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# American Election 2024:

How the Voting Demographic is  
Shifting in US Elections for 2024 and  
Beyond.

## Introduction:

Current US President, Joe Biden; has stated in multiple speeches during his tenure in the White House: “We are at an inflection point in America”. I would argue that this is an accurate assessment given what we have all born witness to in just the past 2 decades of American Politics. Division surrounds each of us from some angle; from LGBTQ+, race, gender, immigration, religion, and ethnicity issues to other political leanings and concerns from both the right and the left. However, the bottom line is always the same...Every candidate for elected office wants your vote and American political parties have shown us that they are willing to do just about anything to get those votes. Just look at how the hierarchy of the Democratic Party worked with Hillary Clinton’s Campaign in 2016 to squash the rising and popular candidacy of Bernie Sanders. <sup>1</sup> Or did they? <sup>2</sup> I would argue that there may still be room for debate on this issue, but I digress.

The purpose of this paper is to open the discussion within the Political Sciences’ arena, that the voting demographic in the United States is shifting. This is an issue that both major political parties must contend with, evaluate, and prepare for in the future and I do not believe they are taking it as seriously as they should. The American Political landscape is massively changing, and I would argue that we saw some of the first, real signs of that shift in 2020. I would further

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<sup>1</sup> International Business Times - US Ed. 2017. “Donna Brazile Says Hillary Clinton Rigged Democratic Nomination,” November 2. <https://search-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.snhu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsggo&AN=edsgcl.517572681&site=eds-live&scope=site>.

<sup>2</sup> Gaughan, Anthony J. 2019. “Was the Democratic Nomination Rigged: A Reexamination of the Clinton-Sanders Presidential Race.” University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy 29 (Issue 3): 309–58. <https://search-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.snhu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edshol&AN=edshol.hein.journals.ufpp29.19&site=eds-live&scope=site>.

argue that we will see this shift even more evidenced in 2024. This shift can be attributed to multiple points that I intend to elaborate upon below.

## **Voter Discontent**

Given the rise of political division within the United States over the past few decades, it is fair to access and state that the majority of American Voters are angry. Americans are currently feeling the serious economic bite with inflation at its highest level since 1980, home prices and interest rates at all-time highs, and elevated costs for food, fuel, and everyday necessities.<sup>3</sup> Given these facts, Americans are not just angry...They're Pissed Off. Rightfully so. However, this is not an issue that has only now begun to evidence itself. This is an issue that has been festering for quite some time.<sup>4 5</sup> However, I would argue that while the voter discontent aspect is serious and should be addressed, it may be less of a factor than other issues at hand.

## **Immigration**

Immigration across the political spectrum has been a hot topic for decades. Politicians for Federal Office's talk about it, but rarely does anything meaningful get done about it post-election. The optics on making much needed changes to US Immigration Law and Policy, seems to be more theatre and grandstanding than anything else, but I digress.

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<sup>3</sup> Hiwale, Anshul, and Vinita Shrivastava. "Critical Analysis of the Us Economy. | Journal of Advanced Zoology | EBSCOhost," July 3, 2024. <https://openurl.ebsco.com/EPDB%3Aagd%3A8%3A4959768/detailv2?sid=ebsco%3Aplink%3Ascholar&id=ebsco%3Aagd%3A175815719&crl=c>.

<sup>4</sup> Perrella, Andrea M.L. "Economic Decline and Voter Discontent." ☐ the ☐ Social Science Journal/☐ the ☐ Social Science Journal 46, no. 2 (June 1, 2009): 347–68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soscij.2009.02.002>.

<sup>5</sup> Tolchin, Susan J. The Angry American. Routledge eBooks, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429496844>.

The reality is, that unlawful immigration has been and continues to be a significant issue that Americans would like to see resolved.<sup>6</sup> The truth of the matter comes down to the millions of immigrants/migrants who have streamed across the southern border<sup>7</sup> since 2020 and have either been released into the interior or overloaded the immigration courts seeking asylum.<sup>8</sup>

Now, there are calls for the expanding voting rights in the US to noncitizens.<sup>9</sup> Those who oppose such measures are labeled “Racist” or “Right-winger’s”.<sup>10</sup> Regardless of which side of the political fence one sits, the fact remains that this provides a perfect mixture for which the voting demographic to dramatically shift in the US. Given that the states that are currently considering legislation to allow noncitizens to vote are majority Democrat, and those same states are the loudest opposition to Republican states that are opposed to noncitizen voting, it appears that the voting demographic shift is overtly headed in one direction, and in favor of one political party...The Democrat Party. This is a scenario that the Republican Party is either in complete denial of, or if they are aware of it, they do not appear to be taking any noticeable steps to combat it. If the Republican Party continues to deny this fact or avoid it altogether, the consequences for the Republican Party will be catastrophic.

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<sup>6</sup> Wayne, Stephen J. *The Road to the White House 2024: The Politics of Presidential Elections*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Dwinell, Erin, and Hannah Davis. "The Costs of Biden's Border Crisis: The First Two Years."

<sup>8</sup> Bush-Joseph, Kathleen. "Outmatched: The US Asylum System Faces Record Demands." (2024).

<sup>9</sup> Kammourieh, Maya. "Expanding Democracy: The Case for Enfranchising Noncitizens in Local Elections." (2024).

<sup>10</sup> Hayduk, Ron, and Anthony Pahnke. "Race, the Ballot, and Hegemony: What the Struggle over Immigrant Voting Teaches Us About Rightwing Mobilization in the US." *New Political Science* (2024): 1-22.

