

J. Michael Locke

Musings

#99: Musing November 7, 2020

While this “publication” is not intended for political discourse, hard not to comment. Assuming the Republicans hold on in Georgia senate races, I am quite happy with the results of the election. The “Trump show” is tiring and he is not the type of leader I find effective. As discussed in previous musings, leaders are humble, listen hard, emphasize “we” and not “I”, give credit, accept blame, and attract the best talent. That said, I did not think a progressive policy agenda is in the best interest of our country and so want Republicans to keep the Senate. I don’t think the majority of Americans want government run healthcare, higher taxes, elimination of right to work laws and the Green New Deal. Divided government probably best result right now and great to see the highest turnout in a century with over 150mm people voting or 65% of the electorate.

My biggest takeaway was also the push back on “government growth and dominance.” I am a limited government guy. Delighted with California referenda results where gig workers don’t have to be full time employees (voters overruling the legislation) and no explicit affirmative action in college admissions. Happy that Illinois’ “raise revenue by taxing the rich” approach with no corresponding expense management got rejected. I liked how the Latino voter with experience with socialistic regimes in Miami Dade expressed concerns about more government power with their vote. While I am not a 420 person, fascinating the marijuana legalization has gone mainstream (although our little suburb rejected ordinance to allow a retail shop).

I am a fan of using Google search volumes to understand demand or what people are thinking. Interesting tidbit from election day. Terms like “anxiety,” “breathing activities,” “liquor store near me,” and “fries near me” also reached all-time highs as people looked for ways to cope with uncertainty surrounding the election.

The political cancel culture has now permeated youth friendships. Our daughter received texts demanding she represent that she did not vote for Trump because the sender could not be friends with someone who did. Amazing.

Let’s take the words of John Meacham to heart: “Division is the oxygen of democracy” and “Democracies don’t work without empathy.”

Never bet against human ingenuity. Governor Pritzker will not allow kid soccer games in Illinois. So, the leaders in Portage, Indiana (just over the border) see their opportunity and hundreds of Chicagoans are over in Portage every weekend spending money at their newly-upgraded soccer facility. Scientists looking to develop cures for cancer want to test things. It takes a while for mice to grow and reproduce so someone figures out instead that you can use Zebra fish (here is a link to a video from a great organization I am involved with called the Cancer Research Foundation (<https://www.cancerresearchfdn.org/> and the video at <https://youtu.be/RFnHMSEUHSc>). Balding men don’t get as many interested women on dating match sites so they invent “hatfishing” where they only

post pictures with them wearing hats. Finally, hotels struggling for demand and see parents' struggling to work from home with kids roll out "daily rates" where you can use a hotel room as your office for a break from the homefront.

Let's all commit to kill the addiction to powerpoint. It has become a crutch and reduces the quality of conversation. Everybody gets focused on preparation and page flipping. Go old school and just have a conference call (no video) and no powerpoint. #justtalk

Congrats to the Rasmussen University team on their announced sale to American Public Education Inc. [American-Public-Education-Inc.-APEI-Announces-Transformational-Deal-to-Acquire-Rasmussen-University-the-Largest-Educator-of-ADN-Nurses](#). Starting our nursing business in 2004 was not easy but the hard work paid off.

Great email from a concierge medicine Dr I really respect on Covid is attached.

Be safe.

jml