YES WE DID. AGAIN.
THE SOUL OF THE PRESIDENCY: JOE BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS HAVE WON AND NOW THEY HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO

By Lina LeCaro

Our country is more divided than ever, but there is one thing we can all agree on, and that is the depth of the division itself. No moment was this more clear than on election night, when we saw our TV and computer screens highlight this separation of beliefs and political perspective in vivid red and blue contrast on a map of the United States.

As projected winners of each state were announced by the major news networks on the evening of Nov. 3, it was so close that we did not know what “the soul of America,” as the Biden campaign has called it, truly was or which mindset would prevail that day. We all went to bed (well, some of us did) not knowing and awakened the next day equally unnerved. Due to Covid-19 concerns, 2020’s historic presidential election was, of course, different, with mail-in ballots encompassing a huge portion of votes to be counted in many states, including here in California. Patience, as we were warned prior to election day, would have to be exercised.

But a couple days later, on Saturday morning, Nov. 7, the math finally added up and the answer was indisputable enough to see all major news outlets call it: Joe Biden was the winner.

Despite Donald Trump’s charges of voter fraud and his supporters’ aggressive protests outside of vote count facilities in battleground states such as Arizona, Georgia and Nevada, Biden’s road to a solid victory was evident. The media’s vigilant coverage of the voting process showed a system that (despite some glitches and problems that happen in every election) not only worked, but worked well. Voter turnout this year was record-breaking on both sides. Many here in Los Angeles and across the country woke to the sounds of honking cars, clanking pot and pans, and screams of jubilation after the announcements. But that wasn’t all. Streets across the country were filled with revelers (most of which were masked, unlike crowds at Trump rallies).

In L.A., the Sunset Junction stretch of Silver Lake was filled with dancing, singing and beeping, while on Santa Monica Blvd in West Hollywood, it was more of the same with rainbow flags waving and giddy Angelenos literally jumping up and down with joy on sidewalks and in the streets.

In Downtown, a planned protest turned into a Biden victory bash with thousands gathering to celebrate, holding signs that referenced Trump's old TV gig on The Apprentice (“You’re Fired!”) and voicing issues of focus for the new administration concerning health care, police
brutality, women’s rights and racial equality. Positivity and love was in the air and after a brief rain, it was sealed with a miraculous double rainbow in the sky.

The delight was not only about getting Trump out. Biden’s running mate, California’s own Kamala Harris, made history in more ways than one as our first Black female vice president. The significance of her win brings to mind Barack Obama’s unforgettable victory in 2008 and it cannot be overstated, especially coming after the current administration, whose documented policies hurt immigrants and people of color, and sought to take away a woman’s right to choose.

At the Biden/Harris victory event in Delaware Saturday night, Harris dressed in a white pantsuit (a deliberate fashion choice referencing the suffragette movement and showing solidarity with women who came before her in American politics) and acknowledged the glass ceiling-shattering momentousness of her new position.

“What a testament it is to Joe’s character that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country and select a woman as his vice president,” she said. “But while I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourselves in a way that others may not, simply because they’ve never seen it before, but know that we will applaud you every step of the way.”

Joe Biden’s speech was just as inspiring, offering much needed promise that the leader in the White House might actually hear, represent and fight for all of us in this country. “I’ll work with all my heart, with the confidence of the whole people, to win the confidence of all of you… that is what America, I believe, is about,” he said. “It’s about people. And that’s what our administration will be all about. I sought this office to restore the soul of America, to rebuild the backbone of this nation: the middle class. And to make America respected around the world again. And to unite us here at home.”

Since Saturday, Biden has been congratulated by world leaders and former presidents (even former Republican President George W. Bush). He announced a coalition to combat the coronavirus and made a speech about the importance of the Affordable Care Act. The new administration is ready to get to work. But at press time, President Trump had not conceded and after several lawsuits and an embarrassing press conference behind a landscaping facility, it is clear that this will not be an easy transition. Social media platforms including Twitter and Facebook are seeing a minor exodus to right wing internet spaces such as Parler; and conspiracy theories about voting and the coronavirus continue, stronger than ever.

The truth is, Biden and Harris have a very difficult job ahead. Healing in this country and moving forward will not come quick or easy. Seventy million people voted for the other guy, and the example he’s set is not about acceptance or unity. As we’ve seen the past four years and saw in brutal blue and red on election night, there is a deep and passionate rift between American citizens, culturally, ethically and spiritually. In contrast, the president-elect’s stated goal is to bring both sides together, and though it’s not likely to happen anytime soon, it’s a refreshing message that should give Democrats, Republicans and everyone in between some hope.

