



Bernie Sanders Rapid Response Library

Version 2.0 – 14 Oct. 2016

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General Comments

Reagan Analogy – History Repeats!

Imagine, a politician who is true to his ideals, even when they are not popular; one who stays the course, keeps true to himself, and seizes the right moment when the US public is of the right mind to accept his radically different message.

This politician speaks plainly, has an answer to every question, and is magnificently convincing because he is sincere and well-practiced in his delivery, in his positions, in his unabashed embrace of a political philosophy that had been decried as “radical” and “fringe” and “out of the mainstream” for the past decades.

Suddenly, this politician gains traction with the Common Man, who appreciates his honesty, understands his outrage, and has had enough of the “mainstream” political philosophy that has simply stopped working for America. He leads what quickly becomes a political “Revolution” that dramatically changes the political landscape in America ...

Yes of course I am talking about Ronald Reagan.

But I think the same holds true for Bernie. He has spent decades in the wilderness. He has endured the long period in which “liberal” was a dirty epithet, and “socialism” even worse. But his time has arrived, and I would bet that we will see “Bernie Republicans” come out and support him.

And after all, why not? Bernie represents the economic interests of what we used to call “Reagan Democrats” - every one of his positions enjoys strong majority support among ALL Americans, regardless of party affiliation.

Bernie is running against a woman with a LOT of baggage, and one who is beholden to what Bernie calls the “billionaire class” ... just as Reagan was able to dismiss GHW Bush, Bob Dole, John Anderson and others as “too liberal” and corrupt during the 1980 GOP Primary, Bernie will also be able to sell himself, ultimately, as “the real deal” - with Hillary being just too conservative and corrupted by her billionaire friends on Wall Street and K Street.

Yes, my friends, the pendulum is finally swinging. We thought we were seeing a sea change with Obama - but he turned out to be just another opportunistic politician. Bernie is the clear-eyed, consistent, unabashed Liberal that America will love.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Reagan Comparison - Short

Imagine, a politician who is true to his ideals, even when they are not popular; one who stays the course, keeps true to himself, and seizes the right moment when the US public is of the right mind to accept his radically different message.

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philosophy that has simply stopped working for America. He leads what quickly becomes a political “Revolution” that dramatically changes the political landscape in America ...

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But I think the same holds true for Bernie. He has spent decades in the wilderness. He has endured the long period in which “liberal” was a dirty epithet. But his time has arrived, and I would bet that we will see “Bernie Republicans” come out and support him.

Like Bernie, the “Reagan Revolution” also came out of the blue: remember – the great socialist programs of Medicare, Medicaid and The Great Society were all introduced in the late 60’s – if someone had told me a scant decade later that a far-right cowboy B-movie actor who was against Social Security and against Medicare and against Roe v. Wade and against unions and against civil rights would win in Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and yes, even Vermont, I would have told them they were CRAZY.
So go ahead. Call us crazy.

Reagan Comparison - Reply

Bernie Sanders will be our next President, so get used to it. The “free market” capitalism / libertarianism you all claim to support is the greatest MYTH ever perpetrated on humanity - there is no such thing as a free market, there are only different people who make the rules. As a Democratic Socialist - which is very different from a Socialist (see <http://www.dsausa.org>), Bernie believes that people should have a larger role in deciding how the market functions, so that the economy is there to serve the people and not vice-versa. I remember 1980 when Reagan won by a landslide, a far right Conservative winning NY, NJ, MA and almost every other blue state except Minnesota - it was a blowout. And now the country is ready for a blowout in the other direction.

So hold onto your tinfoil hats, it's going to be a bumpy ride for y'all.

Reagan Comparison - Age

Bernie is about as old as Joe Biden is, and just a few years older than Hillary. However, I like to compare Sanders to Reagan, who also led a transformative (as Obama says) “revolution” in American politics.

When Reagan was elected, he was 69, which was just 3 years away from the average life expectancy at the time. Bernie is 73, but he is a full 6 years away from the average life expectancy today.

In short, if 50 is the new 30, then 70 is the new 50.

Just as Reagan wanted to take the country back 50 years to the time pre-FDR and pre-New Deal, Bernie wants to take the country back 50 years to the time pre-Reagan and pre-Reaganomics. In order to do that, he needs to have perspective, he



needs to know about the concepts and the movement of which he speaks. Bernie's age in this instance brings gravitas and authority, and his "50 years of consistency" means all the more because of the longevity of his convictions.

Electability

I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders is a "socialist" that has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator with 71% of the vote.

I'll say it again - as a socialist, he won with 71% of the vote.

Show me a Democratic politician who has that record, and running in a state with a higher GUN ownership rate than Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri.

Oh, and just for good measure, this "socialist Jew" got those huge mandates in a state with just under 1% Jewish population.

Incorruptibility

Bernie Sanders has been in Congress 25 years. He has been re-elected 9 times, most recently with 71% of the vote. Before that he was Mayor of Vermont's biggest city. And after all that, his Net Worth is only \$330,000. And most of that was from a \$200,000 severance his wife got from her job running a college.

So if you want to say Bernie is stupid for being so poor after all those years in politics, or he's an idiot or inept because he stayed in politics so long without making a fortune or getting a sweet job as a lobbyist or consultant, then you are welcome to make that argument.

Such an argument would certainly be more believable than saying Bernie Sanders is corrupted by money and big donors.

Bernie Differs from Democrats / Morality as a Political Theme

You have made the same errors that so many make when talking about Bernie - that is to equate his political beliefs and his stance on issues with those of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and/or the Democratic Party. This is simply not true. If it were true that Bernie's positions and those of the Democratic Party were one and the same, then HE WOULD BE A DEMOCRAT.

Indeed, this erroneous mindset is witnessed by two facts that no one in the fourth estate seems to be able to put together. On one hand, Sanders is criticised because he has not managed to introduce legislation that gets voted on and passed. On the other hand, he has voted 95%-99% with the Democrats on legislation that DID come up for a vote. If I am allergic to seafood and really want filet mignon, and my choice for dinner is either salmon or chicken, I will vote for the chicken. Welcome to the frustrating world of Bernie Sanders's 25 years in Congress.

Bernie is a Democratic Socialist, which means he believes in many things that used to be the bedrock of the Democratic Party, but disappeared from the American political landscape following the Reagan Revolution. Indeed, Bernie's political platform is taken almost word for word from FDR's "Second Bill of Rights" aka the



"Economic Bill of Rights." This legislation was a non-starter in the US at the time, but it did become adopted by the European countries when they rebuilt their political systems following WWII.

Bernie disagrees strongly with Clinton and the Democratic Party on many issues. TPP is the latest - Bernie never misses a chance to rail against the TPP as well as every other "Democratic" trade deal since NAFTA, which he characterises consistently as "disastrous" for American workers, and all of which he voted against. He thinks Obamacare is nothing but a sop to the insurance industry and is adamant about expanding medicare to cover all. I will not go into every issue here, but suffice it to say that the Democratic Party has, since Bill Clinton and the DLC, become a party of the centre, with Obama acting as what would have been a centre-right politician anytime prior to 1990.

THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE between Bernie and the Democrats, however, is Bernie's unabashed penchant for framing his arguments in quasi-religious moral terms. He is not afraid to talk about greed, and to accuse the Koch Brothers and corporate giants of greed. The Democrats still seem to be languishing under the 80's meme that "greed is good" and that one should not "criticise success". Bernie will have none of that. He believes - and he exhorts his supporters to believe - that there is something morally reprehensible about being wealthy and wanting to acquire even more wealth "while children go to bed hungry."

Bernie is a big fan of Pope Francis and even channels the Pontiff on both the Senate floor and in his rallies. He believes, like Francis, that Climate Change is not a social, economic or even scientific issue - it is a moral one.

Liberals have traditionally been loathe to couch their positions in religious doctrine, and Democrats especially shy away from using words like "greed", "evil", "abhorrent", "abysmal" and so on to describe their political foes or an opposing viewpoint. Not Bernie. In fact, I have not heard a politician so fond of using the word "grotesque" since Newt Gingrich in the 90's. When Bernie's supporters say that he "tells the truth" and "gives it to you straight" they might as well be saying that he is not afraid to call a sin a sin, and a sinner a sinner.

Bernie and the Democrats not only differ in terms of policy they are literally worlds apart in how they frame the debate itself. Bernie is appealing to the Christian nature of Americans, telling them that it's OK, they can come back to what they always knew in their hearts: that Jesus would condemn Gordon Gekko and raise high the modest worker. Bernie is reminding them of what they learned in Sunday school, and he is giving them a way to exercise those beliefs in a context that will redound to the overall good not just of society, but of themselves.

That is a powerful message indeed, and not one that Hillary or any other establishment Democrat can offer.

Immigration

Consistent Position /Long

Bernie's position on immigration is completely consistent with his overall philosophy and especially his opposition to international "trade" agreements such as GATT/WTO, NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR, and now TPP. These deals are backed by the Koch Bros. and other Big Businesses because they facilitate the free flow of CAPITAL and GOODS between nations without regulations, and place corporations'

profits above the sovereign will of the people in the participating countries. What has been missing so far however, is an agreement on the free flow of LABOR.

