



ELECTION 2016 POST MORTEM: AMERICA IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

What Happened
What Happens Next

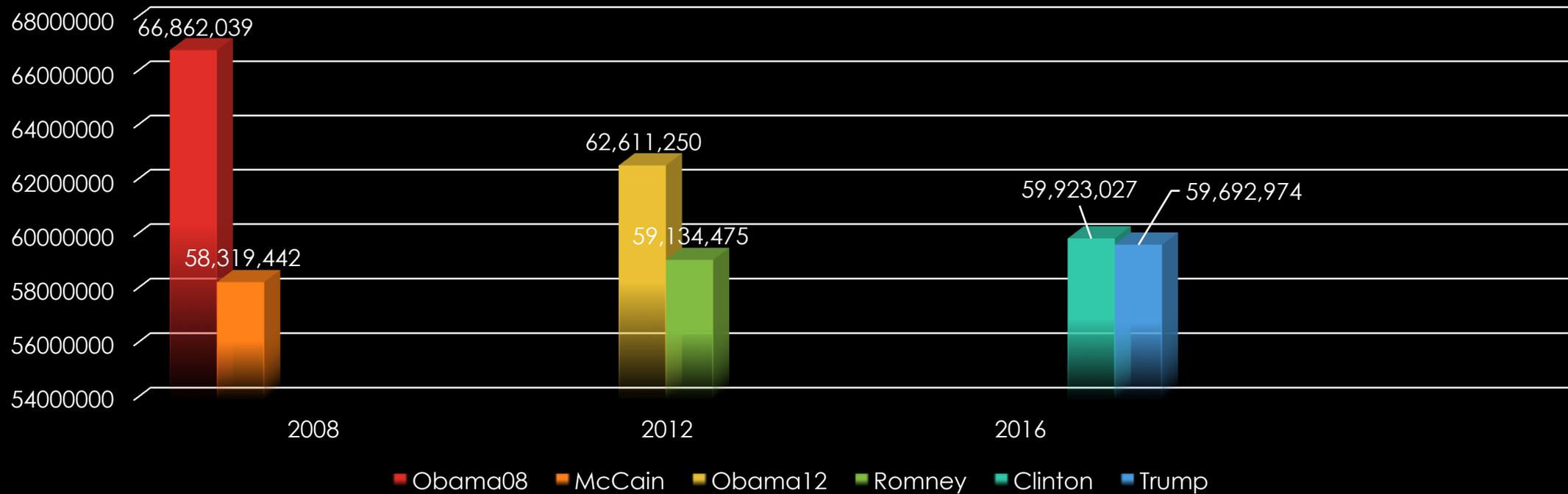
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THE IRAQ WMD OF POLLING

- Every major polling organization – including the Republican National Committee's own internal models and projections – showed a small but consistent Clinton lead and likely victory. **ALL OF THEM WERE WRONG.**
- Polls not rigged: It is in their professional interest to have their forecasts be accurate.
- These organizations, as well as academics and political scientists will be studying and obsessing over this for years trying to figure out what went wrong. Not likely to have a definitive answer anytime in the immediate future.
- One possibility being mentioned: that Trump supporters ignored or did not respond to pollsters. (No hard evidence yet for this, just an idea for now.)
- Bradley Effect for HRC/Women: possibility that people told pollsters they were going to vote for her, but when it came time to actually vote, they didn't (either they voted for someone else or just didn't vote at all).

LOW TURNOUT

TOTAL VOTES CAST, 2008-2016



LOW TURNOUT

- Trump 2016 votes – McCain 2008 votes = + 1,373,532
- Trump 2016 votes – Romney 2012 votes = + 558,499

- Clinton 2016 votes – Obama 2008 votes = - 6,939,012
- Clinton 2016 votes – Obama 2012 votes = - 2,688,223

- Trump Combined Margin of Victory in FL, IA, MI, NC, OH, PA, WI: 929,703

- 2000 Election Turnout: 55.3% (107.3M out of 194.3M)
- 2004 Election Turnout: 60.7% (123.5M out of 203.4M)
- 2008 Election Turnout: 62.2% (132.6M out of 213.3M)
- 2012 Election Turnout: 58.6% (130.2M out of 222.4M)
- 2016 Election Turnout: 55.6% (128.8M out of 231.5M)
- Brexit Turnout: 72.2% (33.5M out of 46.5M)

