

were in a dead heat and pollsters were predicting a record-low voter turnout.

Nationally, the turnout in this mid-term election was slightly below the norm, about 36%. But not in Maryland. In Maryland, 58% of the electorate went to the polls. African-Americans voted in record numbers. Glendening won a stunning victory, beating GOP challenger Ellen Sauerbrey by more than 12%.

It was a pattern that was repeated: Leading Republicans were dealt smashing defeats in critical races. Newt Gingrich, who likened the 1994 Conservative Revolution sweep into Congress to the French Revolution, met his Thermidor.

It was, to be sure, a decisive election. But, imagine what could have been accomplished, had there been a coordinated national strategy by the Democratic Party to win back the Congress; if LaRouche's strategy, rather than the Third Way Democrats, had prevailed from the beginning. That issue is, at the moment, the center of a heated controversy among leading Democrats.

The Third Way Democratic agenda, and, it would seem, Al Gore along with it, has been discredited as the road to nowhere. Where does the alternative leadership lie? Associates and friends of Lyndon LaRouche continue to urge President Clinton to enlist LaRouche's help in guiding the nation through the financial and strategic storms that loom on the horizon.

## Democratic victories: A sea change has begun

by Jeffrey Steinberg

For the first time in 54 years in a mid-term election, citizens cast the majority of their votes for the party in control of the White House. Democrats gained a total of five seats in the House of Representatives, the Senate remained unchanged, Democrats scored gains across the nation in state legislatures, and won some important upset victories in gubernatorial races.

The election was a crucial vote of confidence for President Bill Clinton, coming at a moment when any GOP gains would have incited a partisan flight forward toward an unconstitutional and treasonous impeachment of the President. Voters across the country made it clear that they want the impeachment stampede to end — now!

“Cry Baby” Newt Gingrich's sudden departure from the Congress, 72 hours after the polls closed, represented an unambiguous sign that the “Contract on Americans,” the Elmer Gantry antics of the Christian Right, and the other manifestations of the Conservative Revolution in America are played

out, and have been rejected by the majority of Americans. It may go down as the greatest casting out of a political revolution since the Jacobins met their fate in France's Thermidor, 200 years ago.

But, an honest appraisal of the vote should also send a clear message to the so-called “New Democrats,” especially the team of campaign strategists contemplating Vice President Albert Gore, Jr.'s 2000 Presidential campaign. “Triangulation” — “Dirty Dick” Morris's term for the Democratic Party's abandoning of traditional FDR constituents in favor of an appeal to suburban yuppies and other Gingrichite Republican voters — is also dead. Triangulation meant obliteration on Nov. 3 for any Democratic candidate dumb enough to pursue the campaign strategy set forth by Morris, the Democratic Leadership Council, and other like-minded poll-cats.

### What did, and didn't happen

The overwhelming majority of incumbents won re-election to Congress. Where there was no serious challenge, or some other ballot initiative driving voter turnout, voters stayed home in record numbers. Roughly 34-36% of the eligible voters turned out nationally on Nov. 3. But, where there were serious races, particularly where President Clinton personally went to bat for Democratic candidates, voters turned out in droves. In Maryland, where incumbent Democrats Gov. Parris Glendening and Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend faced a well-financed challenge, the voter turnout was 56% — and the Democratic slate scored a landslide victory.

In New York, the President and the First Lady played the pivotal role in securing Rep. Charles Schumer (D) an upset victory over incumbent Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R). Hillary Rodham Clinton made six campaign trips to New York to boost Schumer's challenge. The Schumer race against D'Amato was one of the most unambiguous referendums on Clintongate. The three-term Republican Senator had used his chairmanship of the Banking Committee to stage vicious partisan hearings on Whitewater. A combination of African-American, Jewish, and Hispanic voters in the urban centers of New York State sent D'Amato packing by a surprisingly wide margin.

The other clear Clintongate referendum took place in North Carolina, where incumbent Sen. Lauch Faircloth (R), who was central in the selection of Kenneth Starr as Whitewater independent counsel (see *EIR*, Aug. 19, 1994), was defeated by 48-year-old attorney and Democratic Party activist John Edwards.