Of course the big multinationals would like to see “open borders” where all people can go – and work – everywhere. Unfortunately, there are still these pesky things called “nation states” that try to serve the best interests of their citizens, and this means workplace regulations. The Koch Bros. and other multinationals would like to see both sides of the equation covered, so that Capital and Labor BOTH would flow freely without being subject to regulations or controls by individual nations. Wages would then plummet everywhere in a dismal race to the bottom, leaving even more profit for the corporations.

Bernie is completely correct in saying that if such an “open borders” policy is ever adopted then nation states like the USA will for all intents and purposes cease to exist, and we will all live in a dystopian world ruled by mega-corporations like in Rollerball. Is that what you want?

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Open Borders – Short (COLA)

Bernie assumes that an "open borders" policy would further diminish the strength of the nation state as we know it and further increase the power of multinational corporations. We already have trade deals that allow corporations to sue nations if they pass regulations that eat into profits (real or projected) - America has already lost the right to COLA (Country of Origin Labeling) which used to tell an American consumer where the hamburger you are buying actually came from. Not any more - the meat could come from Nebraska or Canada or Mexico - you will never know. Phillip Morris is suing Uruguay because that country implemented an anti-smoking public health campaign.

Bernie sees an open borders policy as part of that continuum - taking power away from nations and their elected governments and giving it to multinational corporations. He is consistent, and he is right!

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Reagan on Open Borders

Look, “Open Borders” is not just a Koch Brothers idea, it was Ronald Reagan’s position, and Bernie is nothing if not the anti-Reagan. In 1980, Reagan said we should “open the border both ways” with Mexico:

<http://reason.com/blog/2014/11/21/friday-av-club-what-gop-immigration-poli#.pvk98o:K0AD>

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>



What Open Borders Really Means

People talk about “open borders” without, I think, fully realizing what it would mean. I think many people think it would only affect unskilled workers, but obviously it would have to apply to everyone. So you would have plumbers, machinists, skilled and semi-skilled workers coming to America in hopes of making 5x what they make in their home country.

Likewise, I expect that any “open borders” policy would include provisions allowing professionals like engineers, software developers, managers – even doctors and lawyers – to move to America and work.

This is why Big Business and the Koch Brothers LOVE an “Open Borders” policy – it would, in effect remove the need for outsourcing. Rather than move the jobs to Vietnam or India, the Indians and the Vietnamese could just move to America! It would radically drive down the cost of labor – indeed, wages AND salaries would plummet – and it would dramatically increase profit!

Imagine – those techies in Silicon Valley would no longer be making those huge 6-figure incomes. They will be making the same as their colleagues in Bangalore and Karachi. Larry Ellison, Jeff Bezos and other tech billionaires will be popping champagne! – Oh, and so will those Koch Brothers Bernie mentions.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Positions and Issues

Popularity with Percentages (Citations)

Bernie’s ideas are not radical or “fringe” positions - they are SUPPORTED BY STRONG MAJORITIES OF AMERICANS:

65% support expanding Social Security:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/19/social-security-benefits-poll_n_4305258.html?utm_hp_ref=politics

67% support “Medicare for All” Single payer health care:

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/229959-majority-still-support-single-payer-option-poll-finds>

63% Support Free Tuition at public colleges:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/230064-poll-majority-support-obamas-free-tuition-planb>

64% support increasing corporate taxes:

<http://www.people-press.org/2015/03/19/federal-tax-system-seen-in-need-of-overhaul/>

61% support increasing taxes on the wealthy:

<http://www.people-press.org/2015/03/19/federal-tax-system-seen-in-need-of-overhaul/>

63% support a \$15 minimum wage:

<http://www.nelp.org/content/uploads/2015/03/Minimum-Wage-Poll-Memo-Jan-2015.pdf>



Moreover, 215 economists support Bernie's proposal of a \$15 Minimum Wage as well – they even submitted a petition to Congress:

<http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/public/index.cfm/2015/7/top-economists-are-backing-sen-bernie-sanders-on-establishing-a-15-an-hour-minimum-wage>

***Popularity with Percentages (No Citations)**

Bernie's ideas are not radical or "fringe" positions - they are SUPPORTED BY STRONG MAJORITIES OF AMERICANS:

67% support "Medicare for All" Single payer health care

63% Support Free Tuition at public colleges

64% support increasing corporate taxes

61% support increasing taxes on the wealthy

63% support the \$15 minimum wage (as do 215 prominent economists)



BERNIE SANDERS

AND THE PEOPLE

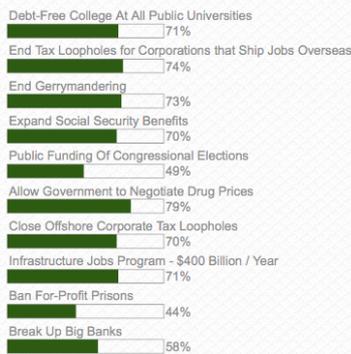
Polling suggests the majority of 2016 voters agree with Bernie Sanders' platform.



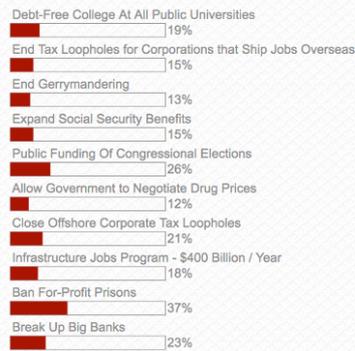
WHAT DO VOTERS THINK OF HIS IDEAS?

Progressive Change Insitute polling of likely 2016 voters.

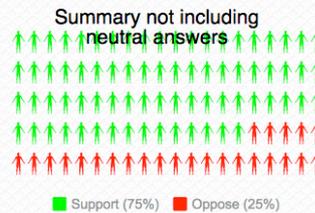
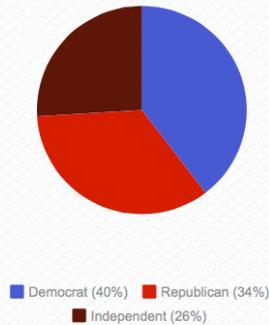
SUPPORT



OPPOSE



POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF THOSE POLLED



Bi-Partisan Stats

"583 (38.9%) of those interviewed identified themselves as Democrats, 382 (25.5%) as Independents, and 507 (33.8%) as Republicans."

Minimum Wage - FDR

When FDR set up the Minimum Wage as part of the New Deal in 1933, he said:
"It seems to me to be equally plain that no business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By "business" I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry; by workers I mean all workers, the white collar class as well as the men in overalls; and by living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level-I mean the wages of decent living."



So you see, the Minimum Wage was and has always been meant to mean a Living Wage. We just need to go back to that idea.

Minimum Wage - Effect of \$15 Minimum Wage on Prices

A \$15 minimum wage will add only 17 cents to the price of a Big Mac.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/07/30/what-doubling-the-minimum-wage-would-do-to-the-price-of-a-big-mac/>

Currently, taxpayers are paying \$153 billion a year to subsidize low-wage workers:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/04/15/we-are-spending-153-billion-a-year-to-subsidize-mcdonalds-and-walmarts-low-wage-workers/>

Minimum Wage – CEO Hypocrisy

The CEO of Dunkin' Donuts, Nigel Travis, notably slammed the movement toward a \$15 minimum wage, calling it "outrageous." But while low-wage workers have not seen a substantial raise in decades (along with declining purchasing power since the 1960s), Travis himself has been raking it in. This year, he earned about \$10.2 million—or about \$5,800 per hour—which is twice what he made in 2014, making his own hypocrisy the only thing that is "outrageous."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2015/03/30/dunkin-ceo-pay-doubled/hXp2WjwxbBWIKkPWtdsD4J/story.html>

Travis is not the exception by a long shot, either; the average CEO makes about 300 times what their staff earns, and CEO pay has increased about 54 percent since the start of the economic recovery in 2009, according to the Economic Policy Institute. Even worse, the federal minimum wage stands at \$7.25—which is exactly where it was in 2009.

Yet for the top 1 percent of earners, incomes have quadrupled since 1980.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/richest-americans-see-huge-growth-in-income/>

Myopia

Ever since the 1980's - and especially under Clinton and the so-called "Democratic Leadership Council" - the two parties have pursued the same economic agenda. Clinton co-opted all the economic policies of the Republicans so that he - and other establishment Democrats - could get the support of wealthy donors.

There was then a tacit agreement that the Democrats and the Republicans would "fight it out" over social issues like Abortion, Gay Marriage, Gun Control, School Prayer, Evolution, Race, Immigration, and so on. No one talked about economics. Bernie has been criticized for being "too focused on economics" - but that is only because no one has talked about economics in terms of the middle class since 1980. People are just not used to it. We have been told for 30 years that "economics" means tax-cuts for the rich, and to the extent that you were either for or against those tax cuts, you were judged to be a Democrat or a Republican, a "liberal" or a "conservative" - we became completely MYOPIC as country, unable to see what is really going on.

