

Socialist Vanguard

August 2019 Newsletter

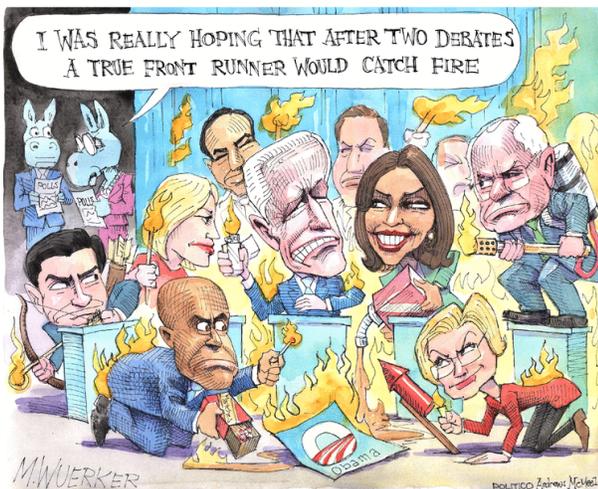
Issue # 107

Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

Who Is Electable? Advice For The Presidential Primary Season!

The Dems are having presidential debates. The so-called political experts (pundits) have begun interjecting meaningless analysis. It is meaningless for two reasons: one, is that it is too early to make any realistic and valid assessments of candidates vote getting abilities. It is premature for polls to provide any accuracy about a candidate's attractiveness to voters, let alone predict who will actually vote. Think of Bill Clinton in 1992, Barack Obama in 2008, or Donald Trump in 2016! Each of them defied the "experts".



The second reason many of the pundits come from a perspective that is often influenced by sponsors with money. Some are directly employed by think-tanks funded by corporate dollars, others by news media under the influence of corporate ownership or corporate advertising dollars!

Early next year we will be immersed in presidential primary season. The primaries offer a chance to make one's voice

heard. Usually the voter turnout is low, so one's vote counts more. In the Democratic Party, most of the votes to select a presidential candidate will be allotted proportionately in the first round of voting (usually the candidate is selected in this round). This means that if Sanders gets 30% of the vote in a state primary and Warren gets 25%, Biden receives 35%, and so forth, Sanders gets a commitment that 30% of the state's delegates will vote for him in the first round, Warren would get 25% of the state's delegation. This means that those who believe that Sanders has the answers to solve the nation's problems would be a strong voice for Sanders' ideas.

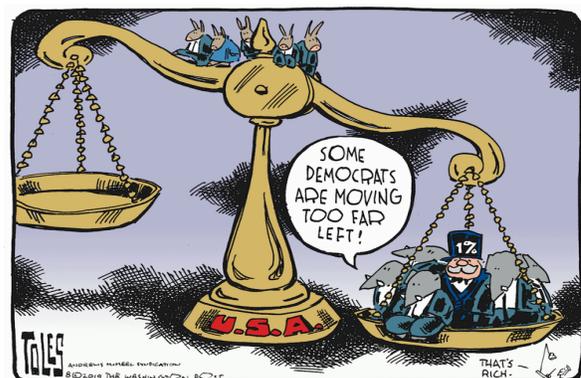
Voting for the most winnable candidate, which is what is being called for would mean that one is not necessarily voting for any set of policies, but merely for a pretty face or slick talker. The problem with two-party politics is that when voting in a final election, realistically, a person probably will not be able to effectively voice a preference. When one faces a number of candidates as it appears likely in the Democratic party primaries a person has a chance of making his/her desires known!

In a limited democracy, it is important for each of us to vote, thus expressing what we want! When November 2020 rolls around realistically we will be given a choice between the lesser of two evil candidates. Assuming that the current president will be one choice and the GOP will continue to become more dangerous with each election. Most of us regardless of our histories of voting third party will feel it imperative to vote to remove Trump from office!

VOTE FOR WHAT YOU LIKE IN THE PRIMARY, FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION YOU WILL PROBABLY WANT TO HOLD YOUR NOSE AND VOTE TO REMOVE TRUMP AND THE GOP FROM POWER!! DS

Share Your Thoughts And Observations!

As we do not have any affiliation with either major political party, it seems inappropriate to endorse a candidate for president. However, it might be helpful to many of us to summarize insights into the various Democratic Party presidential candidates. To that end you are welcome to send (by email or snail-mail) one's impressions of the different candidates. Please keep each observation brief (one or two short sentences describing a candidate, for example: seems sincere, or an arrogant member of the political elite, etc.) Your comments will remain anonymous (unless one requests to be identified). We will publish your comments in either November or December. **Looking forward to your observations/ impressions! DS**



Words for thought

"Republicans owe much of their electoral success to liberals who don't vote" - Economist

“Red Flag” Gun Laws: Sieg Heil!

