

WITH THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION APPROACHING, THE MAIN QUESTION AMONG DEMOCRATS IS THE DECISION TO VOTE FOR A MORE MODERATE CANDIDATE OR A MORE PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATE.

As voters prepare to cast their ballots this November for the 2020 presidential election, there is one overarching question haunting the Democratic Party. After losing to Trump in the 2016 presidential election, the Democratic Party is in the midst of electing a presidential candidate, but the party is torn between progressive and moderate policies and candidates. Despite being a “rabid Democrat”, former Stafford County, VA English dept. teacher Sue Gill is supporting a moderate choice for president.

“At this particular moment, I am making my choices based on who can beat Mr. Trump. He is not my first choice of candidate. There were two other (Democratic) candidates that I thought were more in line with my (philosophical) responsibility, but they’re not electable,” Gill said. “They could not win, and I was very happy when they dropped out of the race and threw their support to the only person I think who can beat Trump.” Regardless of their candidate preferences, Democrats largely agree on many policies that have emerged,

Top: (NOT QUITE) SEEING EYE TO EYE: An illustration of a two headed donkey is placed below a blue banner reading “DEMOCRATIC DIVIDE.” Illustration by Audrey Kennedy.

some of these being gun control laws, Medicare-for-all, climate change and immigration policies. For example, Gill is a strong climate change activist and agrees with the majority of the Democratic Party that some “Green New Deal” or policy should be put in place to protect and preserve the environment.

“I believe that when you’re melting Antarctica, we’ve got a problem. I realize that the world goes through cycles, but the cycle changes, the speed of it is scary,” Gill said. “I would like for my grandson to be able to drink clean water, breathe clean air. Look at the pollution that was cleaned up over the city of Pittsburg with its steel mills. It’s a clean city now-- they just rolled back those pollution standards.”

Maisha Delph, a salary manager at East Bay Deli in Columbia, SC, believes the determining factor to who will become the Democratic nominee is young voters. However, according to NPR, voter turnout between the ages of 18-29 is flatlining or negative in some states.

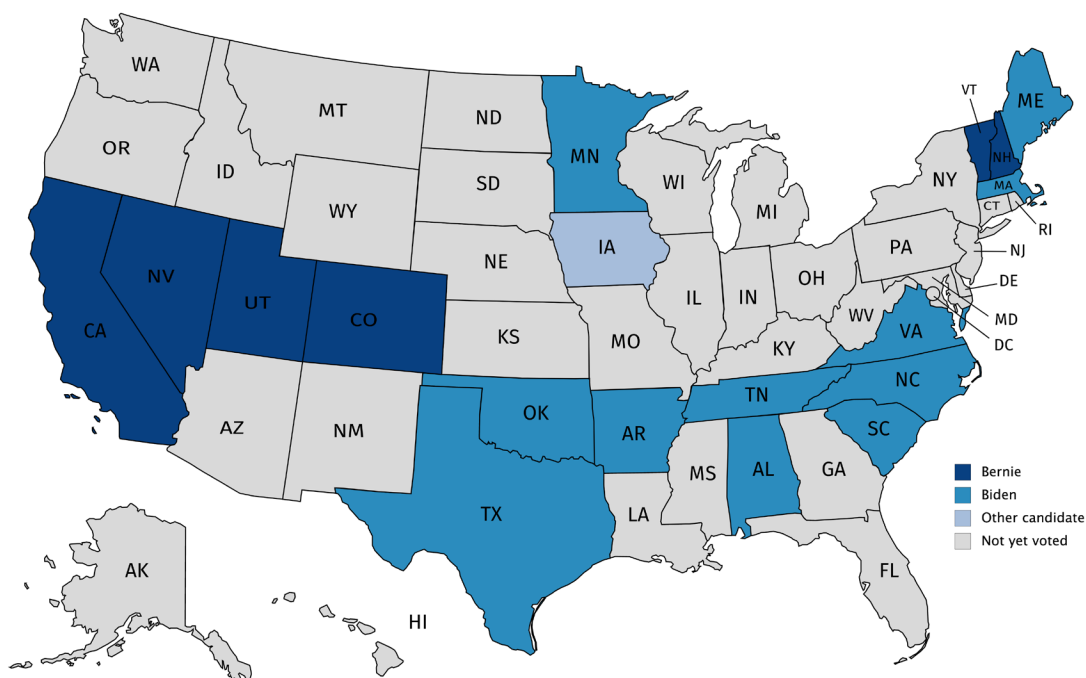
“I think how (the current Democratic candidates are) going to bring out the millennials (is what will determine the winning candidate) because the millennials

are going to be the ones to really set the race forwards, so whoever can really pull the millennials or the younger crowd out and get them to really come vote is what’s going to set them apart,” Delph said. “You can get the old people to vote whenever you want and they’re always going to continue this, but it’s really a chunky amount of millennials that’s going to really take the lead. I mean, there’s really more kids than adults.”

Despite the fractures within the Democratic Party, Gill believes the underlying principles of the party will unify individuals for the betterment of the U.S.

“I look for the ones who can’t look out for themselves, and that’s why I think the Democratic party is the right one,” Gill said. “I think the Democratic party has spent more time trying to make sure that those who can’t take care of themselves, have a source. Medicare, medicaid is one of those things, foster care is one of those things, food stamps is one of those things. There are so many programs that we decided not to let babies die. We decided not to let single mothers struggle and have their children grow up in the same kind of poverty and that’s what I believe, that’s who I am.”

I LOOK FOR THE ONES WHO CAN'T LOOK OUT FOR THEMSELVES, AND THAT'S WHY I THINK THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS THE RIGHT ONE -- RETIRED ENGLISH TEACHER SUE GILL



Above: SEEING BLUE: The United States of America are shown color coded based on whether they voted for Bernie, Biden, an alternate candidate or haven't yet voted.