

**Post-Election Discussion between
Torie Osborn and Brandon Zavala**
MWD meeting on 11/24/24

Q1) Brandon, please share with us the numbers to date in CA27, 47?

- **TOPLINES**
 - In California, we saw a double digit swing to Donald Trump BUT similar to what we are seeing in battleground states, Democratic candidates fared better in parts of the state where we invested in paid communications and direct voter contact i.e. canvassing.
 - WE WON: CA27, CA45, CA47 and CA13 are still within the margin of effort!
- **CAVEATS**
 - We do not have final numbers yet! Much of what I will speak to this afternoon will reflect what we learned in the early votes and election day ballots. So that means folks who mailed or turned in ballots at least 3-4 days before election day, voters who cast ballots at a vote center before election day, or election day voters.
 - We are going to need to wait until well after elections are certified to get the final verdict on this election when it comes to just how many of our voters moved to the republican column versus the number of our voters who decided to stay home.
- **CA27**
 - Biden won CA27 by about 12% in 2020. In that Early and Election Day voter pool, VP Kamala Harris was down 0.4% to Trump in CA27 47.8 to 48.2%. Now I expect her vote to land in CA27 around 52% once we count those late VBMs.
 - BUT GEORGE WON!!!!
 - WHERE WE FOCUSED East Antelope Valley is who sent George to Congress.

- In fact, George is on track to win in Palmdale by a greater raw vote count than he won this election
- In Palmdale George ran ahead of Kamala, Garcia ran behind Donald Trump. That happened NO WHERE else in CA27. So I am very curious to see if that holds when the final results are published.
- CA47
 - Dave Min outperformed Katie Porter in Irvine
 - Did better in some portions of Costa Mesa
 - Overcame the higher turnout in Huntington Beach
 - Strong field game, good candidate, and a damn good opponent run on Scott Baugh
 - Min ran ahead of Kamala in Irvine, and Baugh struggled to run ahead of Trump in Huntington Beach
- **We are still in the Minority and with a Unified Republican Trifecta we may be looking at a legislative agenda that is antithetical to everything we hold dear. Our new members of the House will need us now more than ever.**

Q1) Torie, during the height of the AIDS crisis, you led the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. What parallels do you see between the activism of that era in opposition to Reagan/Bush policies and the current political climate under President-Elect Trump's forthcoming administration? How can we apply those experiences to address today's issues?

AIDS: I would give anything to have my friends back with me now....

But there were many lessons from AIDS activism: The 3 top ones that I think are useful today are:

- a) Engage in non-violent Civil Disobedience. Over and over again.
- b) Be bold in your message, like ACT-UP: "Silence = Death"

c) Do NOT let them divide us! We had lots of “isms and schisms” but we kept a united front. And today (2024) is a UNITED FRONT moment.

Q2) Brandon: Anything to be said at this point about Black and Latino turnout and vote in our two districts or beyond?

- Younger Black and Latino voters, notably men, are currently slipping away from the Democratic Party and we have to do a better job of listening to their needs, plugging in our message where they consume media, and developing an agenda that they want.
- This isn't new though. Republicans have been making inroads with Latino voters for more than a decade really since the 2012 Obama victory, however, we have seen that those gains with Latino voters are much more limited among Mexican Americans, which are the vast majority of Latinos in for example the Antelope Valley.
- Black turnout was strong in CA27, Lancaster looks better than 2022.
- I would add that I am very interested in diving into CA47 AAPI figures as well because we saw some real shifts with segments of that population all through the southland
- **The regional breakdowns show this was an election focused on the economy, inflation, costs, and immigration**

Q2 Torie, as the former executive director of the Liberty Hill Foundation, you supported grassroots organizations tackling social and economic injustices. In times when progressive causes faced significant opposition, what approaches proved successful in mobilizing communities and effecting change?

People forget that LA and CA were RED 25 years ago (yes, there's a bit of a backlash this past election – on criminal justice reform – but backlash shows you you've been successful!). It took years to build support for a progressive agenda, particularly on

criminal justice issues. LA was the lead (since we have a county of 10 million folks – we are 33% of the vote, vs. the Bay Area that has 14%)...I would say that the important qualities here were ORGANIZING! Collaboration across class, race and age. There was a network of community based nonprofits working on justice issues (economic, racial, criminal justice reform) across community, led by the Community Coalition.

Q3) Brandon, you're 31 and I'm 74. What keeps you going these days? How do YOU keep your spirits up in this dark chapter?

- No matter the outcome of this election we knew the work was never going to be over.
- The first Trump Presidency taught me that while things will get bad, I know that when we mobilize against bad legislation, executive overreach, waste, fraud, and abuses of power or just plain cruelty we can still prevent a lot of harm.
- There is no pessimistic path back to congressional majorities or the white house and there are just too many people both here at home and around the world that are counting on folks like us on the zoom to call shit out when we see it and hold these folks accountable.
- All those postcards and canvassing is the reason that while Matt Gaetz could be nominated, his confirmation was a non starter because of our ability to keep margins down. Our ability to still win in Michigan and Wisconsin with Slotkin and Baldwin.
- It's easy to find the negativity.
- Hope springs eternal.

Q3. Torie, Throughout your career, you've witnessed the ebb and flow of progressive victories and defeats. How have past movements navigated periods of conservative resurgence and

what practical steps should individuals take now to strengthen progressive movements and effectively counter the challenges posed by the incoming second Trump administration?

I'd suggest: Join a group; take time off; Come to your life like a warrior!
Like the Cris Williamson song says.....