The Christian Right also suffered some stinging defeats, which will now trigger a major battle for control of the Republican Party at the grassroots level all across the country. The Nov. 3 vote busted the decade-long media-promulgated myth that “no GOP candidate can win without pandering to the social conservatives.”

From Wisconsin to South Carolina, from Alabama to California, hard-core clones of televangelists Jerry Falwell and



*LaRouche supporters mobilize against Gingrich in Houston in January 1996. Today, “Cry Baby” Newt’s sudden departure from Congress, after a stunning election defeat for his Conservative Revolution, means that the Jacobins have met their Thermidor—good news for the nation!*

Pat Robertson were swept from office or defeated in their election bids. The era of the single-issue “litmus test” (e.g., abortion) died a long-overdue death.

In Wisconsin, Sen. Russell Feingold (D) faced a serious challenge from “New Right” wunderkind Rep. Mark Neumann (R), in a race that was billed as a “must-win” by conservative Republicans. Feingold, a co-sponsor of the most ambitious campaign finance reform bill before the Congress, imposed a unilateral cap on how much he would raise for his re-election bid. He won.

California was the scene of the most substantial Democratic Party victory in the country. For the first time since the late 1950s, the Democratic Party has won control of both U.S. Senate seats, the Governor’s and Lieutenant Governor’s posts, the state Attorney General’s office, and both houses of the state legislature. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, the Orange County Democrat who beat GOP incumbent and “Stone Age” conservative Robert Dornan (R) in 1996 by fewer than 500 votes,

and had to endure a lengthy vote-fraud probe throughout much of her first term, defeated Dornan by a wide margin this year. “B-1 Bob” was silent as a church mouse when the vote totals were announced.

If the election results in the East and the South heralded the revival of the African-American voters as a powerful force in U.S. electoral politics, California signalled the full-fledged emergence of Hispanic-American voters as a growing force. California elected its first Hispanic-American Lieutenant Governor, Cruz Bustamante; Ron Gonzalez was elected Mayor of San Jose, in the heart of Silicon Valley; and Lee Baca was elected Los Angeles County Sheriff, taking charge of the largest sheriff’s department in America.

California Gray Lt. Gov. Gray Davis (D) dealt an overwhelming defeat to Republican Attorney General Dan Lungren (an abortion “litmus test” arch-conservative), was one of three major gubernatorial victories by Democrats against Christian Right candidates. The other two Democratic gubernatorial victories were even more striking, because they were against incumbents who had been billed as unbeatable. In both cases, the African-American voter turnout provided the decisive margin of victory: In South Carolina, Democrat Jim Hodges defeated David Beasley, and in Alabama, Democrat Donald Siegelman clobbered incumbent Gov. Fob James by a 58-42% margin.

### State legislative gains

For the first time in decades, the Democratic Party made gains in state legislative races nationwide. Since 1942, the President’s party lost an average of 382 state legislative seats nationally in mid-term elections, matching the pattern in the mid-term Congressional races. Furthermore, between 1968 and 1996, the Democrats had gone from controlling 68% of the state legislative seats nationally, to controlling just 52%. This year, Democrats reversed the precipitous declines, by gaining a total of 45 seats nationally, and achieving a net gain of four chambers.

The heavy turnout by African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Asian-Americans was a significant factor, and here is where the “LaRouche factor” may have been most evident.

More than 700 current state representatives and senators have signed the Open Letter to President Clinton, demanding Lyndon LaRouche’s exoneration. The majority are Democrats, and African-American and Hispanic legislators especially, plus leaders of their national associations, have stepped forward to take national leadership, on such issues as the fight to win U.S. Congressional approval of the McDade-Murtha Citizens Protection Act of 1998, which holds Federal prosecutors accountable under state laws (and, if fully implemented in the 106th Congress, will create a Presidential and Congressional appointed independent review board to probe criminal misconduct by U.S. prosecutors and other Justice Department officials).