“I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but unify,” Biden said. “Who doesn’t see red states and blue states, only sees the United States.”
2020 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS AND CHANGES IN L.A.

With several close races at the national, state and local level, here’s what Angelenos can expect from the outcomes of the 2020 election.

By Isai Rocha

The 2020 U.S. presidential election saw the most votes cast in history, with projected president-elect Joe Biden not only receiving the 270 electoral votes necessary for victory, but winning the popular vote with more than 76 million votes.

As of this writing, the final votes are still being tallied and President Donald Trump is contesting the election, claiming voter fraud was committed in battleground states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Nevada.

Disputes must be resolved by December 14, but should everything hold as projected, Biden will become the 46th president of the United States, with U.S. Senator Kamala Harris of California being the first Black and South Asian woman to hold the vice presidency.

Despite Trump not yet conceding, Biden has moved forward as the presumed winner, addressing the nation in Wilmington, Delaware after several national media outlets called the race on Saturday, November 7.

“For all those of you who voted for President Trump, I understand the disappointment tonight,” Biden said in his address to the nation.

“I’ve lost a couple times myself, but now, let’s give each other a chance.”

Harris also spoke at the celebratory event, highlighting the fact that a woman of South Asian descent will be U.S. vice president.

“What a testament it is to Joe’s character that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country and select a woman as his vice president,” Harris said before introducing Biden. “While I may be the first person in this office, I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.”

While the fight for the presidency may still be going, there were several changes made in California, and more specifically Los Angeles, with Angelenos voting for change in criminal justice reform that saw a big push from the Black Lives Matter movement after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota back in May of 2020.

While the Black Lives Matter organization had been protesting Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey over the last three years, after the nationwide Floyd protests, more support poured in with hundreds joining weekly rallies in front of the Hall of Justice.

Lacey lost her race for district attorney against former district attorney for the city and county of San Francisco, George Gascón.

“Gascón took a lead early on election night and never looked back.”

Lacey did not concede until Friday, when Gascón took a preliminary 53% of the vote, to Lacey’s 47%.

“My consultants tell me that while I may close the gap between the two of us, I will not be able to make up enough based on the trending of the ballots to win this election,” Lacey said in her concession speech.

After Lacey’s concession, Gascón thanked the Los Angeles voters for his victory, saying, “You voted decisively for a new vision for our criminal justice system, and I am incredibly honored to have earned the support of so many to be your next district attorney.”

Changes in the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors also occurred, as voters elected Holly Mitchell over longtime councilman Herb Wesson Jr., creating the city’s first ever all-woman board.

The seat was left vacant by former Supervisor Mitchell, creating the city’s first ever all-woman board.

As supervisor, Ridley-Thomas put forth efforts to remove Alex Villanueva from his position as L.A. County sheriff. While Ridley-Thomas may no longer be a supervisor in 2021, the board announced its plans to move forward with a vote to decide Villanueva’s future.

On a statewide level, Californians voted on 12 propositions, with Propositions 14, 15 and 19 still too close to call, as of this writing.

In the fight for criminal justice reform, Proposition 20 was struck down, as it called for stricter sentencing on certain crimes that are currently considered misdemeanors. Passing with 59% of the vote, Proposition 19 will restore voting rights for both felons and persons on parole.

Proposition 25, which sought to replace cash bail with a “risk assessment” process, was also defeated in a rare occurrence where both Republicans and Black Lives Matter saw eye-to-eye on a California proposition.

“If passed, it will end cash bail and subject defendants to racial profiling by replacing it with racist/classist ‘risk assessments’ algorithms to imprison defendant before trial,” the organization said in a tweet, as it urged voters to vote against the proposition.

A proposition that came as a direct response to the George Floyd protests was Proposition 16, which sought to restore affirmative action. The proposition did not pass.

On a local level, Measure I was also a response to the Floyd protests, and did pass, permanently requiring L.A. County to spend 10 percent of its general fund budget on alternatives to incarceration. An estimated $360 million to $900 million a year will now go to programs for housing, mental health care, youth development and criminal justice diversion programs.

The People’s City Council, who regularly protested at the home of Mayor Eric Garcetti, asked for this type of reform, spoke on the passing of the measure, saying, “Huge shoutout to all of the orgs that organized around this issue. This was a big W in shifting our budget priorities in Los Angeles County.”

While a majority of these California election results have been called, the results are not official until prepared, certified and declared by the secretary of state, no later than December 11.
Los Angeles Thrash Vets are Back with Topical New Opus

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

The Bay Area may have been ground zero for the burgeoning thrash metal scene in the ’80s, but Los Angeles undeniably contributed massively.