Now Bernie comes along and says, "wait, instead of arguing over just how much or how little to CUT Social security, let's talk about expanding it. Instead of fighting over how to make college more "affordable" - let's just make it tuition-free - like it used to be up until the 70's."

So - minds are being blown, because we have collectively lost our memory of when things used to be different. People reject Bernie's ideas as "radical" and yet everyone knows that what he is saying is true. We have just become so docile, so accustomed to moving on that small little playing field that the donor class and the political elite have set up for us, that we cannot imagine doing anything to really affect the status quo - for 30 years we have tinkered around the edges, made small adjustments here and there ... now we need to actually reverse the decline that we have been experiencing and return to what we were before money became the be-all and end-all, before "trickle-down economics" became a matter of accepted faith. Before the political Establishment conspired with the wealthy to rob the middle class. FEEL THE BERN!!!

Meme on Wealth

There is a popular meme on the Right that goes something like this:

"Socialism is horrible, because eventually you run out of other people's money. Do you realize that if you confiscated all the wealth, every single penny of the top 10% that it would only run our government for six months or so."

Let's do the numbers:

Total Net Worth of all US households: \$84.9 Trillion

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-net-worth-hits-high-of-84-9-trillion-1434038401>

Net Worth of the top 10% of US households (75%): \$63.9 trillion

<http://www.mylife.com/wealth-inequality-america-top-10-percent-of-us-households-control-75-percent-of-wealth/>

Net Worth of the top 1% of US households (35%): \$34.9 trillion

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth_inequality_in_the_United_States

Net Worth of the top 0.1% of US households (25%): \$21.2 trillion

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/nov/13/us-wealth-inequality-top-01-worth-as-much-as-the-bottom-90>

Total Federal Budget for 2015: 3.9 trillion (Wiki)

This means that the net worth of the top 10% could run the Federal Government for 16 YEARS.

Are you surprised? I would imagine that most people do not realize just how much friggig money the top 10% really do have.

But this is even more interesting: the total DEBT of the US is now at \$19 trillion – that means the Net Worth of the very top 1/10th of 1% (0.1%) could more than wipe out our entire DEBT! Isn't that fantastic? Bring me my pitchfork!! :-)



Income Inequality

Bernie's right in pointing out that the US has a "grotesque" and "absurd" level of income inequality. According to Global Finance magazine, which lists all countries by their GINI coefficient, which represents the income distribution of a nation's residents. Out of 34 OECD countries, the US is the 31st WORST in terms of income inequality. In case you are wondering, the three countries we beat are Turkey, Mexico and Chile.

Give Bernie Some Time

Bernie has been campaigning for four (4) months, and he started with very little money and very little staff. He has been growing, but I think it is grossly unfair to "challenge" him to address issues beyond his core message so early in the campaign. Of course Bernie is a liberal, of course he supports minorities, of course he is anti-hate.

I think you could say the same for EVERY Democrat in the race - and that is the part no one seems to understand.

Bernie has to run and win a Primary against a powerful opponent, and he has to do it by drawing distinct DIFFERENCES between himself and Clinton. Do you think anti-Muslim hatred is an area where Sanders and Clinton deeply disagree? Or racial injustice? BlackLivesMatter? Support for minority, civil and gender rights are baked into the Democratic Party platform - every Dem candidate can be counted on to have more or less the same position on all these issues.

Economics is where Bernie is different. Single payer health care - no one in the Democratic Party (except Conyers) is talking about that. Tuition free public colleges? That is something unheard of since the 60's. Paid family leave and holidays? Again, no one is talking about that. Same with expanding Social Security, Bernie is against the TPP; Clinton supports it. Bernie wants to break up the big banks; Hillary is against that. Bernie wants to tax Wall Street transactions; Hillary would never even consider doing that. THESE ARE THE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE THAT BERNIE NEEDS TO STRESS AT THIS POINT IN THE RACE!!

Bernie has a 25 year Congressional record, plus several years as a Mayor, to analyse if you want to know where he stands on issues. But for his campaign to be successful, he must address, re-address, iterate and reiterate again and again those things that make him DIFFERENT from Hillary.

Please - let's allow him the room and the time to do that.

Tuition Free Public Colleges

The public colleges and universities that Bernie wants to make "tuition free" were established using Federal Land Grants back in the 1800's (under the Morrill Act). As part of their charter, they were to offer tuition free educations to in-state taxpayers - just like anyone who lives in a city or town gets to attend that town's High Schools "tuition free." This is not a radical concept!!

Anyway, these public universities thrived, people were educated and these institutions stayed tuition free for over 100 years. That's right -- until the mid 1960's you could have gone to UCAL Berkeley or UCLA for FREE. What happened in the 1960's? Well, Ronald Reagan and other conservative State Governors wanted to cut taxes and maintain balanced budgets -- so ... they introduced tuition to the previously free public colleges. Nice, huh?



So DO NOT frame this proposal as some sort of radical "leftist" idea - Bernie Sanders simply wants to turn those public colleges and universities back into the truly "public" schools that they were originally established to be, and the way they functioned for a century before radical "rightists" decided to start making people PAY for what was supposed to be a public service.

For a list of all the public universities that used to be "tuition free" before Reagan and other conservatives took over, click here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_land-grant_universities

Democratic Socialism

Definition from DSUSA.org

Bernie is not a "Socialist" - he is a "Democratic Socialist" - and yes, that is a thing, and yes, it is different from standard "Socialism". In other words, think more Sweden and Denmark than Cuba and Venezuela.

There is even a national organization for Democratic Socialists in the US:

FROM: http://www.dsusa.org/what_is_democratic_socialism

"Democratic socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically—to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few ... Democratic socialists do not want to create an all-powerful government bureaucracy. But we do not want big corporate bureaucracies to control our society either. Rather, we believe that social and economic decisions should be made by those whom they most affect"

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Democrats vs. Democratic Socialists (DWS)

Democrats - at least the ones that supported ACA (Obamacare) over single payer, believe that things like health care should still be a for-profit industry, and the health care companies should still have profits and spend their customers' premiums on marketing and making political contributions and lobbying - but maybe just not as much as they might have otherwise. Why do you think health care stocks skyrocketed after Obamacare was passed? A Democratic Socialist, however, believes that health care is a right and should be provided by the State and paid for with our tax dollars, just like the military.

That is what DWS was afraid of saying.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

US Invented EU Dem Socialism

The US actually invented European style Democratic Socialism!! It was all based on FDR's "Second Bill of Rights" - a.k.a., the "Economic Bill of Rights" (look it up!). FDR could not get it passed through the Republican Congress (sound familiar?) but it was worked into the Marshall Plan and the US-assisted rebuilding of the European



countries after WWII. Europe never had a socialist tradition - they were used to monarchies, class structures and dictatorships - all the things our Founding Fathers wanted to get away from. So America gifted them a new way to start over clean and build a society that honored labor, protected the middle class, and granted rights to the individual that Americans still don't have. Bernie aims to rectify that.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Socialist Jew

They tell me Bernie can't win because he is a Socialist Jew. I tell them America celebrates a Socialist Jew every December 25!

Reagan Was a Socialist

You people think that "Socialism" means the re-distribution of wealth. Well, in that case, the biggest Socialist President we have had was Ronald Reagan. In 1986, when Reagan slashed the top tax rate again, his redistributionist obsession led to a perversity in the law. The wealthiest faced a 28 percent tax rate, while those with lower incomes faced a 33 percent rate; in addition, the bottom rate climbed from 11 percent to 15 percent. For the first time in history, the top rate fell and the bottom rate rose simultaneously. Even unemployment compensation was not spared. The jobless had to pay income tax on their benefits. A year later, the man who would not spare unemployment compensation from taxation called for a cut in the capital gains tax. Thus, Reagan was a staunch socialist, totally committed to his cause of wealth redistribution towards the affluent. This started a trend of redistribution UPWARDS that goes on today. Bernie Sanders wants to correct that situation.

And as far as socialized, government-run healthcare is concerned, again, Reagan was its biggest proponent! When Reagan signed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act into law (which forces ER's to treat everyone) he didn't just socialize medicine, he did it by putting the burden on the people and businesses who were actually doing the right thing and buying health insurance policies and he did it while laying an unfunded mandate on the states.

And yet you people think he was for small government.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

US Never Elect a Socialist?

People say that America would never elect a Socialist. And I tell them, they already did: they elected FDR three times! That's right, the "New Deal" was the largest bundle of socialist programs the world had ever seen, establishing, to name just a few, Social Security, the FDIC, the FHA and the SEC.

The socialist trend continued with Lyndon Johnson in the late 60's. He established Medicaid and Medicare, which is still the largest "socialist" medical scheme on earth, in terms of people who get free health insurance from the Government. And what does Bernie want to do? He wants "Medicare for all" - and you think that is such a



hard pill to swallow?

