

Hypocrisy grows among Democrats

With the 2018 midterm elections now far in hindsight, it is time to begin looking at the record of the freshman class of representatives and senators thus far.

When taking a step back, it is evident that two things have become even further emphasized by the new faces to Congress on the Democratic side, hypocrisy and extremism.

Just weeks ago, newly elected Congresswoman from Minnesota's 5th congressional district Rep. Ilhan Omar, came under fire for her allegedly anti-Semitic comments about the influence of the Israeli government and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

In her statement, Omar said, "I want to talk about the political influence in this country that says it is okay for people to push for allegiance to a foreign country."

Omar's use of the word "allegiance" in reference to Israel sparked criticism as the use of the word has ties to anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, and rightfully so. Although Omar has since somewhat apologized for her remarks, saying they were misinterpreted, this is not the first time that she has displayed animosity towards Israel.

Moreover, the most egregious display of hypocrisy comes from House Democrats including Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Rather than disavow Omar for her comments, many top-ranking Democrats in Congress opted to defend her instead.

In the light of Omar's comments, the house should have held a real vote to condemn her statements. Instead, the resolution brought to the floor by Pelosi and House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn says nothing of significance.

Pelosi went on to make excuses for Omar saying that she “did not understand the full weight of her words.”

The stark hypocrisy comes into play when analyzing the manner in which the Democrats handled this case of hateful speech compared to that of the GOP.

Back in January, House Republicans led by Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy voted to unanimously disavow white supremacist comments made by Rep. Steve King of Iowa. The GOP did not stop there, as they also stripped King of his committee assignments.

The ho-hum and insincere attitude of Democratic leadership in response to Omar is inexcusable. For someone who has a seat on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Omar should have indefinitely been removed and stripped of her committee assignments. Nonetheless, she was not even directly decried as her district remains angered and recruits 2020 primary challengers to go against Omar.

As for extremism, there is not a single freshman representative who displays it in as pronounced a way as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York. For starters, Ocasio-Cortez has been nothing but an endless fountain of idiotic and uneducated statements since entering Congress.

A self-described socialist, Ocasio-Cortez personifies ideological extremism. Just over a month ago on Feb.7, Ocasio-Cortez alongside introduced the Green New Deal resolution alongside Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

The GDN mentions an unreal amount of outlandish, unrealistic and flat-out nonsensical proposals. The resolution entails a number of horrid socialist priorities such as universal healthcare, universal basic income and placing more restrictions on businesses and the business environment.

As if this proposal wasn't preposterous enough, Ocasio-Cortez

has not mentioned any clear way in which any of its priorities will be paid for. However, it is expected that if the GDN would go into effect, it would cost an overwhelming and unacceptable \$93 trillion.

As a further matter, Ocasio-Cortez's ineptitude was demonstrated in her clumsy debacle with Amazon. As of last year, Amazon planned last year to plant one of its new headquarters in New York City within Ocasio-Cortez' jurisdiction in Queens.

The freshman congresswoman's opposition to the deal resulted in Amazon pulling out of NYC, costing the city over 25,000 jobs in addition to an approximated \$4 billion in lost wages which would have gone to working-classing class individuals.

Ocasio-Cortez' sheer incompetence drew ire from members of her district who overwhelmingly supported the Amazon deal as well as Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Ocasio-Cortez' comments on the New Zealand massacre caused a backlash amongst representatives. Representative Dan Crenshaw (R), a former Navy Seal, took Ocasio-Cortez' tweets and messages which attacked groups such as the NRA and bringing the event which is still being mourned upon, to politics. "If you find yourself using the tragedy in New Zealand to take backhanded swipes at conservatives in America – many of my colleagues already have – then you really have no shame and you are part of the problem. It should be easy for us to stand united and condemn terrorism," Crenshaw replied.

Crenshaw, a pronounced Republican has taken action on social media to combat opposing views.

The 2018 midterms bring about mixed results

Election night was exciting. The night started with people thinking Republicans were going to defy all expectations of political gravity. By the time the night was over, it looked sort of like what most people predicted.

The most important thing was historic voter turnouts. About 113 million people voted, around 48% of eligible voters. That is up from 83 million votes in 2014. The voter turnout is actually more comparable to the presidential elections in 2016 with 138.8 million voters. Overall, we believe that the historic midterms will leave a positive effect on the United States.

Whether it's the new balance of power with the House, the widening Senate gap, or the impressive number of women and races in Congress, the midterms proved interesting to say the least.

It was predicted that Democrats would win 45 seats, turned out they won 34. It was also predicted that Republicans would pick up 2-4 seats in the Senate, which they did. This has led to a lot of puzzlement, how could the Republicans lose the House, but pick up seats in the Senate?