Three of the genre’s “Big Four” – Metallica, Megadeth and Slayer – started life down here before finding a more welcoming audience and likeminded souls up north. The scene may have been in San Fran, but a huge percentage of the talent came from here.

In the middle of it all, Evildead formed in L.A. in 1986, spawned from members of Agent Steel and Abattoir. Typically ferocious and blessed with a raw punk ethic, the band’s 1989 debut album Annihilation of Civilization is considered a classic of the genre. They followed that with 1989’s The Underworld, but then came a long period of uncertainty. They split in 1995, reformed in 2008, split again in 2012 and reformed again in 2016. Band members left and then came back (notably original vocalist Phil Flores), and they’ve just released their third album after 21 years in the wilderness – United States of Anarchy.

“We reformed in 2009 just to play live, but it wasn’t until later that we got serious about making a new record,” says guitarist, and original member, Juan Garcia. “I think a lot of it was getting our original vocalist Phil Flores back in the mix and around that time we all came up with a common goal to record new music. We started demoing tracks with Bill Metoyer, our producer. So it wasn’t until about 2016 that we really got serious about wanting to make a new Evildead record. Since around 2014, I’ve also been spending my time with Bodycount as a guitar player, and it was just a matter of all being on the same page. Sometimes it takes a little longer than usual. That’s all it is.”

Garcia is understandably delighted with the way the new record came out; it’s typically nasty, brutally fast and aggressive, but also sharp and insightful.

“I think the new album is closer to Annihilation of Civilization than it is to our second album The Underworld as far as production and direction of the material,” he says. “Yeah, it’s a great chapter in the Evildead history of music. I’m just glad to be here and be able to offer some new music to the metal community.”

The artwork, by thrash sleeve favorite Ed Repka, depicts a full-on riot as protesters take on the police. Meanwhile, the song titles include “Napoleon Complex” and “Without a Cause”. It all seems very current.

“Interestingly enough, I had this idea for an album since the ‘90s, and I got the idea from the movie Soyent Green starring Charlton Heston,” Garcia says. “That was where I got the idea, and then as a band we all thought it was a good concept for a record. Then when the riots in Los Angeles happened in 1992, those were also some influences as well for the artwork. I gave my ideas to Edward Repka who’s done our album covers in the past, and let him run with it. Once we got the artwork back from him, it was quite alarming. It was like wow, it had that Nostradamus effect like, this is kind of what’s going on in the world right now. The original working title for the album was going to be Rise of Evil but once we got the artwork back, we felt United States of Anarchy was a better title for the album. It was more fitting, and it was strange how it all made sense.”

The latest single and video is “The Descending,” and Garcia says that the song was in fact written in 2016 but it makes more sense today than ever.

“The lyrics are about kinda like what’s going on right now,” he says. “The whole mail-in ballot thing, the candidates – different characters but same concept. Democrats, Republicans – candidates that we feel are somewhat unfit, and the whole political commentary going on. We started writing it four years ago and the characters might have changed a little bit but it’s all the same. Every four years, through propaganda, deceit, betrayal, we have to vote through it all and make our stand on who we think should be the president. So it’s kinda about what’s going on right now.”

While the album’s themes are undeniably topical, it’s also interesting to note that Evildead don’t take sides. Their distaste for the state of the world is clear, but it would be tough to point out who they blame.

“I see a lot of division with the two parties,” Garcia says. “I kinda stay in the middle ground with it all. I like the listener to make his own opinions. It’s all about money when it comes down to it. The rich, and greed and power – all these things going on around us. I don’t like to lean to either political party, I just want what’s best for us as a nation.”

At the time of the interview, and of writing, we didn’t know who will be president for the next four years; by the time you read this, that might have changed. Either way, these are crazy days, and the necessary lockdown makes it feel crazier. Garcia and the band have been staying busy with work.

“We started on the album in November 2019,” he says. “We went into a studio and started the drum tracks. We were on that when the pandemic hit, and then the Bodycount Carnival record came out in March. I was getting ready to go to New York to do a show with Bodycount at Webster Hall, then we were supposed to play Jimmy Fallon live and it all came to a stop. So I’ve been staying busy with Evildead and keeping positive. I think music is a great outlet to channel your energy. Music has been a great therapy for me.”

Next up, Evildead are looking at ways to take the new music to the people.

“We wanted to play live but that’s not gonna happen,” Garcia says. “We’re looking at the possibility of doing some livestreams, at least one or two of them to promote this record. Hopefully we’ll be able to do that in the near future. In the meantime. Once this pandemic is over, I think we’ll have a whole new appreciation for music. All of us. So I can’t wait to do that again.”