Universal Daycare and Family Leave were both passed by Congress on a bipartisan basis in 1971, but vetoed by Richard Nixon.

An the \$15 minimum wage that Bernie is pushing would increase the price of a Big Mac by 17 cents – is that such a disaster?

Free tuition at public colleges and universities was THE NORM in the US until the mid 60's, when Reagan lead a movement to stop it.

Indeed, Ronald Reagan didn't just become President in 1980 - he also led a successful national movement - what was called the "Reagan Revolution" – one which not only won the White House but gave the GOP control in the Senate for the first time in 26 years. I am old enough to remember it, having voted in that election as a liberal - and I remember how shocked everyone was that he won, because he was thought to be too "radical". Remember, Medicare and Medicaid had only been passed 12 years earlier, and the socialist streak in the American consciousness was still thought to be strong. Reagan had to fight for the nomination against the "establishment" GOP, and the RNC limited the primary debates to only 6 because they were so afraid he would get the nomination. Such a move has not been done since, except for this year when the DNC did the same thing to shut out Bernie Sanders.

But Reagan did win. And he won BIG. If anyone had told me in 1979 that a far-right cowboy B-movie actor who was against social security and against Medicare and against unions and against civil rights would win in almost every blue state, including Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and yes, even Vermont, I would have told them they were CRAZY.

So go ahead. Call us crazy.

***Dem Socialist Countries have highest GDP Per Capita**

According to the IMF, 9 of the top 10 countries with the highest GDP per capita (used to measure a country's wealth) are Socialist Democracies: Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, San Marino, Singapore, Australia. And the 10th country, the one that is at the BOTTOM of the list? The USA.

Electability

I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders is a "socialist" that has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator with 71% of the vote.

I'll say it again - as a socialist, he won with 71% of the vote.

Show me a Democratic politician who has that record, and running in a state with a higher GUN ownership rate than Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri.



Electability Nr. 2 - Accomplishments

If you want to judge the worth of a politician, ask the people who know him. Sure Bernie is well liked on both sides of the aisle, and admired because of his consistency and openness. But the real measure of the man is this:

Bernie Sanders is a "socialist" that has served as a big city Mayor for 8 years; he has been elected and re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator with 71% of the vote statewide, including 25% of the Republican vote.

I'll say it again - as a socialist and a Jew from Brooklyn, he won with 71% of the vote, and that from a rural state with a lot of Republicans, a lot of farmers, no socialists and less than 1% Jews.

Show me a Democratic politician who has that record, and running in a state with a higher firearm ownership rate than Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri. You cannot.

That, my friend is quite an accomplishment.

Democratic Socialism is Better for Business

What most people don't know, and what will probably come as a surprise to you, is that it is much easier to start and grow a small business in "Socialist" Europe than in the US. This is due to several reasons:

1. Lower regulatory burdens - yep, it's true, according to the OECD
2. Lower taxes - again, it's true according to OECD
3. Better access to working capital (World Economic Forum)
4. Lower employee costs for healthcare (which are 0 in the EU because they have Single payer nationalised health care)

Small business's share of the U.S. economy is slowly shrinking and is less significant than in many European economies. This is because of crony Capitalism and "laissez-faire" attitude that believes in the so-called "Free Market" - when there is no such thing. Europe's political and economic system is from the 20th century, and America's is from the 18th. Viewed in those terms, it is not hard to believe that the European-style "Democratic Socialism" that Bernie is pushing is the way to go for entrepreneurs and believers in free enterprise.

But don't take my word on it - this is all from BusinessWeek:

http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/dec2010/sb20101210_839038.htm

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Quick Response – Anti-Socialist Hypocrisy

OK –you are anti-socialism – we get it. So will you promise everyone here and now that you won't cash your Social Security checks? I mean, you wouldn't be part of that socialist scheme, would you? Making the people who are working pay for your retirement? Horrible! And Medicare? Promise us all right now that you will NOT go on Medicare, because that, my friend, is the largest program of socialized medicine in the world!

I also assume that you do not send your kids to public school, because why should their education be paid for with other people's taxes?

Will you affirm all these points, or are you just another reactionary hypocrite?



***Possible GOP Attacks on Bernie as a Socialist – NOT CREDIBLE**

Yes, I would dearly LOVE to see the GOP attack Bernie's "socialist" positions. I would HOPE to see them attack the expansion of Social Security, which 65% of Americans support. I would ENCOURAGE them to condemn single payer "Medicare for all", which 67% of Americans support; I would BEG them to dismiss tuition free state colleges, which 63% of Americans support; I would EXPECT them to oppose raising corporate taxes, which 64% of Americans support, just as I would EXPECT them to oppose raising taxes on the wealthy, which 61% of American support. And last, but not least, I would WELCOME them to attack the \$15 minimum wage, which 63% of Americans support.

Yes, by all means, the GOP attack machine would go into overdrive against Bernie, and in every case the move would backfire, because Bernie - and Bernie alone - can get those 60%+ majorities to come out to the polls. Hillary cannot.

Fascism

Definition of Fascism (from Wikipedia):

"Fascism operated from a Social Darwinist view of human relations. The aim was to promote superior individuals and weed out the weak. In terms of economic practice, this meant promoting the interests of successful businessmen while destroying trade unions and other organizations of the working class. Fascist governments encouraged the pursuit of private profit and offered many benefits to large businesses, but they demanded in return that all economic activity should serve the national interest. Historian Gaetano Salvemini argued in 1936 that fascism makes taxpayers responsible to private enterprise, because 'the State pays for the blunders of private enterprise... Profit is private and individual. Loss is public and social.'"

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Sanders vs. Clinton

Hillary Clinton Wins Primary Against Bernie Sanders, But Can't Beat GOP

She barely wins against Trump, but loses to all the other frontrunners.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/hillary-clinton-wins-primary-against-bernie-sanders-cant-beat-gop-poll-2112072>

***Positions held / Votes Taken**

The Invasion of Iraq ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

The Bank Bailout ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.

The Patriot Act ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.



The War on Drugs ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.
"No Child Left Behind" ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.
Charter Schools ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.
Walmart Board of Directors member ~ Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.
Supported NAFTA ~> Sanders: No. Clinton: Yes.
Marched with MLK ~> Sanders: Yes. Clinton: No.
Wall Street Reform ~> Sanders: Yes. Clinton: No.
Student Loan Reform ~> Sanders: Yes. Clinton: No.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

***Bernie is the True Democrat**

During the 1980's and 1990's, the Democrats became Republicans on all the issues relating to economics. The past 30 years have been about great "social arguments" - Gay Marriage, Abortion, Gun Control - it was only on those issues that you could tell a Democrat from a Republican - and meanwhile, no one was looking out for the Middle Class anymore. Americans were divided against each other, battling the so-called "culture wars", while BOTH parties conspired to transfer wealth from the middle class upward, and to feather their respective nests with donations from their billionaire "donors"...

Hillary Clinton is the very epitome, the poster-child, for the "New Democrat" ideals her husband championed with his deregulation of Wall Street, his destruction of the Welfare system, and his "tough on crime" legislation that has led DIRECTLY to the problems of mass incarceration that we see today. All the while collecting over \$3.5 MILLION in campaign donations from the big banks on Wall Street.

Bernie is here to take us back to where we were a thriving country, with a robust middle class, where we all did better when we all did better. Back to the idea that America is great because of its middle class.

Bernie is no more of a socialist than FDR was with his New Deal, or Lyndon Johnson was with his Great Society. And in that sense, BERNIE IS THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

Numbers among Blacks

Hillary's numbers among black Americans: in one month, from June to July, her Favorable rating among blacks declined from 81% to 66%, unfavorable went from 3% to 15%. IN JUST ONE MONTH. This from a WSJ/NBC Poll published in August: <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/08/04/hillary-clinton-loses-ground-with-white-women-wsjnbc-poll/>

Why Hillary is Running

Hillary Rodham Clinton wants to be President of the United States. THAT is why she is running. It is her turn, she has suffered ignominy and shame, countless slings and arrows, standing by Bill and toughing it out, so that she could arrive at long last at



this point in history, where it is HER moment, where it is HER time, where it is HER right to be President. It is, in the end all about HER - Hillary Rodham Clinton. By contrast, Bernie Sanders is about helping people, he is running not for himself, but for the average American. and THAT is the difference.

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Hillary Clinton is not Viable – 3 factors

There are several key factors to consider:

1. As has been written several places and most recently by James Carville, Hillary supporters would also be happy with Bernie Sanders. BUT THE REVERSE IS NOT TRUE. Many Bernie supporters are virulently anti-Hillary, and still others are simply not attracted to her, so they would just stay home on election day - and we know that is bad for Democrats.
2. Indeed, in a recent Quinnipiac Poll, 11% of Democrats avowed that there was "no way" they would vote for Hillary. <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/news-and-events/quinnipiac-university-poll/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2274>
3. Bernie is pulling in Independents and even Republicans. The "Republicans for Bernie Sanders" page on Facebook has 6000 "Likes". By contrast, the "Republicans for Hillary Clinton" page on Facebook has 4.
4. I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders is not just a socialist guy with an agenda – he is a sitting US Senator who has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator last round with 71% of the vote – including a large cohort of Republicans: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/why-surprising-numbers-republicans-have-been-voting-bernie-sanders-vermont>

If the Democrats are to retake the reins of government and really turn the country around, they will need to attract not only Independents, but that large cohort we used to call "Reagan Democrats" -- Bernie Sanders can do this, Hillary Clinton quite clearly cannot. FEEL THE BERN!!!

