



Election Takeaways

... Through an *Antiracist* Lens



ANTIRACIST RESEARCH
& POLICY CENTER

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BIPOC Voters Can't Do it Alone

This week, we've seen a barrage of 'hot takes' that rely on racial and gendered narratives about BIPOC and progressive voters-- conservative Latines, sexist Black men, divisive anti-Zionists--to explain Trump's win. **These claims just don't hold water.**

In reality, **BIPOC people were only 25% of voters** this election, and **less than a third of them** voted for Trump. And even if every third-party voter in every swing state had voted for Harris instead, **it still would not have overcome Trump's lead.**

The truth?: Once again, the vast majority of BIPOC people faced down legalized voter suppression and disenfranchisement to cast their vote against racism, sexism, xenophobia, and transphobia. **When we only focus on Black and Latine voters, we reinforce the idea that it's the BIPOC community's job to save the Democratic party.**


Whiteness: The Elephant in the Room



Here's another truth: Over 70% of 2024 voters were white, and for the third time in a row, the majority of them—both men (60%) and women (53%)—voted for Trump. **White voters voted for Trump at 4x the rate of Black voters, and nearly 2x the rate of BIPOC voters as a whole.**

When we don't talk about this racial disparity, we are shying away from addressing what has been clear for over a decade: from the Central Park 5 to birtherism to 3 campaigns built on demonizing Muslims, Black people, and immigrants of color: **white nationalism and racialized xenophobia have never been unfortunate sidenotes to Trump's appeal for white voters; they have been integral to it.**

It's Not "Just the Economy"




We've heard a lot of about white folks voting purely on the economy. But history shows us that racial and economic politics are closely intertwined. Since slavery, **white Americans have repeatedly responded to economic exploitation and disenfranchisement by reinvesting in white supremacy and racial resentment.**

That's part of why 66% of white voters without a college degree voted for Trump, but **only 34% of their non-white counterparts did the same.**

Trumpism offers a **white ethnostate** as it dismantles the systems of social and economic support needed by all workers and the non-working poor. But the **policies designed to discipline & exclude POC and immigrants harm all working class and poor communities.**

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Race & Gender Backlash



Recognizing the power of whiteness in current politics helps us situate this election within broader social contexts and movements.

Just as the racial reckoning of 2020 was the crest of a movement that had been building for a decade, **this election took place amid a national period of raced & gendered backlash**, including the resurgence of colorblind racism, ‘law and order’ campaigns, the criminalization of reproductive and gender autonomy, anti-immigrant nativism, political repression, and expanding militarism.

Elections reflect the political terrain on which they take place and the strength of the movements undergirding them. That’s where we need to direct our energies and attention now.

Voting (Still) Matters

5 This backlash wasn't just reflected in the presidential race: candidates supportive of racial and economic justice were hit hard across the nation, and state-level wins reflected a national reinvestment in policing, detention, and incarceration.


As we keep saying, **elections alone will never save us or transform our society to full racial equity and justice.** Voting is just one tool. But voting can--and did--alter the terrain of struggle in important ways:

Seven states moved to **protect abortion rights**, overturning two draconian bans. Four states directed funds toward **climate and environmental resilience**, and three states **rejected efforts to disinvest in public education.**

Each of these gains is political ground to build on.

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**“We are the ones we’ve
been waiting for”**



For some, this election may have felt like a wake-up call. For many, it is **one reflection of the conditions they have been organizing in and against every day**, regardless of who sits in the White House.

This is an opportunity to face those conditions unflinchingly, knowing that **struggling together is part of the practice of freedom**. Together, we can identify points of coalition, and name the past and present antagonisms that too often pit us against each other.

Generations of organizers, scholars, and movement builders have shown us the way, and will continue to do so. As June Jordan reminds us, **we are the ones we’ve been waiting for**.

For more:

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