The math was uniquely bad for Democrats this time around in the Senate. Republicans did over perform, and yes President Trump had something to do with that. President Trump visited a bunch of battleground states in hotly contested Senate races, and every place he visited, that candidate won.

President Trump has a unique gift for getting the base revved up, particularly in close Senate elections that do matter.

So he does have coattails when it comes to getting the base out, he does have reverse coattails however, when it comes to House races. Virtually every purple seat that was contested, every seat in the suburban district that Republicans held, went to Democrats last night. That is deeply troubling for

Republicans. However, a Democratic house is overall good for the country, as it will limit some of the executive power in the country.

More locally, Senator Tim Kaine won big over Republican candidate Corey Stewart. Personally, we have never agreed with Tim Kaine in the past, and I doubt I will in the future. However, he is the representative Virginians selected. As expected, Northern Virginia went completed Democratic, with Gerry Connolly and Jennifer Wexton winning in Districts 10 and 11.

The good news for Republicans is that the 'beloved' campaigns of candidates Beto O'Rourke of Texas and Andrew Gilliam of Florida came to an end. Beto O'Rourke had spent more money than God has, \$70 million, and still lost his race.

All that said Beto O'Rourke and other candidates still lost their campaigns after spending tons of money.

On top of that, Andrew Gillum goes down in Florida, who was another person according to polls, was going to win. Ron DeSantis instead, comes from behind and snatches victory from what should have been a defeat. DeSantis and Scott will come up and prove why they're great representatives for the state.

As days passed, it looked like the midterm results were not all in and recounts have taken place. Florida and Arizona are both states in which the GOP have achieved big victories on the night of the elections.

However in the following days, thousands of mysterious votes began to appear in mostly Democratic leaning areas and the Democrats demanded a recount.

This seems just a bit fishy and it brings up the question to what is actually going on.

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida tweeted out, "Now democrat lawyers are descending on #Florida. They have been very clear they aren't here to make sure every vote is counted; They are here to change the results of the election and #Broward is where they plan to do it."

The Democrats basically confirmed this in a press conference where they said they aren't just here to recount, they're here

to win.

I don't believe anyone has a problem with the recounts taking place, the problem lies with them focusing just on two counties. Bay County got hit by a category 4 hurricane four weeks prior to the elections and they still had a 52% voter turnout and got all the ballots in on time.

Broward County wasn't hit by a catastrophic hurricane or anything of the sorts, so people don't see a reason to why counting is still taking place 48 hours later.

Another problem is the amount of votes that have happened. They don't know how many votes they have gotten and neither do we. How many ballots are left to count? They won't make a mention of it and tell nobody. Results still came up with a Rick Scott victory however, and it appears the Democratic candidate is now leading in Arizona.

There was no "blue wave," if there was, the Senate would be under democratic control, which it isn't. In governor elections, Republicans won big as well in Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, all blue states that were supposed to win those races.

The Republicans defied most expectations and actually grew their majority in the Upper House, which has not been a common occurrence in the past 100 years. The loses in the House were a lot less historical than what people predicted as well.

Republicans are ready to fight

The Republicans are back and they're not happy. After the recent election, many republicans have already jumped on the Health Care reform law attempting to get rid of it or several undesirable provisions. People had expected the election

results; however, reality has now set in.

The Republicans are here and ready to fight with no end in sight for the next two years. If that isn't scary enough, the Tea Party has already infiltrated the house and it won't be long until there's more than one Tea Party member in both the House and Senate. Although it may be too soon to make assumptions about the 2012 elections, one can't help but wonder who is going to become the presidential nominee, and more importantly, who will win?

Obama is currently low in the ratings, but still has enough time to bounce back and gain the support of the people that had catapulted him to the spotlight two years ago. Sarah Palin, although it is unlikely for her to get nominated for the Republican party in 2012, there is always a chance that she may learn about the U.S. foreign policy and study a map of the world and prove herself.

There are too many questions floating in the air, and too little information for any answers to be given.

Compromise is another problem with both Democrats and Republicans. They're like teenage girls when it comes to making sacrifices in order to reach a decision.

For example, the Republicans have been outspoken about overhauling the Health Care Reform that was enacted by Obama, and this directly affects students who under the new law can stay on their parents health insurance until the age of 26.

They may not have become exhausted from the endless debates, but the public has and they have been asking for this to end. The Republicans are being looked to as the saviors by many voters, and have a lot to prove if they want to please those who allowed them to win.

The Republicans have succeeded – now what? It's time for them to prove themselves and accomplish what the voters set them

out to do. This will include compromises, but judging by the core beliefs that both parties are adamant on promoting, finding middle ground seems unlikely.