

By Bill Owens

Unnoticed by the mainstream media, which prefers showier displays of political protest, there is a quiet revolution going on in the African-American community. Confronted by a problematic candidate and a platform that has abandoned them, more and more black voters are questioning whether they should support the Democratic Party.

For me, there is no question at all. Black voters have been taken for granted by Democrats for decades. Half a century of failed policies have nearly destroyed our communities. Now, a candidate who embraces all the more hostile elements of an anti-faith, anti-family agenda could ascend to the highest office in the land.

This is why, as an African-American political and religious leader, I am urging black voters to abandon Democrats and vote for their values.

I didn't always feel this way, of course. My own experience reflects that of many black men and women. As a child, I grew up in a tiny, two-room home in Memphis. With 11 children to care for — including the additional family we took in — my father and mother had a difficult path, but they taught me to embrace both my faith and hard work.

As a child, I picked cotton for three cents a pound. As a young man, I stood up against racial discrimination, marching with leaders like the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. as part of the great Civil Rights Movement. As an adult, I worked to pass on the value of education to a new generation through the Give Me a Chance Ministry and later founded the

Why blacks should abandon the Democratic party

A candidate who embraces an anti-faith, anti-family agenda must not get votes

terrible cycle of poverty.

When African-Americans have demanded change — like education reform that would allow children to escape a failed and dangerous school system — we learn that we are less valuable to the Democrats than other interest groups, such as the teachers' unions.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the fight over same-sex marriage, transgender "rights," and religious freedom. Betrayed by a president who lied to us over his support of same-sex marriage, we are now seeing our churches targeted by Hillary Clinton and a new breed of Democrats who are positioning religion as their enemy. The Civil Rights Movement has been defined down to embrace the right of men to use women's restrooms and is now being used as an excuse to bully people of faith.

Hillary Clinton has said that if religion is a bar to embracing her far-left agenda, then blacks (and others) must discard religion. This is breathtaking in its arrogance and insensitivity. Our religion carried us through slavery and gave hope of redemption and freedom. When someone thinks they have the authority to change people's religion, that's dangerous.

Needless to say, I have no intention of abandoning my faith. However, I have abandoned Mrs. Clinton and the Democratic Party, and I encourage all African-Americans to do the same.

This is not the party we grew up with. It no longer reflects our values, and it has long since stopped representing our interests. Democrats and liberals have tossed God aside. He's too inconvenient for them, with His ironclad notions of right and wrong, good and evil. Instead, they seek to make the state into a god — a far more convenient proposition for them, and one which will give them carte blanche to attack and marginalize people of faith.

To be clear — I am not

saying that all those who read this should become Republicans. I am saying that they should think hard about what this election means for the future. Remember that the next president will appoint at least one Supreme Court justice, leaving a lasting legacy in American law. A Clinton presidency means that, a decade from now, you will no longer recognize America.

Isn't half a century of lies, failure, and destruction of the black family enough? African-Americans must abandon the Democrats and vote for people who will improve their communities, not dismantle them.

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scandal, Mr. Obama did an interview with CBS, saying he only learned of Mrs. Clinton's private server after the news broke.

That appears to be a blatant lie.

After The New York Times published an article titled: "Obama says he didn't know Hillary Clinton was using a private email address," the following day, Mrs. Clinton's team — sensing her and the president weren't on the same page — leapt into action.

"One of us should connect with the WH just so they know that the email will show his statement to not make sense," Clinton aide Phillippe Reines wrote to senior staffers, signaling emails had been exchanged by Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton on her private server.

FBI notes also signal Mr. Obama was indeed aware and had corresponded with Mrs. Clinton on her private server long before the news broke.

In an April 2015 interview with Huma Abedin, a longtime Clinton aide, the FBI alerted her of an exchange between Mr. Obama — using a pseudonym — and Mrs. Clinton from 2012, where she exclaimed: "How is this not classified?" the report says.

Indeed.

There's no wonder why the FBI agreed to sweetheart deals with Mrs. Clinton's staff, and were amenable to other demands by Mrs. Clinton's lawyers during its investigation — the administration wanted their hands tied from the get-go, lest it implicate the president.

The cozy relationship between Mrs. Clinton's staff and career diplomats at the State Department are equally swampy.

The FBI's documents expose there was a "shadow government" at the State Department that tried to protect Mrs. Clinton throughout the email probe.

"There was a powerful group of very high-ranking State officials that some referred to as 'The 7th Floor Group' or 'The Shadow Government.' This group met every Wednesday afternoon to discuss the FOIA process, Congressional records, and everything Clinton-related to FOIA/Congressional inquiries," the FBI's interview summary said.

This is in addition to revelations that Patrick Kennedy, undersecretary of State, asked an FBI agent's assistance in altering one of Mrs. Clinton's email's classification in exchange for a "quid pro quo." If the agent down-classified the email, then Mr. Kennedy would grant the FBI the overseas outposts it requested.

