

Unconventional Times: Making Sense of a Nonsensical Election

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Public Power Issues

- Energy Bill
- Tax exempt financing
- Appropriations
- Distributed Generation
- Community Solar
- Environmental Regulations
- Rail
- FEMA









WTF?

How Did We Get Here?

He Said What?

The Candidate

- Older, a newcomer to the national stage.
- Wildly popular, huge crowds.
- Thinks the system is rigged.
- Thinks you're being ripped off.
- An outsider; wants to shake things up.
- Blames everything on the Clintons.



The 17

- Marco Rubio
- Jeb Bush
- Rand Paul
- John Kasich
- Ted Cruz
- Jim Gilmore
- Ben Carson
- Chris Christie
- Carly Fiorina
- Rick Santorum
- Mike Huckabee
- George Pataki
- Lindsey Graham
- Scott Walker
- Bobby Jindal
- Rick Perry
- Donald Trump

The “Autopsy Report”

- Post-Romney: March 2013
- RNC: party leaders and 5 political consultants
- The national party was “increasingly marginalizing itself, and unless changes are made, it will be increasingly difficult for Republicans to win another presidential election in the near future.”

The Autopsy Report

- “Public perception of the Party is at record lows. Young voters are increasingly rolling their eyes at what the Party represents, and many minorities wrongly think that Republicans do not like them or want them in the country.”
- The Party is “increasingly out of touch” and “driving around in circles on an ideological cul-de-sac.”

The Autopsy Report Candidates

- Marco Rubio
- Jeb Bush
- Chris Christie
- John Kasich
- Scott Walker

How Did We Get Here?

He broke the rules:

- The Party decides.
- Experience matters.
- Gaffes matter.
- All politics is local.

Remember this?

- He won't last.
- He won't win a single primary.
- He'll implode any day now.
- He can't even debate.
- He won't win the nomination.
- And he certainly won't win the White House.

The Five Stages of Trump Grief (apologies to Elisabeth Kubler-Ross)

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance



Party Angst: Ryan-Trump

- “...a very positive step toward unification.”
- Declines to endorse.
- Not ready to endorse: I have no timeline...
- Finally “endorses” —Janesville Gazette.
- Bad timing: sharply rebukes Trump over Judge Gonzalo Curiel.
- Trump could win but I’m not “betting” on it.

Trump Breaks the Mold

- No political experience.
- No real campaign operation.
- No ground game.
- No fundraising effort.
- No institutional support within the Party.

And Then There's This

- He's foul.
- Filthy.
- Embarrassing.
- Repugnant.
- Not studious.
- Not a policy wonk.







Which One is True?

- She's the most qualified candidate.
- Maybe ever.
- She's a lousy candidate.
- Her negatives are still higher than her positives.
- She didn't take Bernie seriously.
- She's her own worst enemy.

The Electoral College Matters

- Clinton leads today in key states: Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Michigan, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, Nevada, Oregon.
- Trump leads in: North Carolina, Arizona.

Will the Senate Turn Over? (It Takes Four.)

- AZ—McCain
- IL—Kirk
- FL—Rubio
- NV—Open
- NH—Ayotte
- OH—Portman
- PA—Toomey
- WI--Johnson

What Happens if Trump Wins?



What if Clinton Wins?



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The End.
Really.