

THE Skanner

Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now

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Opinion

Is the Black Vote Still Being Treated Like a Political Piñata?

When it comes to politics in this country, there is one thing that seems to be a constant—the Black vote is important and always tends to make a difference.

Although Blacks make up roughly 13 percent of the overall population in the United States, Black voters remain a powerful voting bloc that can change the trajectory of any election.

Now, it is no secret that Black people overwhelmingly vote for Democratic candidates in nearly every national election, with identical results being shown in local and state elections.

Even in elections where a race is considered to be non-partisan, such as for a Mayor or City Council seat, Black people have historically voted for the candidates that have self-identified or campaigned as a Democrat.

While this has been the norm for decades, Black people have been on the receiving end of neglect and disparate treatment by candidates who win with the overwhelming support of the Black vote.

It is an interesting phenomenon to watch, as Black people are strategically sought after and courted for their vote, with the hope of securing their collective support for specific candidates or certain issues. Black people are typically courted with the same archaic methods to



Jeffrey Boney
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get them registered and to the polls, while providing limited resources for voter outreach and education.

On the surface, African Americans are marketed to as if their sacred vote means so much, but historically that often changes once their vote is cast.

The way African American voters are treated, it is as if they have become a political piñata.

You know what a “piñata is right?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a “piñata” is “a decorated container filled with candies, fruits, and gifts that is hung up at parties or celebrations and hit with a stick by blindfolded persons until it is broken and the things inside it fall out.”

As it relates to voting, African Americans are often treated like the treats on the inside of a piñata. They don’t care how they get Black votes, they just want that vote no matter how Blacks are treated or handled. Blacks are consistently pounded and beat over the head with political messages during campaign sea-

son until they give up their precious and valuable vote.

Then once that piñata is finally opened, or in this case when the Black votes are finally cast, Black voters are either forgotten or vilified depending on the outcome of the race.

The routine is simple. When the results don’t go the

“They don’t care how they get Black votes, they just want that vote no matter how Blacks are treated or handled

way those who courted the Black vote wanted it to go, they blame the Blacks for the results.

However, when the outcome is favorable to those who courted the Black vote, they celebrate the results, reap the benefits and then essentially ignore those same loyal, African American voters after the election is over.

Because Black voters overwhelmingly vote for Democratic candidates, it would make sense for the Democratic Party to avoid treating Blacks like piñatas and taking them for granted.

At a recent plenary session

at the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Annual Convention in Detroit, Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez emphatically stated that the Democratic Party had become notorious for taking African Americans for granted.

“Shame on us for taking African Americans for granted,” said Perez. “We can’t allow that to happen again and we won’t allow that to happen again under my watch. We can’t criticize Black voters for not showing up, because it’s not on them. It’s on the Democratic Party to show up and put our money where our mouth is to better organize in the African American community.”

History shows us that beginning with the Civil War era and through the early part of the 20th century, Blacks voted heavily Republican. One key factor for that was the decision for Republican President Abraham Lincoln to push for and pass the Emancipation Proclamation.

After the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Ku Klux Klan began to terrorize Blacks with threats of violence to discourage them from voting, while strongly putting a fear in Blacks to avoid supporting Republican candidates, unless they wanted to be lynched.

Read the rest of this commentary at
TheSkanner.com

Without Heart, America is Heartless

Sean C. Bowers

New Journal and Guide

HEART (Humanity Equality Acceptance Responsiveness Thankfulness) is an acronym for the type of heart protections America professes to have in abundance, grandfathered in from our founding fathers’ principles, constitutionalized and “Bill-of-Righted” into our nation’s permanent future, to prevent corporate corruption of her heart health.

America, the patient, is approaching the point of no return where companies vote, rig and buy elections wholesale through unlimited funding, lobbying, and a general ransacking of public elections, the Republic, and our governmental system. The safeguards were put in place to prevent such unfettered greed and gross mismanagement, that could reduce America’s heart to a bottomless, line-itemized deduction. Are we the nation, that will be forever known as the worldwide leader in military bases that we’ve built, and countless number of victims along the way we’ve enslaved and “kill’t”?

Another HEART is “Humility Equitably Attracting Respectful Trustworthiness.”

That’s where the American Country Club-wanna-be-leadership loses the masses, becoming the endless pursuit of ever over-reaching, too-far reaching, then preaching down at the common man, without the “Common Sense” about which Thomas Paine wrote.

“America is supposed to be the world’s ‘oyster of opportunity,’ taking in the people who are the salt of the earth

America’s “vitals,” for far too long, have been perverted to only profitability from providence by charlatans disguised and dressed up as cardiologists. These are witch-doctors, fake-news,

wanna-be-cardiologists, who can barely pull their own (hair) plugs.

Our Mother Earth is not America’s oyster; America is supposed to be the world’s “oyster of opportunity,” taking in the people who are the salt of the earth. Through the “culturing process,” America helps to heal humanity’s imperfections turning them into spiritual rewards and enhancing the lives of millions.

This is the American HEART that the rest of the world can unite with; unfortunately, America’s current foreign policy makes the country look like we’re “only out for No. 1.”

The American HEART I was raised to believe in, strive for and ultimately deliver, is supposed to be the most honorable, elegant, accommodating respectable truth that can be defended from a moral high ground from on heaven’s highlands that was “bequeathed” to us (and stolen from the Native Americans).

America’s HEART now, more than ever, requires “Honest Egalitarian Activism Remediating Top-down-ness.”

The seas are rising; the storms have come and are here and they are more se-

vere and more frequent. The droughts have come and food will not grow. Fires burn at the gates, as the ice melts, while those not at sea level do everything but “see level.” Meanwhile, America’s HEART health is at a “C-level,” nowhere near strong enough to lead the world during tough times.

America’s heart health must be higher than C-level. Our current path could lead to a potentially catastrophic heart attack, thereby killing the patient. We must know by now, that it’s time to get to work. That means ending bad HEART health practices (“Hoarding Ego-based Apathy Retards Truthful” solutions) nationwide, while promoting good HEART health (“Honorable Empathy Accessible Righteousness Triumphs”).

Do you have the HEART that it takes to love the world?

In the 757 area code, the H.E.A.R.T. (Humanity Empowerment And Resources Team) consortium was formed to use a business networking approach to community “give-backtivism.” This model is free and can be exported and replicated nationwide and around the world.