). That's why they loved Barack Obama. He mesmerized them and through his words he managed to shift the focus from his lack of action on a number of issues to his inspirational and aspirational rhetoric. Racial disparity and racial harmony was one big one. Failed foreign policy was another (remember red lines in the sand and the Iran Deal?). Donald Trump is not an orator. He is a marketer, a salesman. He is not a flowery speech maker, but he is a motivational expert and cuts through the clutter of empty words and speaks from his heart TO the hearts of the voters. While his messages may not be polished; they are definitely pointed, and the pointed nature of those messages, coupled with his straightforward delivery, has endeared him to millions of people who are fed up with the entrenched political class.

Democrats, on the other hand, hate direct talk, especially when that talk is in conflict with their own beliefs. And when that talk emanates from someone that the Democrats despise like a super-marketer and unapologetic proponent of capitalism and personal liberty, it is intensified. Again, it is Donald Trump's style that is both his strength and his weakness, and style is often something that many Americans, especially Left-leaning ones, value over substance.

Reason #2: Social media censorship

Facebook, Twitter (and even Google) have proven themselves to be anything but objective platforms for social discourse. They are political allies of the Democrats and are a major force that is 100% supportive of the Democrats. That fact has been brought home by their recent blocking of accounts by certain newspapers like the New York Post and individuals who have 'outed' both Hunter Biden and his father, Joe.

Section 230, a provision of the Communications Decency Act says that "No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider" (47 U.S.C. § 230). In other words, online intermediaries that host or republish speech are protected against a range of laws that might otherwise be used to hold them legally responsible for what others say and do. The protected intermediaries include not only regular Internet Service Providers (ISPs), but also a range of "interactive computer service providers," including basically any online service that publishes third-party content. Though there are important exceptions for certain criminal and intellectual property-based claims, CDA 230 creates a broad protection that has allowed innovation and free speech online to flourish."

This protected 'platform' instead of publisher status means that Facebook, Twitter and the others are immune from lawsuits and can do as they please by blocking accounts and censoring speech that doesn't fit their owners' political beliefs, and THIS can cost Donald Trump millions of votes.

Reason #3: Unrelenting traditional media attacks

Tune in to any major news network or most cable networks like MSNBC and CNN. Listen to them for 15 minutes and you will see that their bias for the Democratic Party is obvious. Pick up any copy of the Washington Post (owned by billionaire Jeff Bezos) and the New York Times or any one of the top newspapers in the country with the possible exception of the New York Post and the Wall St. Journal and you won't need to read between the lines to see that their bias for the Left and the Left's Presidential candidate, Joe Biden, is showing. This is not a new phenomenon. The 'mainstream media' has been in the tank for the Democrats for a long time. It was embarrassing to see how they swooned over America's first (half) Black President for eight long years, but it became even more embarrassing to see them promote the 'Trump/Russia collusion story' ad nauseam for nearly four long years. Even after the connection was debunked and the President was impeached by the Congress they still cling, desperately, to the 'Russian connection' to this very day - now promoting that the Hunter Biden/Joe Biden story is part of a larger Russian conspiracy orchestrated by Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump to keep Joe Biden from becoming President.

It is the unrelenting media attacks that forced President Trump to take to Twitter to get his message out, but the power of the media cannot be underestimated and may contribute to a possible loss for Donald Trump. We shall see.

Reason #4: High Democratic voter turnout

With the U.S. almost evenly split between advocates on the Right and those on the Left, political analysts and pundits agree that the results of the election will almost certainly be determined by the size of the turnout. As of this writing, over 40 million Americans have cast their ballots. The majority of the write-in (absentee or unsolicited ballots) have been cast by registered Democrats. This election has already seen a dramatic rise in the percentage of mail-in ballots over those in the 2016 election. Traditionally, the bulk of these ballots have been cast by Democrats, so that in itself is no surprise, but what is noteworthy is the increase in the numbers of these types of ballots this year. This could be the result of a better 'get out the vote' effort by the Democrats or it could be the expression of that intense anger and hatred I mentioned earlier.

Conversely, it could also be the result of fear - fear that the Republicans could get four more years to re-shape America and thereby institutionalize the changes made during the last four years. Either way, the Democrats are attempting to get out the vote in any way possible and that includes enlisting high-profile Hollywood celebrities to do commercials for them and their candidates.

Reason #5: Low Republican turnout

Donald Trump's advisers know that the Democrats have outpaced them in times past in getting new voters registered and in getting them to the polling place. That's why the Trump campaign embarked on an effort to register new voters very early on, during the first year of Donald Trump's Presidency. They targeted specific demographic groups (Like Hispanics and Blacks) in key physical markets or districts. They were leaving nothing to chance, despite the fact that 62 million people turned out to vote for Trump that same year. Sixty-one plus percent voter participation was just not enough, and the Republicans knew it. While it did give them two new Midwestern states' electoral votes, in 2016, they could lose them both this year unless they can register large numbers of new Republicans and make sure they vote. As of today, the Trump campaign has seen gains in support from Latinos and Blacks, but those gains will only be 'real' if those new voters turn out to vote, hence the challenge.

Reason #6: High turnout of specific demographic groups

Political analysts look at a variety of factors when trying to determine which way the political winds will blow in an election: age, gender, economic status, physical residence, education, likelihood of voting, previous voting history and, of course, issue involvement. Trump has made his mark with his policies with each of the major demographic groups, but some are more important than others simply by virtue of their numbers. Take women for instance...specifically, suburban White college-educated women. Then there are Blacks and Latinos/Hispanics. Older White non-college-educated males are his most loyal base. One demographic group he has largely ignored are younger voters, and perhaps it is wise that he has as Millennials (aka Gen Yers) as more likely to vote Democrat, anyway. However, their younger counterparts (Gen Xers) are not as liberal-leaning and could be motivated to vote Republican.

