

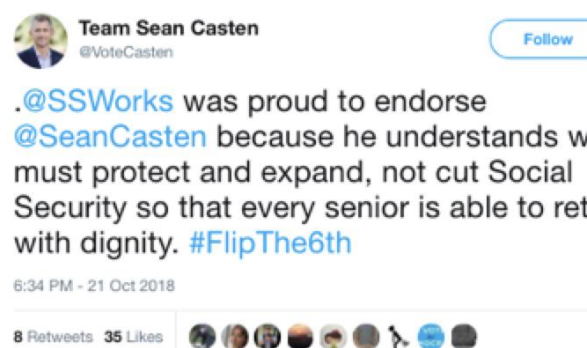
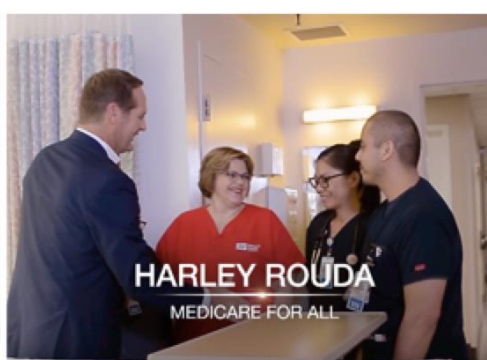
MEMO

To: House & Senate Democratic Staff
From: Adam Green, Progressive Change Campaign Committee Co-Founder
Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018
RE: Data - How Incoming House Democrats Campaigned

Tuesday was an amazing and historic day. We are so happy for all our friends in the House who persevered through years in the minority in order to do even more for the American public in the majority.

Sadly, [Wall Street-funded think tank](#) staffers are circulating intellectually dishonest talking points about what type of candidate won on Tuesday. If House Democrats listen to bad advice and avoid bold ideas that tangibly improve people's lives, it will dampen public enthusiasm for Democrats and tell voters that our side does not even try to fulfill campaign promises. We were proud to partner with at least 25 incoming House Democratic freshmen this cycle and look forward to partnering with House Democrats to inspire the American public going into 2020.

Below are 3 things every Democratic congressional office should know about how candidates won this year. But first, see for yourself how incoming House Democratic freshmen campaigned:



1) New data you can verify for yourself at [HowDemsRan2018.com](https://www.howdemsran2018.com) shows 64.3% of the incoming Democratic House freshman class embraced bold economic populist ideas. The rest also largely leaned into economic populism.

American Prospect editor Bob Kuttner [writes](#), "The Progressive Change Institute examined all 142 Democratic candidates in contested races, based on rankings from the Cook Report as well as material from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee." The Wall Street Journal [reports](#) on the latest data at [HowDemsRan2018.com](https://www.howdemsran2018.com) applied to winners.

An analysis of campaign communications from incoming House Democratic freshmen shows **64.3% (36 of 56) support Medicare For All, a Medicare Option For All, and/or Expanding Social Security**, some of the boldest economic populist ideas. That includes 61.8% of incoming Democratic women (21 of 34), 55.6% of DCCC Red to Blue winners (20 of 36) and even 56.8% of candidates embraced by the corporate-funded NewDemPAC (21 of 37). These numbers are based on winners as of 1pm on Thursday, November 8.

Most other incoming Democratic freshmen also embraced economic populist ideas like challenging Big Pharma, protecting Social Security and Medicare from cuts, rejecting corporate PAC money, raising the minimum wage, improving laws for unions, and ending tax cuts for the wealthy. Go to [HowDemsRan2018.com](https://www.howdemsran2018.com) to see the data for yourself, including Dropbox links to screen shots of candidate issue positions.

2) Third Way relies on the wrong indicators to give intellectually faulty and politically unwise advice.

The best indicator of what policies a candidate or the public supports...is what policies they say they support. But truth often works against the agenda of [Wall Street-funded think tank](#) Third Way, so they use a different approach in their arguments:

Polling: For years, Third Way has looked at polling that shows a whopping 70% of voters support big ideas like expanding Social Security, yet only 25% call themselves liberal. They then urge Democrats not to support those big ideas because they are liberal. But we don't need a random label as a proxy. Voters said exactly what they support. This sleight of hand is used over and over again. If listened to, it moves Democrats toward positions popular with Third Way's corporate funders, but not with the public. (Check out this [Big Ideas poll](#) from DCCC pollster GBA Strategies.)

Endorsements: Similarly, Third Way pretends that the NewDemPAC naming a candidate to their Watch List or mailing them a check makes that candidate "moderate" -- even when that candidate supports Medicare For All, a Medicare Option For All, Expanding Social Security, or other economic populist ideas. They then claim "moderates" won and advise Democratic leaders to trim their sails and avoid bold ideas that helped our side win.

As Ryan Grim and David Dayen [report](#) at the Intercept, "The NewDemPAC is also claiming as its own California candidates like Harley Rouda and Katie Hill, both of whom are so strongly in favor of a "Medicare For All" health care system that they have been endorsed by Rep. Pramila Jayapal's Medicare for All PAC. This does not jibe with the NewDems's [mealy-mouthed call](#) to 'promote greater insurance

coverage,' and Third Way's repeated insistence that calling for the policy is a death wish for Democrats."

The NewDemPAC also rushed endorsements and checks to candidates who were likely to win days before this week's election. That's fantastic if the goal is to win, but not fantastic if it's in pursuit of pretending that a candidate cashing that check is a proxy for their ideology. Numerous candidates told us that they accepted NewDemPAC checks knowing nothing about them except they were Democrats. When told that New Dems were 27 of the 33 Democrats who voted with Republicans to water down Wall Street reform recently, candidates were routinely surprised and said they disagreed with that agenda.

Communications: In an attempt to say candidates did not campaign on issues they disagree with, Third Way said they examined 30-second TV ads. In contrast, the Progressive Change Institute hired 10 researchers to scan candidates' TV ads, websites, Facebook and Twitter accounts, Facebook ads, news clips, and even debate performances. The above image reflects a small cross-sample. See full data at HowDemsRan2018.com -- including the Dropbox links for each candidate with image citations.

3) Bold progressives at the top of the ticket in Texas, Georgia, and Florida helped more House Dems win

Stacey Abrams, Andrew Gillum, and Beto O'Rourke were clearly the most well-known progressive rockstars this cycle. It's unfortunate they narrowly lost, and we hope final counting leads to a run-off in Georgia -- overcoming clear voter suppression in that state.

But regardless, states where Democrats have had trouble winning for years became unpredictable toss ups in large part because of an electorate inspired by never-before-heard bold and authentic visions for economic and racial justice. All three of them dramatically outperformed past Democrats running statewide on a milquetoast Republican-lite message.

Who benefited from increased turnout?

- Debbie Mucarsel-Powell flipped FL-26, receiving 50.9%
- Donna Shalala flipped FL-27, receiving 51.8%
- Lucy McBath flipped GA-6, receiving 50.5%
- Lizzie Fletcher flipped TX-7, receiving 52.3%
- Collin Allred flipped TX-32, receiving 52.2%

The Democratic Party has always represented progress for the people. There have always been naysayers as ideas like Medicare and Social Security were proposed and passed.

We hope you agree that a Democratic House should fulfill campaign promises and put a North Star brightly in the sky so that voters know what Democrats stand for going into 2020. We look forward to partnering with House Democrats toward this goal. Please be in touch with any questions. Thanks for your time.