## Generational Voting Gap

As we look around today at the various protests taking place on college campuses across America, we either cheer those students on and support them or deride them as foolish.

Regardless of what we as individuals may believe or feel about the various issues that are the subject of these protests, the fact of the matter is that these students are the up-and-coming voters in American politics. The issues they care about are vastly different than the issues that Baby Boomers and Gen X voters care about, and their numbers are growing significantly.<sup>11</sup> One thing is clear, and that is that the generational divide has played substantial parts in previous election cycles and there is proof to support this.<sup>12</sup> These younger voters are also leaning strongly toward the Democrat Party as well.<sup>13</sup> None of these facts bode well for the Republican Party, unless the party makes some significant and meaningful changes that prove they are still a power player to be taken seriously in American Politics. Republicans must come to terms with the fact that operatives within the Democrat Party are organized, persistent, and carrying the same messages across the board. If Republicans wish to maximize their gains as a party, they must learn to do the same and engage voters much differently than in years past.

## Personal Note

In 2019; long before I ever completed my BA in Political Science, I forecasted that then President Donald Trump, would not be re-elected for a second term in the White House in 2020.

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<sup>11</sup> Fisher, Patrick. "Generational replacement and the impending transformation of the american electorate." *Politics & Policy* 48, no. 1 (2020): 38-68.

<sup>12</sup> Frey, William H. "Race, aging, and politics: America's cultural generation gap." *Public Policy & Aging Report* 28, no. 1 (2018): 9-13.

<sup>13</sup> Perrett, Stuart, and Delia Baldassarri. "A generational shift: how partisan alignment and the rise of social issues have produced a generation of democrats." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* (2024): 1-26.

I also forecasted that The Democrat Majority in the US Senate would either remain the same or grow by 1 to 2 seats, and that the Republican majority in the US House of Representatives would either maintain or shrink by a handful of seats. I was correct on my assessment. Granted, this was not an official election forecast by a post-graduate scholar, as I had not even begun my return to complete my degree at that time. I simply called what I saw with my family and friends. Most of them called me crazy at the time. When the dust settled from the 2020 election, and I was proven right; the looks on their faces was priceless.

Now, I am a post-graduate of Political Science and moving toward a graduate degree. Now, I have the opportunity to write this paper and hopefully future papers, and respectfully be taken seriously as a fellow academic. For that, I am grateful. So, by considering everything that I have notated above, let us critically evaluate the possibilities for 2024, realistically.

### **2024 Presidential Election Forecast**

I project that President Joe Biden will withdraw from the 2024 Presidential Race, most likely at the Democrat Convention in Chicago. His advanced age and obvious cognitive decline that we have all witnessed, will not allow him to continue as President. I believe, though I cannot prove, that there are many within the President's inner circle that know this. However, I do not believe that Donald Trump will be re-elected as President either. There is far too much at stake for both Democrats and some Republicans should Donald Trump win re-election to the Oval Office.

Donald Trump is too much of a threat to the existing political establishment, for him to be re-elected. The idea of a triumphant Trump back in the White House, knowing what he knows and having experienced what he has since leaving office is simply not a chance any of them are willing to take.

I also believe that Joe Biden will immolate Lyndon B. Johnson and withdraw from nomination consideration at the Convention in August; forcing Democrat delegates to choose a new candidate for President in either Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom, or Michelle Obama. Democrats would be wise to choose Michelle, if she would accept the nomination. Her popularity is still very strong and recent polls show that she has the potential to defeat and poses the most serious threat to Donald Trump in 2024. Republicans can claim all day long that Trump is the candidate of the people, and I will not attempt to dispel their assessment. Donald Trump is very popular among his base supporters. What I am saying is that there is too much of a vested interest within the beltway of Washington, DC from both sides of the political aisle, to allow Donald Trump anywhere near the Oval Office again. Neither Joe Biden nor Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. are strong enough candidates to defeat Donald Trump in November.

### **2024 Congressional Election Forecast**

My election forecast for the US Congress is simple...Democrats will gain control of both houses of Congress in the 2024 election. This will be especially true if Democrats nominate Michelle Obama as their candidate for President. There are far too many Republican and Independent voters who have serious and legitimate issues or concerns with Donald Trump for various reasons and would gladly vote for Michelle Obama just to ensure he is not re-elected. Those votes would most likely carry down-ballot as well, giving political control of both the House and Senate to Democrats. However, even if by some miracle, Trump were to emerge victorious, I believe that he will still face a Democrat controlled Congress and start out as a lame duck president.

## Conclusion

Because of the multiple forces at play shifting the voter demographic in the United States, I would argue that the United States has seen one of, if not it's last Republican majorities in either house of Congress, much less both houses and possibly one of it's last Republican Presidents. The Republican Party must awaken from its slumber if it wants to turn the tide and be taken seriously by the people again. The days of "Let's just wait and see what happens" politics are over. Democrats are engaged, active and recruiting new members to their flock. Republicans are not, and it is showing in both the voting demographics, and at the ballot box.

Regardless of where one is on the political spectrum, America needs its two-party system as flawed as it may be. The alternative is much less respectful, much less democratic, and much more autocratic. This is yet another argument that has been referenced multiple times by President Joe Biden during his tenure in the White House. The battle of which system of government is best and will survive, Democracy or Autocracy. While on the surface, the argument would seem moot in a Constitutional Republic such as ours, the question has been raised, and the thought projected.

Are we getting the picture yet?