The agent, Brian McCauley, who has since retired from the FBI, told The Washington Post he turned down the request when he learned that the email Mr. Kennedy was trying to reclassify had to do with Benghazi.

Unbelievable. A banana republic I tell you.

The media has responded to these scandals by largely ignoring them — they're too concerned with Donald Trump's rhetoric than they are with anything that would impugn Mrs. Clinton's or Mr. Obama's record.

Instead, Yahoo's Katie Couric was looking to do pieces that "would showcase her [Clinton's] personality and has a lot of viral potential," according to an email she sent to Mr. Podesta.

And CNBC's John Harwood openly pontificated in September 2015 why the press was harping so on the email scandal.

"Amazing," Mr. Harwood wrote in the subject line of an email to Mr. Podesta, continuing in the email text, "that some people still think it's worth burning so much interview time with person most likely to be next president on her emails?"

Oh, the horror of questioning everything and digging into the truth as a journalist.

Banana republic.

Kelly Riddell is a columnist for The Washington Times.



Coalition of African American Pastors (CAAP).

For much of that time, like many other African-American men, I considered myself a Democrat. Then came the moment when I realized that the Democratic Party had abandoned me and my values. Now, I am astounded to see the harm they have caused to the black voters that have supported them for so long.

State-sponsored dependency, launched through Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and perpetuated in endless government programs, has robbed us of our dignity and enslaved our people. Failed housing policies have destroyed the inner cities and helped turn black-on-black crime into the scourge of our communities. Abortion-on-demand has had a near-genocidal effect on our population, and all of these policies have helped encourage illegitimacy, the destruction of the family, and a

By Donald Lambro

The presidential debates are mercifully over in an election that may long be remembered as a lost opportunity for Republicans to take control of the nation's government for the next four to eight years.

This should have been an election that was all about the dreadful Obama economy, lost jobs and persistently weak economic growth that's crawling along at little more than 1 percent.

This should have been a relentless, unforgiving, game-changing campaign that turned the election into an historic referendum on the last eight years of an underperforming economy that has hurt tens of millions of Americans.

Instead, the voters nominated Donald Trump who was incapable of mounting a campaign that was focused like a laser beam on the Democrats' biggest political weakness.

University of Maryland business economist Peter Morici, who has been one of President Obama's severest critics, correctly summed up this administration's failure:

"The current economic recovery has been one of the longest and weakest since World War II. Growth at 2.1 percent has not been enough to resurrect family incomes to prerecession levels or create enough good paying jobs."

In the last and blessedly final year of Mr. Obama's anemic economic record, the economy has grown weaker, raising fears that we may be headed toward another recession.

To be sure, Mr. Trump has made the weak economy one of the issues in his campaign, but his criticisms have for the most part been drowned out or undermined by unending controversies, scandals and inflammatory rhetoric of his own making.

Heading into the final days of the election campaign, he was dismissing a taped conversation, in which he bragged about sexually forcing himself on women, as nothing more than "locker room banter," denying charges from women that he assaulted them, and saying he often got away with such behavior because he was famous and a television "star."