It was State Rep. Harold James (D-Phila.), the head of the

Pennsylvania state Legislative Black Caucus, who organized the first state Democratic Party rally to defend the President against Starr's assault on the Presidency, at the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

It is not surprising that some major U.S. media, in the wake of the strong African-American turnout, began touting a Jesse Jackson Presidential bid in 2000 to further galvanize the traditional civil rights constituents. But, Jackson was missing in action throughout the McDade-Murtha fight during the Spring-Summer 1998, and his son, Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.), was actually an impediment within the Congressional Black Caucus in the McDade-Murtha fight. Similarly, Jackson was of no help to Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.), the only serious Democratic casualty in the mid-term election. Moseley-Braun, with help from the First Lady, made a dramatic comeback during the final days of the campaign, but fell short of victory.

But that kind of sabotage by the usual establishment media types and the self-destruct deviant Democrats will not blunt the reality of Election Day 1998: The FDR coalition of minorities, labor, small business, and farmers have reasserted their primacy within Democratic Party politics, and the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Leadership Council, Vice President Al Gore, and anyone else stubborn enough to deny that reality will pay dearly, long before the year 2000 ballots are cast.

## Labor mobilized the 'Forgotten Man'

by Marianna Wertz

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney greeted the Nov. 3 election results as ushering in "a new era of people-powered politics, with union members turning out at record levels and making the difference in race after race, and with African-American and Latino participation way up." The AFL-CIO's dogged determination, since 1996, to change the *culture* of the union movement, in order to launch large-scale, grassroots organizing of what Franklin Roosevelt called "the forgotten man," laid the basis for an electoral win that shocked even Sweeney and his allies.

The union drive registered *half a million* new voters. An unprecedented 23% of voters in the election were members of union households, despite the fact that union households represent only 17% of the American voting-age population. This is up from 14% union household participation in 1994, the last mid-term election. This union share of the vote is higher than in the 1992 Presidential election, and nearly as high as the 1996 Presidential election, in which turnout is always much higher than in mid-term elections.

As with the large turnout of minorities, which was directly sparked by the LaRouche movement's fight to save the Presidency, thousands of labor leaders endorsed the call to save the Presidency circulated by the LaRouche movement in the weeks leading up to the election. In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on Sept. 28, the first-in-the-nation Democratic Party-sponsored rally to support President Clinton, at which AFL-CIO Pennsylvania President Bill George brought Sweeney's greetings, was also addressed by the Schiller Institute's Phil Valenti, and helped spark the nationwide movement that reversed the Gingrichites' fortunes.

Indeed, the labor movement's turnout reflected a determination to fight for the better side of the Clinton Presidency—saving Social Security, passing the Patients' Bill of Rights, defending public education, defeating anti-union legislation, and raising the minimum wage. Yet, the AFL-CIO could have turned out thousands more union voters than they did, and potentially changed the balance of Congress, were it not for Clinton's and other leading Democrats' failings—particularly their insane support of free-trade policies. In the weeks before the election, as the Monica Lewinsky affair was dominating the national media, the AFL-CIO Executive Council met to decide whether to issue a statement in support of Clinton, as proposed by Sweeney. The council was so divided over Clinton, *mainly because of his support of free trade*, that no statement could be issued. As a result, many working class people sat out the election.

Despite this, the impact of the labor vote was decisive in many state and Federal elections, and makes clear the importance of organizing Americans around "bread and butter" issues.

### Re-engage 'ordinary Americans'

The change in the labor movement was instituted after the November 1996 elections, which, despite millions of dollars spent by the AFL-CIO, failed to defeat the Gingrichites' control over Congress. The AFL-CIO's glitzy, media-driven campaign in 1996 generally flopped, because it didn't engage the population. Since then, the labor federation has been mobilizing its 13 million members to organize, and to reach out to the unorganized, the unemployed, senior citizens, women, minorities—everyone who could potentially be organized to join a union and/or fight to elect pro-labor politicians. They defined the fight around issues, rather than individuals, and as a non-partisan question, rather than blanket support for Democrats—many of whom were abandoning their principles wholesale, to join what LaRouche has dubbed the "deviant Democrats."

The results were clear on Nov. 3. A jubilant Sweeney told the press the next day: "All of you who have been out and around the country during the election cycle, know how huge the union effort has been. And you know that our focus was on one-to-one contact with individual union members and their family members, reaching back to our roots, to make this the year of the worksite, and the doorstep and the telephone."