

Elections Suggest Bush's Republican Base Eroding

Significant Democratic electoral victories across the nation on Nov. 8, suggest that the collapse of credibility of the Bush-Cheney Administration has begun to demoralize its Republican base, leading to losses at the polls because Republicans stayed home. Particularly striking were Republican losses in areas which had gone heavily for President Bush just one year ago, in the national election.

The most dramatic example of such a turnaround came in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a legendary "red state," where Republican gubernatorial candidate Jerry Kilgore lost to Democrat Tim Kaine, by a margin of 52 to 46%. President Bush himself had come to Virginia on election eve to campaign for Kilgore, who knew he was in a tight race. Rather than turning the tide, the Bush appearance simply confirmed the fact that the anti-Kilgore vote would be seen as an anti-Bush vote as well.

At first blush, the changes from traditional voting patterns were stunning. Kaine, an avowed liberal, even won in Virginia Beach, home of "Diamond Pat" Robertson, and generally a right-wing voter stronghold. Additionally, Kaine swept the Northern Virginia suburbs, including both Loudoun and Prince William counties, which have been Republican bastions for decades.

One leading pollster told *EIR* that LaRouchePAC's mass distributions of anti-Cheney material in the Northern Virginia area, "definitely created an anti-Bush/Cheney climate in the area. Who else gives out pamphlets called *Children of Satan*? We even talked to fundamentalists who had been convinced that Cheney was a child of Satan. Republicans and Democrats . . . voted against Kilgore and against Bush's support for him."

While the impact on local races was not great (most are actually uncontested), Democrats are pointing to the unseating of four-term "Christian-right" Delegate Richard Black from Loudoun County, as an indication that the tide is turning. Democrat David Poisson received the votes of moderate Republicans as well as Democrats, according to local officials.

Repudiations of Bush

Two other examples of radical shifts by voters against Bush stand out.

The first is the mayoral race in St. Paul, Minn., where two Democrats were vying for the seat. Incumbent Mayor Richard Kelly had publicly endorsed President Bush for President in 2004. But in this election, Democratic City Councilman Chris Coleman trounced him with 70% of the vote. Voters told exit-pollsters in no uncertain terms that they were kicking out Kelly, a long-term popular politician who had been in the state legislature as well, because of his support for Bush.

Second was the mayoral race in Parkersburg, W. Va., scene of George W. Bush's infamous press conference on Social Security, where he pointed to a filing cabinet full of Federal Government Treasury bonds, and called them "worthless IOUs." President Bush had received 62% in this area in 2004. But on election day 2005, Democrat Bob Newell defeated Republican Rick Modesitt, 63 to 37%.

Pundits nationally are going out of their way to insist that there is no "national trend" in the 2005 elections pointing to a necessary Democratic victory in 2006, citing previous patterns. It's true nothing is inevitable, but it is clear that Bush is weakened, and the next election is the Democrats' for the taking, if they follow the leadership direction being provided by Lyndon LaRouche.

—Nancy Spannaus