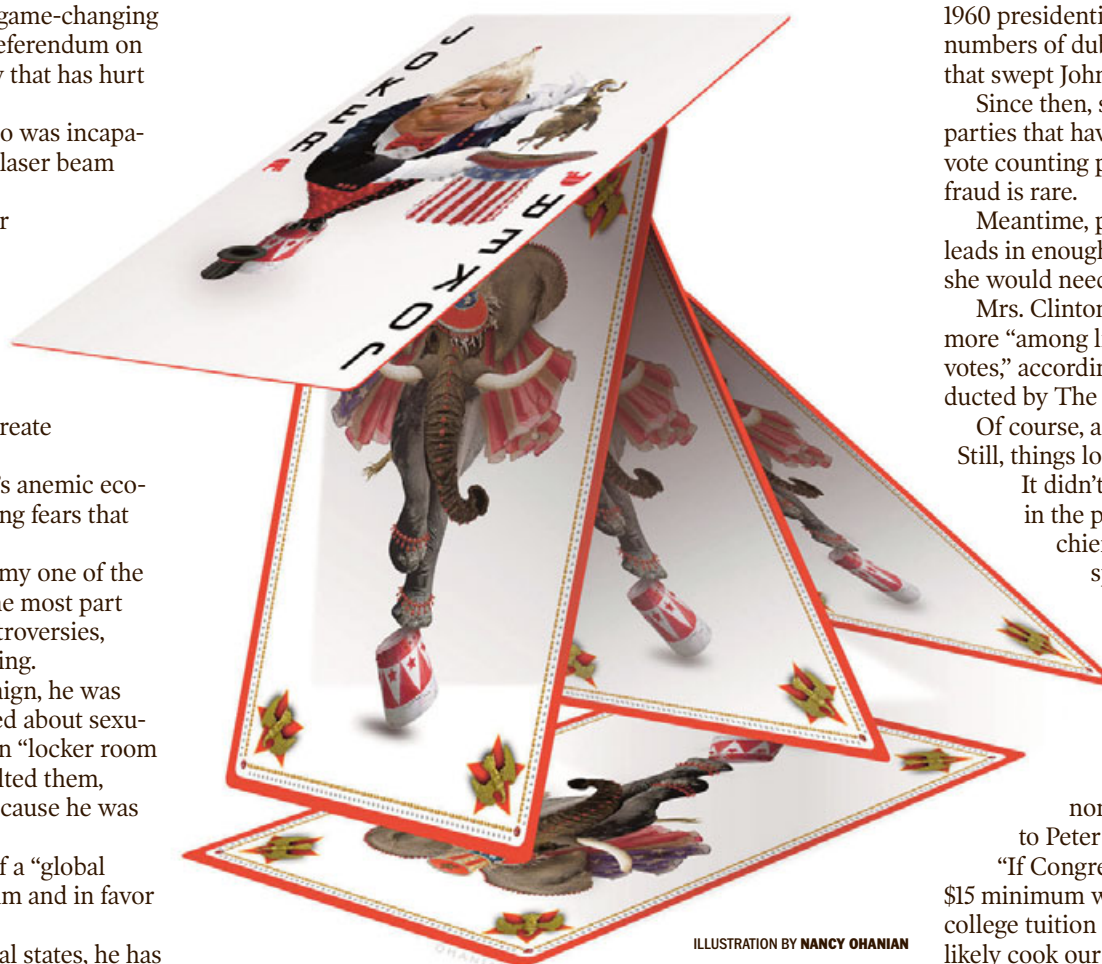
More recently, Mr. Trump insists he is a victim of a "global conspiracy," that has "rigged" the election against him and in favor of Hillary Clinton.

As Mrs. Clinton has lengthened her lead in pivotal states, he has raised a new and unprecedented issue in the annals of presidential politics: that if he loses, it will be the result of election fraud.

He has offered no evidence of this paranoid plot, or for his bombastic charges that the election process is rigged. Yet at the end of Wednesday night's rancorous debate, he leveled one of the most incendiary threats of his campaign — refusing to say whether he would accept the outcome of next month's election.

It didn't have to be this way

Keeping attention on Obama's failed economy would have favored Republicans



"I will keep you in suspense," the notoriously litigious real estate mogul said.

Conspiracy theories abound in this election, and Mr. Trump is clearly appealing to that part of the electorate that buys into them, hook, line and sinker.

But by raising the specter of voter fraud — even before the polls open — he is attempting to undermine public confidence

in America's democratic process and the very foundations of self-government.

He's also trying to shift the news media's attention away from his groping scandal, and he effectively did just that in Wednesday's debate.

Mr. Trump also made it clear that he disagrees with his vice presidential running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who has said, "We will absolutely accept the results of the election."

Has there been voter fraud in our elections? Of course. The 1960 presidential election immediately comes to mind when large numbers of dubious Democratic votes were counted in Chicago, that swept John F. Kennedy into the White House.

Since then, stringent safeguards have been put in place by both parties that have put poll watchers at voting places and during the vote counting process. There are respected studies that show voter fraud is rare.

Meantime, polls in key battlegrounds show that Hillary Clinton leads in enough states to give her more than the 270 electoral votes she would need to win the presidency.

Mrs. Clinton is said to hold leads of four percentage points or more "among likely voters in states that add up to 304 electoral votes," according to a SurveyMonkey poll of 15 pivotal states conducted by The Washington Post.

Of course, as Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over until it's over." Still, things look bleak for the Republicans.

It didn't have to be this way. Mr. Trump would be leading in the polls if he had made Mr. Obama's failed economy his chief issue in this campaign — detailing its weaknesses, spelling out how lower tax rates would produce a wave of new job-creating capital investment, and, of course, had refrained from the childish insults and bombastic behavior.

And by embracing the House GOP's revenue-neutral tax reforms that would shut down needless loopholes and corporate welfare.

Meantime, Hillary Clinton's tax-hiking economic agenda will be a disaster for our country. Listen to Peter Morici:

"If Congress permits her to expand Obamacare, impose a \$15 minimum wage, finance broader subsidies for child care and college tuition and impose other regulatory burdens, those would likely cook our economic goose," Mr. Morici writes.

But Mr. Trump is not going to change his rude and vulgar behavior, nor restyle his campaign agenda. Democrats handed us this election on a silver platter, and it appears that a deeply flawed GOP nominee is about to lose it.

Donald Lambro is a syndicated columnist and contributor to The Washington Times.