Democrats Need a Big Turnout, Not Hillary

I really believe the old maxim, "Democrats fall in love, Republicans fall in line." In my 50+ years experience, this has always proven to be true: Democrats cannot win an election unless they have a *charismatic candidate* that is beloved by the base, so that the base turns out in force on Election Day.

Hillary is not that candidate.

Sure, "Email-gate" may pass, but Hillary's favourability ratings as well as her "trustworthiness" ratings are in the toilet. You simply cannot depend on her to galvanize and excite an Obama-like coalition to save the day on November 8, 2016.

Let's face it: such phrases as "*she's the only viable candidate*", "*she's better than what the GOP has*" and worst of all, "*think about the Supreme Court*" are simply NOT the rallying cries that will get the Democratic base to the polls. And we all know that when people stay home, Democrats lose.

The irony, of course, is that we have seen this all before. Remember the catchphrase from the 2004 election: "Dated Dean. Married Kerry" --?

We all know how well that "sensible choice" turned out. Let's not make that mistake again, Democrats! FEEL THE BERN!!

***Hillary will be Conservative Catnip if she is on the ballot**

We had better hope that Bernie is the nominee, because Hillary is actually the unelectable one. Everyone assumes that she is more "electable" than Sanders, but where is the proof? The woman gins up hatred and vitriol more than any other person in America - especially on the Right.

Having Hillary on there ticket will be Conservative Catnip -it will be like having a Gay Marriage ban, an Abortion ban, and a Mandatory School Prayer on the ballot all at the same time. The Right wing base will be out in droves!!

Meanwhile, disenchanted Democrats who had to once more "hold their nose and think of the Supreme Court" in the Primaries will mostly stay home on Election Day. Sure there will be diehard Hillary supporters and the rank and file "party faithful" who will come out, but you need more than that to win an election. And when people stay home, Democrats lose.

So if you were happy about the turnout in 2010 and 2014, by all means vote for Hillary. But if you want to WIN, vote for Bernie!!

FEEL THE BERN, brothers and sisters!

***The Email Scandal – Why it REALLY Matters**

One thing that gets missed in the Clinton "email scandal" is that regardless of whether or not Hillary transmitted or received classified material, the idea that she would use ONLY her personal email account for both personal and official State Department correspondence is frankly unbelievably stupid. There had to have been a reason. It was an unprecedented decision. Even Colin Powell was smart enough to have two different accounts. So that raises flags.

And then her explanation that she just "didn't think about it" when she started at State, that she really wasn't paying attention or that she did not put much thought into it - is frankly unbelievable. Remember, this was 2009 -- we were well, well into the digital age at that point. The NSA spying programs that Hillary loves so much were well underway at that point, the Russians and the Chinese were already known to be hacking and conducting cyber-ops... and yet, she just couldn't be bothered to give any thought to email security. Is THAT what we are to believe?

She is either an extremely incompetent woman with very, very poor judgment or she is a bald-faced liar. Either way not good.



***Hillary: Progressive or Centrist?**

In the first Democratic Debate, Hillary proclaimed that she was a “progressive.” But 4 weeks earlier she had proudly “pled guilty” to being a “Moderate-Centrist.”

<https://youtu.be/LTL767hKxHo>

Quinnipiac Poll August 2015

Major takeaways:

1. Sanders, Clinton and Biden all beat each of the GOP nominees in a head-to-head.
2. 39% of respondents, including 38% of Democrats, said they had not heard enough about Bernie to have an opinion
3. Bernie had a favorability rating of POSITIVE 4 (+42/-38)
4. Hillary had a favorability rating of NEGATIVE 12 (+39/-51)
5. Bernie Sanders was judged TRUSTWORTHY by 21 points (+44/-23)
6. Hillary Clinton was judged UNTRUSTWORTHY by 27 points (+34/-61)
7. When asked the first word that came to mind about Hillary, 30% said “untrustworthy”, “deceitful”, “criminal” or something synonymous.

<http://www.quinnipiac.edu/news-and-events/quinnipiac-university-poll/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2274>

Hillary on Crime

If anyone should be “held accountable for her actions” (as the BlackLivesMatter protesters shout) then it is Hillary Clinton, not Bernie Sanders. Hillary was an ardent and vocal supporter of her husband’s welfare “reform” and “tough on crime” bills that devastated black families and led to the mass incarceration of black youths.

To wit:

“We need more police, we need more and tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders. The ‘three-strikes-and-you’re-out’ for violent offenders has to be part of the plan. We need more prisons to keep violent offenders for as long as it takes to keep them off the streets.”

- Hillary Clinton, speaking on the 1994 Crime Bill.

“We already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not make that situation right. We can either educate or electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails. Mr. Speaker, let us create a society of hope and compassion, not one of hate and vengeance.”

- Bernie Sanders, speaking on the same 1994 Crime Bill.

Hillary on the TPP

“... This TPP sets the gold standard in trade agreements to open free, transparent,

fair trade, the kind of environment that has the rule of law and a level playing field. And when negotiated, this agreement will cover 40 percent of the world's total trade..."

- Hillary Clinton to an Australian Trade Group in 2012h
- <http://www.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2012/11/200565.htm>

***Online Presence: YouTube and Facebook**

Aside from the famous Subreddit supporting Sanders:

Hillary Clinton has 1 YouTube Channel, Bernie has 4, plus 6 additional fan channels.

The "Republicans for Bernie Sanders" Facebook page has about 13,000 "Likes", whereas the "Republicans for Hillary" page has just 249. This is a huge difference.

***Hillary the Darling of Wall Street**

Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, is on record saying: "I very much was supportive of Hillary Clinton the last go-round," he said. "I held fundraisers for her." is on record saying that he would be just as happy whether Jeb Bush or Hillary Clinton were President.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/wall-street-republicans-hillary-clinton-2016-106070>

Blankfein paid Hillary \$400,000 in speaking fees in 2014 to give speeches to Goldman Sachs audiences, and Goldman has contributed \$500,000 to her campaign.

More praise from Wall Street: "If it turns out to be Jeb versus Hillary we would love that and either outcome would be fine," one top Republican-leaning Wall Street lawyer said over lunch in midtown Manhattan last week. "We could live with either one. Jeb versus Joe Biden would also be fine."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/h-a-goodman/president-hillary-clinton_b_5525235.html

***Hillary is a NeoCon**

Hillary is an interventionist and to the Right of Obama on foreign policy. Robert Kagan, a famous neocon under Bush and an architect of the Iraq war who has advised Clinton on foreign policy, says: "If she pursues a policy which we think she will pursue ... it's something that might have been called neocon, but clearly her supporters are not going to call it that; they are going to call it something else."

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/16/us/politics/historians-critique-of-obama-foreign-policy-is-brought-alive-by-events-in-iraq.html?_r=0

***Hillary: Bible is "Biggest Influence on my Thinking"**

In June 2014, when Hillary thought she was going to have a cakewalk to the nomination, and was worried about seeming too liberal, she took a page out of the



Trump playbook and told the NY Times in an interview that the Bible was the most important book to her.

“At the risk of appearing predictable, the Bible was and remains the biggest influence on my thinking. I was raised reading it, memorizing passages from it and being guided by it. I still find it a source of wisdom, comfort and encouragement.” Will she, like Bush, start going on about Gog and Magog when it comes to Middle East policy?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/15/books/review/hillary-rodham-clinton-by-the-book.html?ref=review&r=1>

***Hillary's Net Worth puts her in the Top 1%**

USA Today published a summary of the Net Worth of all the Presidential candidates. It shows that Hillary ranked No. 4 – right behind Jeb Bush – with a Net Worth of **\$15.3 million-\$55 million**. Bernie Sanders ranked No. 10 with a Net Worth of only **\$110,000-\$550,000**.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/08/26/24-7-wall-st-net-worth-presidential-candidates/32409491/>

Hillary's Donor Base

<http://www.truth-out.org/speakout/item/32165-comparing-hillary-clinton-s-top-donors-to-bernie-sanders-top-donors>

Bernie better against GOP

"Hillary Clinton Wins Primary Against Bernie Sanders, But Can't Beat GOP: Poll"

<http://www.ibtimes.com/hillary-clinton-wins-primary-against-bernie-sanders-cant-beat-gop-poll-2112072>

***Banks v. Guns - A Tale of Two Constituencies**

Hillary goes after Bernie on guns; Bernie goes after Hillary on Wall Street and the Big Banks. It's political tit-for-tat, right?