Amen to that.

Evildead’s United States of Anarchy is out now.
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DRIZLY DATA: HOW WE DRANK ON ELECTION DAY

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Drizly, the nation’s popular alcohol e-commerce and delivery service that can get beer, wine and liquor delivered to your door in an hour, released its data on how we drank on election day. Sales on Drizly in Los Angeles were 34.96 percent higher than the average of the previous four Tuesdays.

Here are some spirited returns from across the country on how we coped:

Top category share on Election Day (Tuesday Nov, 3rd)
- Wine: 42.38% of sales share
- Liquor: 40.84% of sales share
- Beer: 14.67% of sales share

Subcategory share compared to previous Tuesdays:
- Wine subcategory share on Election Day
  - Red Wine: 45.88% of wine share
  - White Wine: 25.98% of wine share
  - Champagne & Sparkling: 19.48% of wine share
  - Rose: 5.49% of wine share
- Liquor subcategory share on Election Day
  - Bourbon: 18.97% of liquor share
  - Vodka: 18.29% of liquor share
  - Rye Whiskey: 3.72% of liquor share
  - Liqueur, Cordials and Schnapps: 2.15% of liquor share
- Beer subcategory share on Election Day
  - Hard Seltzer: 18.87% of beer share
  - Light Lager: 13.80% of beer share
  - Cider: 6.24% of beer share

Overall comparison of sales spikes throughout Election Day and night in blue and red states:
- Red states sales on Election Day were 33% higher than the average of the previous four Tuesdays. (Red States where Drizly operates: ID, WY, OK, MO, LA, TN, KY)
- Blue states sales on Election Day were 75.32% higher than the average of the previous four Tuesdays. (Blue States where Drizly operates: CA, OR, WA, IL, MA, RI, CT, NJ, NY, VT, MD, DC)

Sales data broken down by generations (Gen Z, Millennial, Gen X, etc.)

How swing state sales compared to other states?
- Battleground/swing sales on Election Day were 54.84% higher than the average of the last four Tuesdays. (Swing state where Drizly operates: TX, CO, FL, MN, NC, OH, AZ, GA, PA)

Top category share in Blue States on Election Day
- Wine: 45.34% of sales share
- Liquor: 38.81% of sales share
- Beer: 13.94% of sales share

Top category share in Red States on Election Day
- Wine: 39.41% of sales share
- Liquor: 43.89% of sales share
- Beer: 14.23% of sales share

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Evoking Centuries of Great Artistry Through Sculpture

BY LIZ GOLDNER

In our SoCal art scene, where contemporary work proliferates, a classically trained sculptor has labored tirelessly for three decades, creating in his Irvine studio sculptural pieces that are inspired by ancient Greek and Renaissance art.

Working with Carrara marble mined from the quarry that Michelangelo used centuries ago, Márton Váró designs figurative sculptures, along with abstract cubes, displayed in public and private spaces throughout our country and the world.

From his outdoor studio, overlooking UC Irvine’s campus, the septuagenarian fashions sculptural works evoking centuries of great artistry. For his finely detailed pieces, some with unusual juxtapositions — as combining raw blocks of marble with classical figures in one piece — he eschews appropriation. Or as English poet/art critic Edward Lucie-Smith wrote: “These echoes and cross-references make Váró a typically post-modern artist. Postmodernism has been defined as the propensity to recombine elements from existing artistic languages in new ways, rather than striving to invent languages which are completely new. What he lacks, fortunately, is the cynicism which informs so much Postmodernist art.”

A profound influence in his work is the 16th century polymath Michelangelo known for his paintings, architecture and especially for his sculptures. Váró’s pieces reflect the Italian master’s expertise in figuration. And like the Renaissance artist, he is enamored with the translucent, white Carrara Marble — also known as “Statuario” marble — that he collects from Italy’s Tuscany region.

Váró believes as Michelangelo did that his completed sculptures are already contained within the raw marble blocks, and that he simply takes away the excess stone to reveal the flawless artworks that were always there. “I see the sculpture in the stone,” he told me. One example is “Breaking Free” (1991) of an elegant young draped woman, emerging from the stone that contained her. It is installed in the UC Irvine Arboretum right near his studio. As Lucie-Smith wrote, “A major part of Váró’s sculptural output consists of draped female torsos and female figures. These are obviously inspired by Greek sculptures of similar subjects, but they are never merely imitative.”

Along with his classical pieces, Váró sculpt contemporary abstract cubes. Stephen Barker, Ph.D., Dean, UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts explained: “Márton Váró’s cubes reveal the suppleness of marble, making them seem to float in space. They are like isolated quotations of classical drapery, digitized into block form.” Váró added, “In creating figures, I found reducing torso size fragments to cubes opened a unique way for me to build compositions that were both abstract and realistic.”