Sources: New York Times, United States Election Project, Electoral Commission

THE OBAMA COALITION DIDN'T SHOW UP

DEMOGRAPHIC	OBAMA 2008	OBAMA 2012	CLINTON 2016	CHANGE 08/12
Men	49	45	41	-8 , -4
Women	56	55	54	-2 , -1
White	43	39	37	-6 , -2
African American	95	93	88	-7 , -5
Hispanic	67	71	65	-2 , -6
18-29	66	60	55	-11 , -5
30-44	52	52	50	-2 , -2
No Coll. Degree	53	51	45	-8 , -6
College Degree	50	47	49	-1 , +2

Source: New York Times

UNDERLYING DYNAMICS

- Mike Murphy: Polls showing high POTUS approval ratings and desire for change are two trains on collision course. Change usually wins.
- Murphy: Clinton as establishment/experienced candidate in year of outsiders. (Bernie Sanders success in primaries should have been a red flag)
- Email server and Clinton Foundation entirely the fault of the candidate.
- Wild Cards (Russia/WikiLeaks and James Comey): Some Democrats pointing fingers, but will likely be a what if question that will be debated for years.
- Another what if question Democrats will be asking: if Bernie Sanders or Joe Biden would have been a better nominee.
- Lot of Democrats blaming the media for giving Trump a free pass while covering Clinton emails and foundation like Watergate.
- Clinton not as capable or charismatic of a campaigner as Obama.
- Evidence so far shows that Obama coalition won't turn out for other Democratic candidates like they do when Obama not on the ballot. (2010, 2014, and 2016 elections)
- Possible spoiler roles by third party candidates Gary Johnson and Jill Stein.
- Undervotes (Ballots with no vote cast for president) Example: Trump margin of victory in MI: **13,225**

Total undervotes in MI: **110,133**

Source: MLive

A FEW BRIGHT SPOTS FOR DEMOCRATS

- Roy Cooper tentatively ahead by approximately 5,000 votes in NC governor's race, but Pat McCrory won't concede, waiting for military, overseas and provisional ballots to be counted. Won't know for sure who won until next week.
- Harry Reid political machine in Nevada ran the table and won every race in the state.
- Democrats elected second black woman, first Latina woman to the U.S. Senate.
- Sheriff Joe Arpaio lost reelection bid in Arizona.
- 7 states passed ballot initiatives to legalize marijuana.
- 4 states passed ballot initiatives to raise the minimum wage.
- 2 states passed ballot initiatives for gun control.
- Won the popular vote in 5 out of last 6 elections. (Exception: 2004)

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

- Transition process begins immediately
- Trump Transition Team will be putting together a cabinet and a list of White House and executive branch appointees to staff the federal government and carry out the Trump agenda, some of which will require Senate confirmation.
- Trump and Pence will immediately begin receiving full national security briefings on everything, including the most sensitive secrets, sources, and methods.
- Trump University trial begins November 28. Trump will testify under oath.

WHAT HAPPENS IN JANUARY?

- Donald Trump and Mike Pence will be sworn in as president and vice president at noon on January 20, 2017.
- Republicans will have complete control of the executive and legislative branches of the federal government for the first time since 2003-2007.
- Congress:
 - 239-192 majority in the House of Representatives
 - Real question now as to whether or not Paul Ryan is re-elected as Speaker of the House. He broke with and criticized Trump several times during the campaign. Possibility that House Freedom Caucus might feel emboldened to try and remove or replace him with a more hardline conservative in light of Trump victory.
 - Likely 52-48 majority in the Senate. (Pending runoff election for Louisiana Senate race. Republicans are expected to hold this seat easily.)

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

CERTAINTY

- Obamacare repeal
- Supreme Court nomination
- Undo Obama executive orders (Iran nuclear deal, Paris climate change agreement, immigration, business and environmental regulations.)

LIKELY

- Tax cuts
- Dodd/Frank repeal
- Mexican border wall
- Trade deals or renegotiations

LESS LIKELY

- Clinton special prosecutor
- Redeployment of troops to Iraq
- Reinstigate torture/waterboarding of terror suspects

NOT HAPPENING

- Muslim ban
- Term limits on members of Congress

