

Republican Perspective

4 January 2017

by John Littig

A Simple Analysis

A friend said that people are telling him they knew all along that Trump was going to win. He opined that they didn't know it, and were just band-wagoneers or were puffing up their credentials as astute observers and analysts of the political scene.

Well, here's a news flash. I predicted it, and I've got it in black and white. Prove it? OK.

The Sunday evening before election day, I was at a small gathering of fellow GOPers. After sufficient consumption of Rombauer Chardonnay, the host asked us all to make predictions, and he documented the results.

 # 2

Same date as before?
Will Hillary (Killary) be indicted/impeached?

Yes
 No
John No
 (No (w/ grant hope for yes)
 Yes

Same date
Will she be pardoned?

Yes
 Yes
John Yes
 Yes
 Yes

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

 # 1

11/6/16 6:40 pm
Which party retains Senate?

Repub
 Repub
John Repub
 Repub
 Repub

Same date and time
Who will be elected President?

Trump
 Clinton (w/ devout hope I'm wrong)
John Trump (there is a movement for hidden votes)
 Trump
 Clinton (due to voter fraud)

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

As you can see in the accompanying image, we were called upon to predict four outcomes: which party would control the Senate; which candidate would win the presidency; whether Hillary Clinton would be indicted/impeached; and whether she would be pardoned.

Let's focus on the question of which candidate would be elected president (the lower right quadrant of the accompanying image). There were five of us. You'll see that two said Clinton, three said Trump. To the right of my name, note that I correctly predicted Trump the winner. I was among those three who got it right.

I don't know the reasoning of the other two (political astuteness, or clairvoyance, or just wishful thinking). But my answer was based on analysis. Not a profound analysis, mind you, just a simple analysis. I offer it here.

After Trump had been nominated, in the lead-up to the general election, Trump supporters had a rough go of it. Hillary Clinton called them deplorable: racist, sexist, xenophobic, homophobic---and worse: irredeemable. As we all saw on TV, identifiable Trumpers were vilified, beaten, chased, egged, spat upon. Yard signs were set afire. After all, the Trumpians are deplorable and irredeemable---so they deserve being attacked.

Even in our little valley, Trump supporters felt they should hide their colors. Seemingly, many cars sported Hillary decals---virtually none for Trump. No "Make America Great Again" hats on display either. Not because there weren't Trump voters (they came to 24.9% in our county), but because they thought it prudent not to fess up.

So I can't lay claim to special election knowledge or predictive powers. It just seemed to me to be pretty obvious. If you can earn a load of grief for admitting to being for Trump, better to keep your yap shut.

Ergo: there were undeclared Trumpers out there, and they weren't showing up in the polling. Of course I had no idea the extent of this understatement of Trump support---but anyone with half a brain could have told you it was there.

And that, dear readers, is why the polls got it wrong and I got it right. I only wish we had put money on our predictions, or at least a bottle of Rombauer.