In response to the latest mass shootings, many members of the GOP, including the President, have indicated that they might be willing to support “red flag” laws. The GOP, for the most part continues to blame everything, but the obscene availability of guns, especially military style automatic weapons. Trump and the GOP continue to blame video games, mental illness and a host of other “ills of society”. There is virtually no evidence supporting a correlation between video games and gun violence, mental illness has a negligible correlation with gun violence.

To show their compassion for the victims of mass shootings, Trump, and many GOP law makers, seem willing to adopt “red flag” laws. These laws make for nice sound bites, but add very little to the goal of gun safety. *Red flag* laws allow citizens to petition courts to have a person, viewed as dangerous, be denied the privilege of owning firearms. It certainly sounds good, as child molesters, or spouse beaters often are responsible for some horrific mass killings. There are two problems with *red flag* laws.

First, most states already have laws that prohibit felons and those with a history of family violence from possessing a gun. Most states, including the federal government have background checks when a gun is purchased that disqualifies some from buying a gun. There are numerous loopholes that circumvent background checks, namely private sales or gifts.

Many with mental health issues go undiagnosed, thus do not have a disqualifying record. We have laws that need to be tightened. Also, even with the best laws, people can find a way around the laws. Laws should be seen as guidelines for behavior, they often fail when they go contrary to customs. And adding new *red flag* laws is unlikely to make any difference!

Second, these laws can be divisive and arbitrary. They depend on friends and relatives accusing other citizens. Fear of retaliation may deter many from calling for the disarmament of other citizens. When we look at the history of mental health in the USA we see changes in the laws. Once we locked up all those identified as suffering from a mental illness. In the 1960s and 1970s there was a movement to end this response, partly because it was a weapon used by some to lock-up neighbors and relatives, who may have been merely eccentric. With the pro-gun groups being so quick to claim their rights are being attacked, one would think that they would want something less arbitrary.

Red flag laws may remove a few firearms from the streets, therefore should not be opposed, but improving background checks, making serious efforts to remove military style assault weapons and reducing the firearms in USA households is far more desirable. **Most important alleviating the fear that drives many to buy guns in the first place should be the center-piece of any gun-control efforts!** DS

Response to Last Month Article About Mueller Report and Russian Interference
By Mark Giese

Last month Michael Zeidler briefly reported on the Mueller Report findings which provide evidence of Russian interference in USA elections. If Russia acted to support Trump’s campaign, their investment didn’t pan out very well:

- Trump pulled out of the Iran deal which Russia helped broker.
- US and Russia are on opposite sides re Venezuela, Syria, Ukraine.
- Trump pulled out of an arms agreement with Russia.

- Trump wanted to pull out of NATO which goes up to Russia’s doorstep, but US/NATO people prevailed over any Putin wish.

I rather think they would have already known that Trump cannot be relied on by *anyone* and so would not have bothered. Hillary was not friendly to Russia, but she would have been a known quantity to them.

Mark Giese is a long-time supporter and lefty who lives in Racine, WI

We Need To Organize!

At our monthly meetings we have discussed the need to give all of our members a chance to convene. Many of us have witnessed the rise of several groups identifying themselves as socialist. One of our late but most notable members was Former Milwaukee Mayor Frank Zeidler. Late in his life Frank advised us that the most important thing we could do was to modernize the meaning of socialism. As we move forward that advice is truer today, as the youthful followers of Bernie Sanders are starting to run into the same old problems of being taken over and corrupted by the USA’s 2 party system.

In today’s world we need to explore our role, select officers, write down a set of goals to aim for (develop a platform) and just reacquaint ourselves with one another.

We are looking for a place, and a time (either before or after the snow flies). Ideas and input are most welcome, we need an independent (separate of the major political parties) operation to continue the rebuilding the Socialist Movement. Many groups out there, but most seem to focus on policy (universal health care, free colleges, and so forth)! **Come together to provide some needed direction for a new revitalized socialist movement! Let’s hear from you!**

SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee

Come to the Annual SP-Wisconsin Picnic Saturday, Aug. 17 1-5 pm Our Saviors’ Lutheran Church 3022 W. Wisconsin (enter from W. Wells St.)

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

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