Barker also said: “Váró is a master sculptor whose subtle treatment of Carrara marble is incredibly powerful. He is one of those rare artists in complete command of his materials and technique.”

Indeed, the materials that artists use often reflect their integrity and devotion to their work. And Váró’s penchant to hand-select Carrara marble from quarries in Italy — a time-consuming and physically challenging process — is grounded in his understanding of and appreciation for his materials. (Carrara marble is rock formed by metamorphosis from small calcium carbonate crystals, approximately 190 million years ago.) In our discussions, Váró also indicated that marble is like a living entity that he communes with. And when asked about what happens if he carves off too much stone, he replied that he never makes that kind of mistake while sculpting.

Váró grew up in Transylvania in what was Hungary and is now Romania. He learned to sculpt from master wood carvers and later applied this skill to sculpting in stone. He studied the work of 20th century figurative sculptors, especially Constantin Brancusi, Henry Moore and Isamu Noguchi. Moore was a particularly important influence, as he carved his sculptural pieces directly from the material as Váró does.

His move to UC Irvine in 1988 coincided with his receipt of a Fulbright scholarship. At UCI, he developed a lasting friendship with Stephen Barker and studied the relationship between architecture and sculpture. He has also been Artist in Residence for a public art project in the City of Brea.

One of Váró’s favored sculptures is the seven-foot-tall “Emerging” (2016). This classical work, depicting a draped woman with her head hidden behind a large block of raw marble, elicited awe and delight when displayed in Laguna Art Museum in 2016. His marble sculpture, “Maestro Carl St. Clair” (2019), of Carl St. Clair, elevates the Pacific Symphony conductor to the eminence he embodies. The life-size statue is installed at the UC Irvine Pacific Symphony Headquarters.

Other classically inspired pieces on view in SoCal are “Vestal” (1995) at the Tustin Ranch Marketplace, and “Ladies of the Nile” (1990) at the Embassy Suites in Brea. His “Standing Figure” (1994) depicting a fearless contemporary woman, in red Persian travertine stone, is installed at the Laguna College of Art and Design.

Váró’s “Palm Desert Peace Memorial” (1992) in Palm Desert, designed with architect Ross Andrews, includes four white marble sculptures of flames, resembling draped female figures, representing peace; and four rigid pillars, clad with granite, representing the threat of war.

Váró’s latest project is volunteering for a fundraiser to benefit the Visual Snow Initiative. Specifically, he will create a life-size sculpture from Carrara marble for the winner of an auction organized by VSI to fund research for a rare neurological disorder. That sculpture will depict the winner’s person of choice — a loved one, an ancestor or himself/herself. On December 1, the link, VSIAuction.com, will direct interested parties to the Initiative’s auction page.

The auction winner and a companion will also accompany Váró to the Tuscan marble quarry to hand-select the stone for the sculpture. When he returns home, he will labor for several months in his outdoor Irvine studio, carefully removing the excess stone to uncover the marble’s unique aspects of the “person of choice.”

Márton Váró’s diverse sculptural works, installed all over the world, are monuments to humankind’s artistic evolution. As he is full of energy and has no plans to stop working, history may well grant him the significant acclaim he deserves.
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**Industrial Engineer**


**Structural Project Manager**


Community Outreach Coordinator: Attend workshops & obtain religious information. App must have a MA in Divinity, Theology, Christian Counseling or related. Mail resume to Canary Foundation, 450 E. 9th St., 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

**Data Analyst**

Multiple Openings (Cerritos, CA) F/T - Perform study design, data analysis & report preparation. Studies will originate from preliminary data analysis flags/irred. Literature review, exp & expertise of the team, & mandated projects. Ongoing data analysis strategies to identify potential areas for quality improvement or focused investigation. Dvlp epidemiological sound indication of the quality of care. Analyze data to summarize into quality improvement measures. Must have a Bach degree in Statistics, Sociology, Public Health, Med, Camp SD or related. Experience in public health settings. Position requires a high level of work ethic; work off or in front of a computer. Must be able to multi-task.

**Software Developer**

F/T, BS Computer Science or related, Mail resume: Azon, Inc., 213-436-8804.

**Quality Assurance Analyst**


**PR/Communications Specialist**

Sought by real estate construction co. in Los Angeles, CA. Req'd: MS degree in Strategic Public Relations & Communications, 2 yrs exp. in public relations & strategic communications. Mail resume to Sunny C., CFO, #2222220, lsiatone General Contractor, 8955 Valley Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770.