Unfortunately for Hillary, these arguments are not equal in terms of scope and substance.

As a Congressman and Senator from rural Vermont, Sanders was representing his constituents - hunters and other conservative gun-owners -when he voted the way he did. Likewise, as the junior Senator from New York, Clinton had Wall Street banks as her own constituents, and so one might have understood the fact that she was obligated to represent their interests in the Senate.

The question to be considered NOW, however, is whether a President Sanders would adopt a stronger position gun control when he represents all Americans, and whether a President Clinton would be tough on Wall Street once in the Oval Office.

This question is best answered simply:

- To date, Hillary Clinton has received over \$3.5 million in donations from Wall Street banks, with Goldman Sachs giving her almost \$1 million for this election alone.
- To date, Bernie Sanders has received \$0 from the NRA, and has a D- rating by that group.

THIS outlines the big difference between the two candidates: Hillary Clinton is willing to rant and rave all day about Gun Control, Abortion Rights, Gay Rights, Civil Rights and Climate Change because that is what her rich, elite donor base want her to do. The last thing they want is for Hillary to actually do something to curb their power, influence or wealth.

***GOP Attacks on Bernie as a Socialist – NOT CREDIBLE**

Yes, I would dearly LOVE to see the GOP attack Bernie's "socialist" positions. I would HOPE to see them attack the expansion of Social Security, which 65% of Americans support. I would ENCOURAGE them to condemn single payer "Medicare for all", which 67% of Americans support; I would BEG them to dismiss tuition free state colleges, which 63% of Americans support; I would EXPECT them to oppose raising corporate taxes, which 64% of Americans support, just as I would EXPECT them to oppose raising taxes on the wealthy, which 61% of American support. And last, but not least, I would WELCOME them to attack the \$15 minimum wage, which 63% of Americans support.

Yes, by all means, the GOP attack machine would go into overdrive against Bernie, and in every case the move would backfire, because Bernie - and Bernie alone - can get those 60%+ majorities to come out to the polls. Hillary cannot.

Hillary is VERY Conservative (summary post)

As a young woman, Hillary was a "Goldwater Girl" who canvassed for that right-wing Republican, who was running on a platform to reverse the Civil Rights Act

Hillary went to the very prestigious Wellesley College outside Boston, where she was President of the Wellesley Young Republicans.

Hillary is on record as a neocon, and has neocon advisers that had previously been the architects of the Iraq war. Hillary has never met a war she didn't like – she has always – ALWAYS – been for putting American boots on the ground. The Iraq vote was not an outlier – it fit perfectly a pattern of right-leaning bellicosity that has been Hillary's trademark since she entered national politics. More recently, she called for establishing a UNILATERAL "no-fly-zone" over Syria. The US should, according to her, act alone to set up this no-fly zone. I am sure that would have gone over really well when the Russians started flying sorties two weeks later.

Hillary's conservative ties to Wall Street are well known and well-documented. Suffice it to say that the great Financiers on Wall Street like Lloyd Blankfein at

Goldman Sachs do not see any difference between a Hillary Clinton Administration, or a Jeb Bush Administration. “Both would be fine,” said Blankfein.

Hillary is on record with the NY Times claiming that the Bible “influenced her thinking” the most. What are we supposed to take away from that?

Hillary supports the prison industry and mass incarceration. The for-profit prison lobby is out raising money for her campaign.

Hillary is blasé when it comes to racial injustice – she actually was one of the first to say that “All Lives Matter” – when she travelled to Ferguson Mo. In June and gave a speech in an historic black church there:

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/06/24/hillary-clintons-all-lives-matter-remark-stirs-backlash/>

***First Democratic Debate**

***Why Bernie Sanders Won the First Democratic Debate**

Bernie Sanders made his debut the national stage – literally – in the first Democratic Debate in Las Vegas, and it was, as the Senator would say, a “YUGE” success.

The pundits of course were all about optics: would Bernie appear “presidential”; would he stand up to Clinton’s “polished” persona and national debate expertise; would just “letting Bernie be Bernie” be enough?

The answer is that Bernie really needed to do something else: he needed to introduce himself to the 40% of Americans and the Democratic electorate who had no idea who he was. More importantly, he needed to appeal to the black community, which makes up such a large cohort of the Democratic electorate in states like South Carolina.

When viewed in the more precise and practical context of those goals, Bernie hit it out of the park.

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As a Congressman and Senator from rural Vermont, Sanders was representing his constituents - hunters and other conservative gun-owners -when he voted the way he did. Likewise, as the junior Senator from New York, Clinton had Wall Street banks as her own constituents, and so one might have understood the fact that she

was obligated to represent their interests in the Senate.

The question to be considered NOW, however, is whether a President Sanders would adopt a stronger position gun control when he represents all Americans, and whether a President Clinton would be tough on Wall Street once in the Oval Office. This question is best answered simply:

- To date, Hillary Clinton has received over \$3.5 million in donations from Wall Street banks, with Goldman Sachs giving her almost \$1 million for this election alone.
- To date, Bernie Sanders has received \$0 from the NRA, and has a D- rating by that group.

THIS outlines the big difference between the two candidates: Hillary Clinton is willing to rant and rave all day about Gun Control, Abortion Rights, Gay Rights, Civil Rights and Climate Change because that is what her rich, elite donor base want her to do. The last thing they want is for Hillary to actually do something to curb their power, influence or wealth.

***Hillary: Progressive or Centrist?**

In the first Democratic Debate, Hillary proclaimed that she was a “progressive.” But 4 weeks earlier she had proudly “pled guilty” to being a “Moderate-Centrist.”
<https://youtu.be/LTL767hKxHo>

***Hillary believes “All Lives Matter”**

It was Hillary Clinton who was tone deaf this summer, when she travelled to Ferguson Mo. In June and gave a speech in an historic black church there, saying “All Lives Matter.”
<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/06/24/hillary-clintons-all-lives-matter-remark-stirs-backlash/>

***Hillary is a Hypocrite on College Tuition**

Hillary has said that she had to work when she went to college, but that is only because she chose to attend Wellesley College, a prestigious all-female college outside Boston. As a resident of Illinois, she could have gone to the University of Illinois in 1965 TUITION FREE. This is because that school was a Land Grant school chartered to provide free tuition for in-state students. It was not until the 70’s that the UI started charging tuition to in-state students.



Debate Results: Polls

<u>Outlet</u>	<u>Bernie</u>	<u>Hillary</u>
MSNBC	63%	13%
TIME	55%	11%
Sacramento Bee	78%	11%
Daily Kos	56%	38%
FOX 5 San Diego	77%	16%
WRIC ABC 8 Richmond	71%	16%
Palm Beach Post	81%	12%
AL.COM Alabama	77%	16%
Fox2 St. Louis	80%	14%
AVERAGE:	71%	16%

<u>Focus Groups</u>	<u>Bernie</u>	<u>Hillary</u>
Fusion Focus group	75%	25%
FOX Focus Group (Luntz)	100%	0%
CNN Facebook Live Survey	75%	18%
CNN Focus Group	70%	30%
AVERAGE:	80%	18%

Jane Sanders

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2015-05-12/getting-to-know-jane-sanders-wife-of-bernie>

Fraud Case

In reality, it appears that in listing the donor pledges needed to secure a \$10 million loan, Jane Sanders may have overstated the amount of money pledged by some \$35,000. This by a Vermont investigative publication:

<http://vtdigger.org/2015/09/13/jane-sanders-overstated-donation-amounts-in-loan-application-for-burlington-college/>



Bernie vs. Trump

Not Equivalent/ No Story

Why do people insist on comparing Bernie Sanders with Donald Trump? I can think of no comparison that is less legitimate. Trump is leading in the polls, Bernie is behind; Trump is a businessman, Bernie is a longtime politician; Trump has never run for office or won an election, Bernie has served 25 years in Congress and is repeatedly reelected with 70% of the vote; Trump spews vague vitriol and attacks his competitors; Bernie offers specific policies and proposals, and steadfastly refuses to attack any of his competitors. In short, they are unlike in EVERY WAY.

Likewise, the profiles of Trump and Sanders supporters are 100% diametrically opposed. The "core" Trump supporters are poorly educated, knuckle-dragging racists, whereas the "core" Bernie supporters (as the press constantly points out) are well educated white liberals.

Finally, and most importantly - Trump, like Hillary, has amazingly high unfavorability ratings, whereas Bernie is the ONLY CANDIDATE that tilts positive when comparing his favorable to unfavorable ratings. This means Trump has 0% chance of becoming President, whereas Bernie already has a viable path to victory.

THERE IS NO EQUIVALENCY!!
PLEASE STOP TRYING TO MAKE THIS A STORY!!!

More info here: <http://www.euroyankee.com>

Bernie is an Elected Senator

"Political outsider" ??????

I would remind everyone that Bernie Sanders has been re-elected NINE (9) TIMES to Congress. As a socialist, he was re-elected Senator last round with 71% of the vote – including a majority of Republicans: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/why-surprising-numbers-republicans-have-been-voting-bernie-sanders-vermont>

Donald Trump has never ever been elected to office.