It is expected that we will see a 'traditional' turnout of older White voters from both parties, but we could see a higher-than-normal turnout of older white FEMALE voters who are angry anti-Trumpers and would vote for any candidate, even a Joe Biden to kick Trump to the curb. While much has been made of the power of the younger voter (Gen X and Z), that power hasn't translated into actual votes as yet. However, should former Bernie Sanders supporters, who number in the millions, among younger voters be encouraged to vote, it could cancel out any gains that Republicans are making in the Black and Latino communities. Couple that with an increase in suburban women voters for Biden and Trump could well lose a few key states.

Reason #7: Insufficient campaigning in previously-won states

In 2016, Hillary Clinton ignored a few key states, and because she didn't campaign in them, she lost them to Donald Trump. Both campaigns are keenly aware of that fact and both are competing fiercely for those votes. This is evident in these last few days as especially the President has held rallies in nearly all of them. Among them are Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania. If the President were to lose all three of those states he would lose the election and he knows it. The same is true of Florida where Trump won by a little over 100,000 votes. Pennsylvania was won by only 44,000 votes, Michigan by less than 11,000 votes and finally Arizona was won by about 90,000 votes.

There are other swing states such as Nevada where Clinton won by only 27,000 votes and Minnesota where she only won by 43,000 votes, but they are long shots for Trump considering the number of registered Democrats and traditional voting patterns.

The Trump campaign is pulling out all stops to campaign in about a half-dozen key battleground states, but should they not be able to adequately motivate their base and move some fence-sitters and independents their way they could very well lose those states.

Reason #8: Perceptions of Coronavirus mismanagement

The Coronavirus pandemic has hit the world and the U.S., hard. Few governments were prepared for it, so they had to make critical decisions on the fly. Donald Trump, like many other world leaders, had to walk a fine line between panicking the American public and calming them while he took decisive measures to build stockpiles of personal protective equipment and implemented travel restrictions from highly-infected countries. He had to build a broad coalition among federal government agencies and institutions and the private sector, not to mention 50 different governors.

The Democrats maintain that he mismanaged the federal government's efforts to fight the virus while conveniently ignoring all the work the Corona Task Force and his Administration has done to mitigate the spread of the deadly virus. Their criticism has rung hollow in many circles, but among their base it has resonated. Ignoring the obvious challenges of mandating a nationwide policy in a federal system where each state can make its own rules, the Democrats still say that Trump has failed. This issue is perhaps their top issue and they have married it with criticism of the Administration's persistence in trying to nullify the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) - a case which will be at the doorstep of the Supreme Court on November 10th.

The Dems' bottom line is similar to their oft-chanted Bush-era line: "Bush lied; people died" which referred to the Iraq War. The war on the Coronavirus has given birth to: "Trump lied (about the severity of the pandemic); people (over 200,000) died, and it's all Trump's fault." Should this tactic and this accusation gain traction it could very well contribute to a higher Democratic voter turnout, stoke the fires of anger against the President and cost him the election.

Reason #9: Mail-in ballot fraud

The Democrats are sneaky. On the one hand they accuse the Republicans of trying to suppress the vote (by requiring voter ID cards, for example) and for cleaning up voter rolls. On the other hand, they have no problem in Blue states sending out unsolicited ballots to EVERYBODY on voter rolls and then, in some states, authorizing ballot harvesting of the completed ballots by ordinary, non-bonded people who could very well be political operatives with an agenda. Some are quite okay with these political operatives entering nursing homes and filling out ballots for cognitively-challenged residents and then taking possession of those ballots. To date, we have seen instances of streetside ballot boxes set on fire, hundreds of ballots being dumped by the side of the road by postal workers and other criminal actions.

The Democrats have been preparing their lawsuits on ballot fraud for months with the help of a small army of paid lawyers. These lawsuits will hit the courts within the next 10-14 days and will delay the official outcome of our 2020 election. For how long we do not know, but they will delay the results UNLESS the margin of the victory by Trump is so large that a concession by Biden is warranted. On that score, Hillary Clinton, herself, has already told Joe Biden, "Do not concede under any circumstances." Election 2000 déjà vu is upon us.

Reason #10: American voter ignorance

It pains me to say this, but millions of Americans haven't a clue when it comes to politics. Forty percent of them don't vote in either national or local elections. To be charitable, one could say that it's because they have tuned out - given up - on politics and politicians and feel that their vote doesn't count. And while that could be a major reason for them to stay at home and not do their civic duty, I think it's a red herring.

Over the years, I have seen many 'man-on-the-street interviews' conducted with college students, people who should have a basic understanding and awareness of how their government works AND know something about their country's history. Their answers on basic questions about 'How many branches of government there are', 'Can you name them', 'When was the Revolutionary War fought and against which country' and 'What is the 1st Amendment of the Constitution all about' reveals their total ignorance and stupidity. It is truly shocking.

In 1789, the Constitution granted the states the power to set voting requirements. Back then, the states limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying white males (about 6% of the population at the time, many of whom were educated and engaged in their communities). The Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment changed all that. No longer was property or wealth the determining factor on whether a person could vote, nor could we apply a litmus test on understanding how our country functioned, politically.

Now, anybody (except felons and illegal aliens) can vote, no matter how wealthy or poor, educated or ignorant or angry or content you are. Register and you can vote if you're 18 years of age and a citizen. However, if you want to *become* a citizen (and vote) you'll have to pass a test. Some countries have even made voting mandatory - and they enforce it. One of those is Australia. Maybe the Aussies know something we don't know.

Finally, there are many reasons why Donald Trump should win this election, and most of them are rooted in his ACTIONS. Before you vote, think of everything he's done for America in the last four years, then make your decision.

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