



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Democrats seized control of suburban Philadelphia's Delaware County Council for the first time in history, knocking out what was once one of the most powerful GOP machines in the nation.

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Suburban rebellion threatens Trump's grip on Pennsylvania

'The trend from red to blue has accelerated in the last few years, and there's only one reason for that,' said a top suburban Republican.

By HOLLY OTTERBEIN
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In an article posted on line by Politico© staff writer Holly Otterbein writes that Kentucky and Virginia captured the national headlines, but the state that sounded the loudest alarm for President Donald Trump on Tuesday was Pennsylvania, an essential component to his re-election path. The article when on to say, the Republican Party's long suburban nightmare entered another terrifying hour here: Democrats seized control of suburban Philadelphia's Delaware County Council for the first time in history, knocking out what was once one of the most powerful GOP machines in the nation. And the GOP continued to lose ground in two other nearby suburban behemoths, Chester and Bucks counties.

All four of Philadelphia's collar-county governments are now dominated by Democrats, toppling the firewall that Republicans had counted on for decades in statewide races. At the same time, the GOP in the state's largest city was dealt a death blow: It forfeited

a council seat reserved for non-Democrats to third-party left-wingers.

In a critical state that Trump won by only 44,000 votes in 2016, Tuesday's results demonstrate that maintaining that narrow advantage will be an enormous challenge for the president next year.

"The anti-Trump sentiment in the suburbs hasn't dissipated at all," said Ryan Costello, a former Republican congressman from Chester County. "Democrats have won counties they never, ever, ever won. The trend from red to blue has accelerated in the last few years, and there's only one reason for that."

The risk for 2020, he said, is "there is not a way to win Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan without holding your deficits down in the suburbs."

Suburban Democrats acknowledge that Trump remains powerful in the western part of the state, but they believe their victories in recent years in Philly's collar counties illustrate that they can post even bigger Democratic margins in 2020. In addition to their historic finish in Delaware County this year, Democrats also won back the Bucks County Board of Commissioners for the first time since the 1980s and swept the county commissioner races in Chester County.

"That's the only way for the Democrats to change the results of those 44,000 votes," said **Dave Dellosa, a Teamsters leader who in 2018 flipped a state House seat in Delaware County for the first time in 40 years.** "You leave metropolitan Philadelphia 1 million, 1.2 million votes ahead."

From Cambria in the west to Bucks County in the east, Democrats and Republicans both saw the 2019 election as a way to jump-start organizing for the presidential race.

In Philly, the Working Families Party made history by winning one of the two seats on the city council that is reserved for candidates who are not part of the majority party — in other words, the Democratic

Party. Republicans had held those set-aside seats for decades.

Given that it required an extensive educational program to persuade city voters that they could support WFP candidate Kendra Brooks without hurting Democrats — voters can only cast a ballot for five candidates running for seven total seats — her victory indicates that there is a massive number of highly engaged progressives in the city.

"Kendra won with 55,000 votes, and Trump won the entire state of Pennsylvania with 44,000 votes. So, the work we have to do tomorrow is consolidate that coalition," said Maurice Mitchell, national director for the Working Families Party, who added that the victory represents "hundreds and hundreds" of volunteers in 2020, including many of whom are new to the political process. "In a non-delusional way, the Working Families Party coalition in Pennsylvania could rob Trump of his victory in the country and save the world."

Though Philadelphia is a bright-blue city, Republicans successfully worked in 2016 to narrow their losses in the city compared to the 2012 presidential election — and they need to replicate that again next year.

To view and read complete article go to:

<https://www.politico.com/news/2019/11/06/pennsylvania-suburbs-trump-067078>