That fact alone should be enough to kill this ridiculous meme about Trump and Sanders – but the media seem to be ignoring the fact that Bernie is not some random guy with a socialist agenda. He is a sitting United States Senator with a socialist platform that continues to get him re-elected again and again, and with huge margins.



Iran

History / Coup

Look, the Iranians have a good reason to hate and distrust America. They elected a moderate "socialist" secular government in 1953. The government wanted to nationalize the oil industry in Iran, so the CIA had the legitimate, elected leader and his government ousted in a coup, and brought back the Shah, who established a dictatorship with the most vicious secret police the world has ever seen, the SAVAK. Iranians suffered under this regime, and it was open knowledge that this odious regime was forced on them by the US. In yet another instance of "unintended consequences" arising from US intervention in the Middle East, the extreme cruelty and violence of the American puppet, the Shah, led to the rise of the Mullahs.

Just like the US-backed Maliki government in Iraq led to the rise of ISIS.

That is why Bernie is wise to support diplomacy and avoid another disastrous military adventure that will inevitably backfire.

*Racial Injustice

Racial Position/Platform

Hmmmm. Regarding African-Americans: Bernie has become very active here, and published a sweeping platform to address racism. I have searched and searched for Hillary Clinton's own "Plan to combat racial inequality" but I cannot find anything anywhere. It must not exist. How can THAT be, when the Black Lives Matter people are steering so far clear of her, and giving her a free pass when she says things like "all lives matter"? She actually said that in Charleston, and what did we hear from Black Lives Matter? Crickets.

Granted, writing such a "racial justice" plan would be problematic for Hillary, because it would have to start with rolling back and dismantling all of the horrible things she and her husband did to the Black Community in the 1990's – abolishing AFDC, decimating the social safety net, and promoting mass incarceration of minorities through the "Clinton Crime Bill."

<http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/31065-will-hillary-clinton-abolish-the-prison-state-her-husband-created-don-t-count-on-it>

If "Black Lives" REALLY mattered to these people they would be camped out in front of Hillary's office in Brooklyn (not the one in Harlem – she is never there because her big rich donor friends don't like to come uptown).

Response to articles or assertions that "Bernie has a Race Problem"

This is such a blatant and obvious hatchet job by yet another Clintonista. Have you not been following? Bernie has a 97% rating from the NAACP. Hillary only has 96%.



According to a profile article in Essence, Bernie met with Symone Sanders just days after being shouted down at the Netroots Nation in mid-July. During their initial meeting, the two had an hour-long conversation about how the Senator could stay in touch with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. She told him that there was a strong link between racial inequality and economic equality, which he has since integrated into his campaign. Bernie offered Symone the job as his Press Secretary at the end of their meeting. I would imagine her first job was helping to draft his platform on racial equality, which he has now published.

A few days later, on 25 July, Bernie addressed the Southern Christian Leadership Council, one of the premier African-American civil rights organizations, of which MLK was head. I urge you to read Bernie's address to the SCLC here:

<https://berniesanders.com/remarks-senator-sanders-southern-christian-leadership-conference/> .

So Bernie was doing his homework, he was eating his vegetables. He was doing what he needed to do. HE GOT IT.

He did not deserve to be ambushed by some self-described "agitators" in Seattle, who have since been denounced by BLM itself as well as other black groups (most recently Larry Wilmore). In short, you are wrong, and you should stick to writing about whatever you know about rather than shilling so pathetically and transparently for Hillary Clinton.

Hillary is no friend to black folks, and you should know that. Her husband set blacks back a generation. <https://thoughtmerchant.wordpress.com/2007/10/05/how-bill-clinton-hurt-poor-blacks-and-how-hillary-might-to/>

Hillary on Crime

If anyone should be "held accountable for her actions" (as the BlackLivesMatter protesters shout) then it is Hillary Clinton, not Bernie Sanders. Hillary was an ardent and vocal supporter of her husband's welfare "reform" and "tough on crime" bills that devastated black families and led to the mass incarceration of black youths.

To wit:

"We need more police, we need more and tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders. The 'three-strikes-and-you're-out' for violent offenders has to be part of the plan. We need more prisons to keep violent offenders for as long as it takes to keep them off the streets."

- Hillary Clinton, speaking on the 1994 Crime Bill.

"We already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not make that situation right. We can either educate or electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails. Mr. Speaker, let us create a society of hope and compassion, not one of hate and vengeance."

- Bernie Sanders, speaking on the same 1994 Crime Bill.

50 Year Record

Bernie has been campaigning for civil rights for 50 years - he protested segregation, got arrested for protesting police brutality, he marched with MLK.

Bernie has a 97% rating from the NAACP. Hillary only has 96%.



I can understand that maybe he hasn't communicated on this topic as much as he needed to - but on the other hand, given his 50 years of activism on behalf of African Americans, and his rock solid voting record and history of supporting black causes, he might be forgiven for having thought that he did not have to "prove himself" today. And indeed, this "what have you done for me lately?" attitude that I am picking up from the black community is not becoming.

The fact is, Hillary is no friend of the Black Community, and neither was her husband - not by a long shot! So stop picking on Bernie, get your head on straight and realise who really has your back - cos it ain't Hillary!

<https://thoughtmerchant.wordpress.com/2007/10/05/how-bill-clinton-hurt-poor-blacks-and-how-hillary-might-to/>

Apology for Slavery

"Obviously nobody in this generation is involved in slavery, but as a nation, slavery is one of the abominations that our country has experienced. There's no excuse. It was horrific, It killed millions of people, It destroyed just the lives of so many people," So as a nation ... we have got to apologize for slavery ... As a nation, we have got to apologize for slavery and of course the president is the leader of the nation."

- *Bernie Sanders on the Joe Madison Show, July 8, 2015*

"And I will also say, that as a nation — the truth is a nation that in many ways was created, and I'm sorry to have to say this from way back, on racist principles, that's a fact."

- *Bernie Sanders speaking at Liberty University, September 14, 2015*

***Hillary believes "All Lives Matter"**

It was Hillary Clinton who was tone deaf this summer, when she travelled to Ferguson Mo. In June and gave a speech in an historic black church there, saying "All Lives Matter."

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/06/24/hillary-clintons-all-lives-matter-remark-stirs-backlash/>

Racial Justice Platform

<https://berniesanders.com/issues/racial-justice/>

***Polls Show Bernie Gaining Among Blacks as Hillary "Plunges"**

Hillary's popularity among the African American Community is plummeting, according to a poll by USA Today and Suffolk University on 01 October.

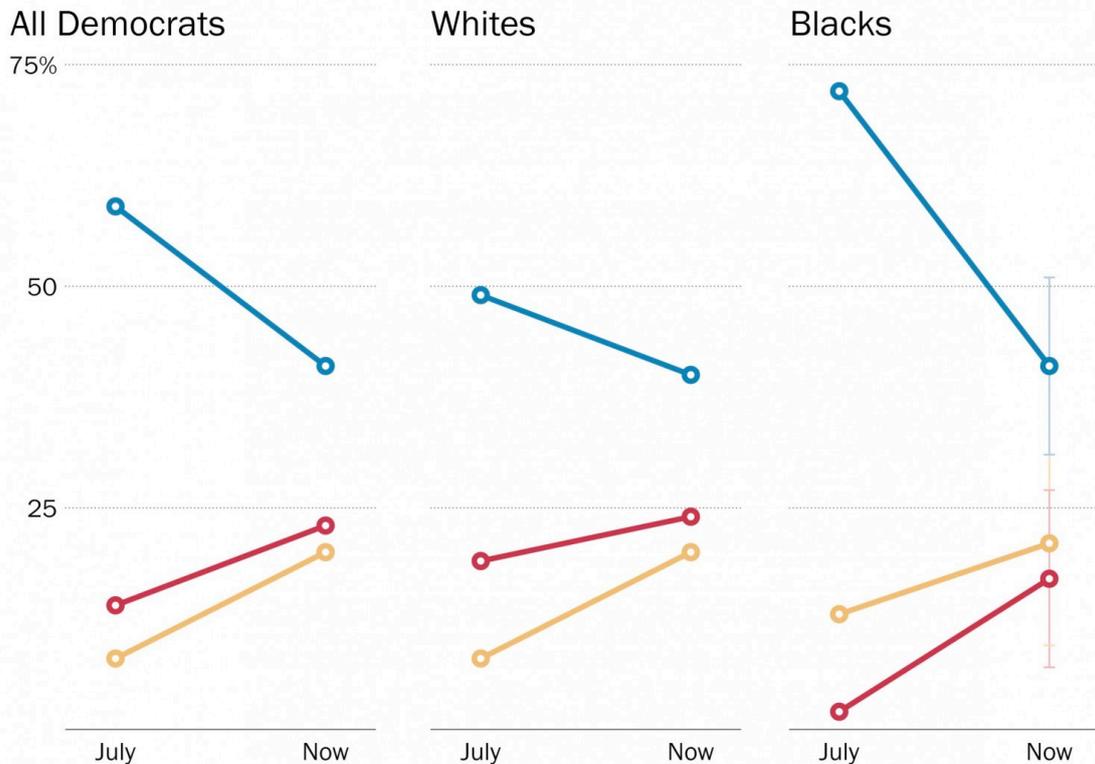
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/10/01/hillary-clintons-support-from-black-voters-plunges-in-a-new-poll/>



Vote preference among Democrats

In Suffolk University/USA Today polling from July 2015 and September 2015.

