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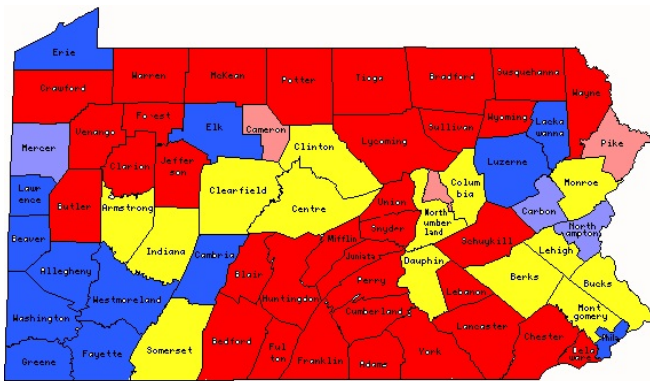
Pennsylvania Republicans Confronting Self-Inflicted Meltdown

Philadelphia GOP Faces Genuine Risk of Becoming Uncertified

The multiple technical indicators which quantitatively demonstrate political performance that suggest the Republican Party's organizational responsiveness is precipitously deteriorating is most evident within the nation's first Republican state — Pennsylvania.

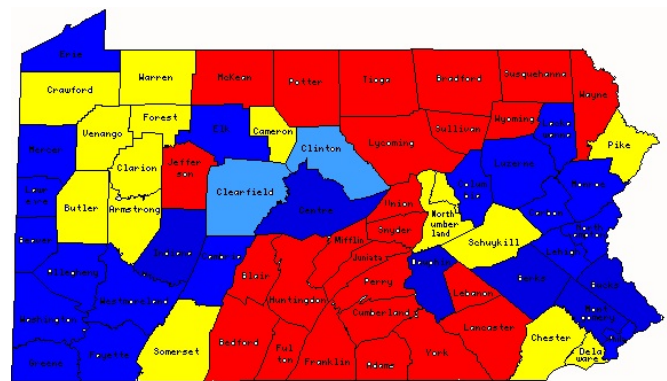
Democrats have now realized a 1,169,563 edge in voter registration, of which the 4,387,027 registered Democrats represents 51.0% of all voters, while 3,217,464 registered Republicans constitute 37.4%, with an additional 431,161 voters registered in minor parties and 563,861 as no-party (commonly referred as "independents").

However, within Philadelphia's suburban "collar" counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, not only as Democratic registration gone up, now becoming the majority in Bucks and Montgomery in the first time since the Civil War; but Republican TLI, Turnout Loyalty Index, has dramatically fallen. In the traditional GOP powerhouse of Montgomery County, Republican TLI has declined from a historical 60.1% average turnout to 33.31% in the 2006 election. The overall average Republican TLI for the four suburban counties declined from 68.5% historical average, to 61.8% ten year average, now down to 35.45% in 2006.



Penna. Voter Registration by County (Fall 2006).
Democratic (Blue) Swing (Yellow) GOP (Red)

The Democratic voter registration lead is not historically uncommon. More important, it does not by itself foreclose GOP electoral victory, as traditionally 40% of all Democrats are "misaligned," meaning although registered Democratic, they vote Republican. Nationally, this phenomenon is known as "Reagan Democrats" although within Pennsylvania, these voters go by more local appellations, such as "Rizzocrats." Misaligned Democrats traditionally give Pennsylvania Republicans a 645,997 voter margin, assuming average voter turnout.



Penna. Voter Registration by County (Fall 2008)
Democratic (Blue), Swing (Yellow) GOP (Red)

This GOP decline is in comparison to the Democrats' spectacular TLI growth, from a 75.2% ten year average to a stunning 108.42% in 2006.

Likewise, although Philadelphia is regarded as a Democratic stronghold, the city still has, numerically speaking, more registered Republicans than all but 5 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Yet, its Republican TLI has declined from an historical 70.5% to 28.32% in 2006. (It

recovered only marginally in the 2007 mayoral elections to 31.24%. The GOP's only saving grace is that Democratic TLI within Philadelphia is abysmal with its ten year average at 43.96%, realizing only a 7% gain in 2006 to 50.36% turnout in 2006. In the mayoral elections, Democratic TLI slipped below that of the GOP to 30.3%. The 2008 Democratic Primary however foretells serious difficulties for the GOP, as Democratic TLI was 53.77% while Republican TLI tumbled to an all-time low 14.73%.