CLINTON SANDERS BIDEN



DNC and Media Conspiracy

Only 6 Debates

The DNC has scheduled only 6 primary debates this year, and the first one is not until October. This is very unusual. In the 2008 race, in which Hillary lost to Obama, the DNC scheduled their first debate in April 2007, and had already held 13 debates by the beginning of October (when this year's first debate is scheduled). This lack of debate and of public exposure, explains why Bernie Sanders is not doing as well against Hillary everywhere. Still, the fact that the DNC is limiting the debates to only 6, and starting them so late in the process, is an indicator of the perceived weakness of Hillary Clinton as a candidate, and a recognition of her lack of charm and her weakness as a debater. In short, the DNC and their Chairman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz (who was National Co-Chair of the Hillary Clinton Campaign in 2008), are desperately trying to avoid a repeat of 2008.

Of course, the last time a party limited debates to only 6 was in 1980, when the GOP was afraid of the insurgent Conservative Ronald Reagan and so limited the debates

to protect the "establishment" candidates. How did that work out? :))))

USSR

*Russian Flag in Office

The City of Burlington has a sister city in Russia called Yaroslavl – this is still a big thing:

<http://burlingtonyaroslavl.com>

Sanders had their flag in his office, and the Mayor of Yaroslavl probably had a US flag in his - remember, this was all done under Gorbachev's Glasnost and Perestroika in the late 80's just before the Wall fell. And yes, Bernie went to Russia in 1988 to meet his mayoral counterpart in Yaroslavl, and yes, he took his wife along and turned the trip into a honeymoon. Now, you might criticise Bernie for mixing official business with his personal life, but that's about all you can do.

*Russian Honeymoon

When Sanders was mayor, Burlington formed an alliance with another city – Yaroslavl, 160 miles north-east of Moscow (see <http://burlingtonyaroslavl.com> for more info). Sanders traveled on an official trip to meet his counterpart, the mayor of Yaroslavl, in 1988. Remember, this was one year before the Berlin Wall fell, at the height of Gorbachev's Perestroika. Anyway, people say the trip "doubled" as a honeymoon because he took his new wife, Jane, along. Now, you can say he was a cheap penny-pincher, and maybe he should not have taken his wife on that trip, but you cannot make any more out of it than that.

Joe Biden

Joe Trippi

Joe Trippi is the consummate establishment political operative, and now he is carrying water for Hillary.

Aside from presiding over Howard Dean's demise, Trippi has worked on the disastrous and failed presidential campaigns of Ted Kennedy, Walter Mondale, Gary Hart, Dick Gephardt, Jerry Brown and most recently John Edwards.

NOT a good track record.

And nowadays Trippi works as a contributor for FOX News. Need I say more? These are all good reasons NOT to accept or even take seriously the advice or prognostications of Mr. Trippi as regards Bernie Sanders and his revolutionary campaign. Mr. Trippi would not recognise a winning campaign if it bit him on the butt.

Biden and Mass Incarceration

Joe Biden was a Leading proponent on the "Clinton Crime Bill" that increased mass



incarceration of people of color in the 90's."Hillary and I both feel a special indebtedness for the friendship and the leadership of Joe Biden," Bill Clinton said during a November 1994 campaign rally in Wilmington, Del., the evening before the midterm elections. "Without him, there would have been no crime bill this year."

Biden is responsible for shepherding the so-called "Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act" through the Senate. The Act forced States to enforce longer sentences, with less opportunity for parole, and it eliminated the Pell Grant program that allowed inmates to study toward degrees while in prison. Biden's crime bill is universally recognised as having led directly to the mass incarceration and increased recidivism rates we have today.

"There's a tendency now to talk about Joe Biden as the sort of affable if inappropriate uncle, as loudmouth and silly," Naomi Murakawa, author of *The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America*, [said in an interview](#) with *The Marshall Project*. "But he's actually done really deeply disturbing, dangerous reforms that have made the criminal justice system more lethal and just bigger."

Misc. Snippets

Inflation / Tuition

Inflation: my Harvard tuition in 1977 cost \$8000, adjusted for inflation it should be \$28,000. But instead it's \$60,000.

In 1968, it cost \$300 a year to go to the University of California. Adjusted for inflation, it should now cost \$2014 a year. Instead it costs \$15,000.

Liberty University

I think Bernie Sanders will find a very receptive audience at Liberty University. It is a Christian school, so these kids are already used to absorbing the teachings of a socialist Jew :-)
GO BERNIE!

Pope Francis Video

Bernie Sanders discusses Pope Francis and his views. Amazing, truly amazing!!
https://youtu.be/9_LJpN893Vg

The VOX Interview

<https://youtu.be/S5vOKKMipSA>

*Bible Supports Socialism

Mark 12:17:

Regarding Taxes: "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."



Matthew 25:40:

On welfare: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Mark 10:25, Matthew 19:24, Luke 18:25:

Wealth and income inequality: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Matthew 21:12:

On Banking and Finance: "And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers"

Jesus was most definitely a socialist. A socialist Jew, like Bernie.

***Ann Coulter Spills the Beans: GOP want HRC to run**

From Breitbart.com:

Ann Coulter declared, "I wish Fox News would go a little easier on Hillary Clinton. She's the one we want to run against" on "Lou Dobbs Tonight" on the Fox Business Network. Coulter argued, "I wish Fox News would go a little easier on Hillary Clinton. She's the one we want to run against. Could you guys just back off? Because I feel like I'm living through this, I feel like this is déjà vu again. We used to say, 'Oh, the next president isn't going to be a guy named Barack Hussein Obama.' Our next president could be **Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)** if you people keep this up."

<http://www.breitbart.com/video/2015/08/12/coulter-go-a-little-easier-on-hillary-because-shes-the-one-we-want-to-run-against/>

Bernie's Legislative accomplishments

Sponsored 773 Bills

Co-Sponsored 5,366

According to the Congressional Record, Bernie has Sponsored or Co-Sponsored over 6,000 bills; he Introduced 5,286 of those bills; 704 made it out of Committee; 206 became law - <https://www.congress.gov/member/bernard-sanders/S000033>

***Bernie's Plan will NOT cost \$18 Trillion**

The economist that calculated the \$18 Trillion figure actually concluded that Americans would SAVE \$5 Trillion over the 10 year period. The WSJ hit piece is debunked here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2015/09/15/no-bernie-sanders-is-not-going-to-bankrupt-america-to-the-tune-of-18-trillion/>



Private Prisons

Private Prison Lobbyists Are Raising Cash for Hillary Clinton <http://interc.pt/1Jhpxww>
by @lhfang

Here's why:

"We need more police, we need more and tougher prison sentences for repeat offenders. The 'three-strikes-and-you're-out' for violent offenders has to be part of the plan. We need more prisons to keep violent offenders for as long as it takes to keep them off the streets."

- Hillary Clinton, speaking on the 1994 Crime Bill.

By contrast;

"We already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not make that situation right. We can either educate or electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails. Mr. Speaker, let us create a society of hope and compassion, not one of hate and vengeance."

- Bernie Sanders, speaking on the same 1994 Crime Bill.

Rape

Give me a break. This was a satirical essay written in 1972, and it was meant to expose the deleterious effects of gender stereotypes on both men and women. Bernie has commented: "It was intended to attack gender stereotypes of the '70s, but it looks as stupid today as it was then."

<http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/05/29/410606045/the-bernie-sanders-rape-fantasy-essay-explained>

Link to Post for others to get this document

If you like to defend Bernie against the trolls and Clintonite hordes, this will help:
Bernie Sanders Rapid Response Library :

<http://www.euroyankee.com/2015/09/23/bernie-sanders-rapid-response-reference-library-version-1-8-22-sep-2015/>

Bernie is NOT a Warmonger: He is Historically Anti-Defense Spending

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vabeos-F8Kk&feature=share>

70% of Americans support for Bernie's Positions

<http://reverbpress.com/politics/datalog/americans-agree-bernie-sanders/>



Only 2% of Sanders Supporters are “Anti-Hillary”

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-poll/2015/08/29/iowa-poll-democrats-august/71387664/?hootPostID=f566866239310c78a602dd7712a622da>

Sanders' support isn't anti-Clinton vote

Is your support for Bernie Sanders mostly because you support him and his ideas or mostly because you do not support Hillary Clinton? (Asked only of Bernie Sanders supporters (n=112))

Mostly support Sanders and his ideas
96%