The Republican loss of southeastern Pennsylvania has turned a traditional GOP voter edge, when including misaligned Democrats, of a 645,997 vote cushion; to a 610,683 Democratic vote edge, if both Democratic and Republican TLIs are in 2008 as in 2006. In order for the Republicans to win Pennsylvania, the party organizational structure has to reverse its declines in the Philadelphia suburban collar counties, while boosting its TLI statewide to 86%, which if not counting misaligned Democrats, will still produce a 13,566 GOP voter margin, assuming Independents split 50-50 and minor parties vote along their philosophical fault lines.

If the Democratic turnout in Philadelphia, however reverses its downward trajectory or if the collar counties Democratic turnout remains constant without any GOP response; a GOP victory is all but dashed statewide. The Democratic vote totals from two metropolitan cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh (Allegheny County) plus Philadelphia's four suburban Collar Counties represents a 963,886 Democratic vote margin, or 37.4% of the statewide Democratic total. If Republicans relied on all other counties outside of Southeast Pennsylvania and Allegheny County, their Republican vote lead is 212,724 GOP votes, or 10.8% of the total GOP vote. Democrats now command a 447,157 vote lead in the four Collar Counties, if party TLI for the Democrats continue to climb while the GOP continues to fall. This margin cannot be compensated by GOP dominated counties in the balance of the Commonwealth. Likewise, an increase in Democratic turnout in Philadelphia of 15% to 20% would also wipe out the GOP's statewide edge.

Equally important is that the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 P.S. § 2831(b), would compel the Republicans to lose their political party status in Philadelphia, if the Democrats push McCain's vote total below 5%. While still not probable, such is no longer outside the realm of possibility. If the Democrats within Philadelphia equal their suburban Democrats' TLI, or if the Philadelphia Republican TLI for the General Election remains the same as the Primary, then the GOP percentage of Obama's vote total falls below the five percent.

That the GOP faces tough sledding down ticket is evident by the Competition Index, a compilation of the mean Republican vote in the past 25 elections and the percentage of the past 25 elections when the GOP candidate won the majority of votes, carried out four decimal points which at .5000 is a toss-up, the higher the greater GOP domination, the lower the greater Democratic strength.

The Competition Index for the four suburban Philadelphia counties has declined from .6464 in Presidential elections down to .5617 for the past ten years; while in gubernatorial elections from .6168 to .5641. These Competition Index trends suggests that Senator Barak Obama could pickup more votes than even Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell in his 2006 re-election bid.

The PCI, Partisan Consistency Index also suggests significant Republican difficulties. The PCI is the spread between the highest and lowest vote-getter on the ticket, the lower the PCI the more electors vote straight ticket. In Montgomery County, comparing the last two gubernatorial election results (2002 to 2006), the PCI for both parties have remained relatively equal to each other in each Congressional and State Senatorial district. However, the closer to Philadelphia, the more each side voted straight ticket, for example in the 2nd Congressional District, the PCI was 5.9% for the Democrats and 7.6% for the GOP. The further from Philadelphia, i.e. the 15th Congressional District, the more likely voters were to split their ticket, with a Democratic PCI of 30.4% and a GOP PCI of 29.1%. The state senatorial districts showed the same volatility.

However, in those Congressional and senatorial districts of greater proximity to Philadelphia, the trend is that Democrats will vote more straight ticket than Republicans. For example, in Cheltenham Township, the Democratic PCI was 5.9%, the Republican PCI was 7.6% in 2006, hence more Democratic straight ticket and more GOP ticket splitting; in 2002, the Democratic PCI was 6.2 % and Republican PCI was 4.8%. The end result is Republican ticket splitting increased 63%. In other districts in 2006 where the GOP PCI remained constant reflecting minimal ticket-splitting, it was matched by equally solid Democratic straight ticket voting. This demonstrates a decreasing opportunity for persuading voters to cross the aisle. In a state where the Democratic registration and turnout loyalty is increasing, such does not hold well for the Republican Party.