

05
ISSUE

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INSIDE THIS MIN-ISSUE

GOING FROM HILLARY TO ANDREW

THE CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT FOR YANG

THREE CANDIDATES LEAVE THE RACE

#MYYANGSTORY: GOING FROM HILLARY TO YANG

#MyYangStory is a popular Twitter hashtag that aggregates the experiences of how Yang supporters decided to join the Yang Gang. We're bringing these experiences straight to you. This issue's story is by **Anna Munsey-Kano**, a teacher and former supporter of Hillary Clinton.

I am a progressive who believes in radical change. However, I am not one to oversimplify the truth or ignore present reality. I appreciate the nuance and complexity of our world issues. As an artist, activist, and educator of young children, my highest values are self-awareness, kindness, curiosity, personal growth, and efficiency. So of course, my support of Andrew Yang was inevitable, though it did surprise me.

In 2016, I was just finishing up my BA in Women's Studies at a small liberal arts college in Georgia. After studying systemic inequality and intersectional oppression at a women's college, I was extremely ready for a Hillary Clinton presidency.

Back then, I viewed the presidency as a mostly symbolic—even ornamental position. In my short lifetime, I'd never seen a President achieve anything that impacted my life. As a young millennial, I came of age in the George W. Bush era of regime-change wars and Patriot Act propaganda. I was raised to be embarrassed by the president's words and spelling mistakes. I was proud when we elected the first African American man to govern in the White House. I loved how well-spoken he was, how inspiring he was, and the progress he represented. It never occurred to me that a president could actually change the material reality of people's lives in one or even two terms. I just assumed incremental progress meant you couldn't necessarily see it happening.

When I first reached voting age, what mattered most to me in a presidential candidate was the way he or she would represent America on the international stage. I supported Hillary Clinton because she represented the type of diverse meritocracy I wanted to believe our country was becoming. She was the very picture of progress, poise, and strength that I wanted the world to see when they looked to America. I wanted a President who understood complex issues and could appreciate the nuance of the problems we faced. For those reasons, I was passionate about Hillary and fought hard for her to win.

Trump's victory in 2016 devastated me. I was shocked, confused, and depressed to learn that most of our country was not on the progressive path I wanted to follow. It seemed to me that hate had triumphed over empathy, ignorance over reason, misogyny over respect, and

tribalism over unity. It terrified me and broke my heart. Rather than stay angry, I retreated from national politics. When this new election cycle began, I had no desire or expectation to fight passionately for anyone. I was simply looking for the most "electable" candidate with the most tolerable ideas and proposals.

It wasn't until discovering Andrew Yang that my idealistic heart started truly beating once again. I remember sitting on my parents' couch watching CNN's Climate Crisis Town Hall with Andrew Yang back in August, my jaw on the floor. After the June debate, I had felt cautious, amused, and only casually curious about the long-shot, Asian American candidate offering \$1000 a month, but here was a personable man speaking intelligently and coherently about climate change. No matter the question, he kept putting forth practical, thorough, sweeping solutions with urgency and optimism. He answered every question directly in a poised, relaxed, even humorous manner. He spoke with detail, clarity, and nuance, injecting the harsh reality of our situation into every answer without losing sight of our potential to turn it around. I was impressed and intrigued.

Further research on his policies continued to astonish me. Long-form interviews on YouTube inspired me and cemented my belief in this man's integrity, intelligence, and accurate diagnosis of our country's problems and needs. My shock, anger, and confusion about Trump's election dissipated as I came to understand what had really happened to cause such a political anomaly. I realized that my assumptions about incremental progress were wrong. Establishment politics would never win again until things radically changed. It wasn't long after that I joined Twitter and began to actively promote Yang's platform.

Why do I support Yang so fiercely? Sure, part of it is because of what he represents. Electing the first Asian American president after one term of Trump would send a powerful message of self-awareness and progress to the world at home and abroad. Yang is also well-spoken and inspiring, understands complex issues and appreciates nuance. But that's not even half of why I love him. He has pushed my standards and expectations to a whole new level.

Andrew Yang has taken a long, hard look at the many problems our country faces, from establishment-recognized ones like climate change and healthcare, to previously unrecognized ones like massive job displacement, a mental health crisis, growing technological advances, and outdated economic measurements. Without ideological bias or political influence, he has come up with either radical solutions or practical

starting points for every single issue we face.

He has no desire for personal glory or even a political career. He just wants to solve problems for the American people as directly and efficiently as possible. His record reflects this, he has told us this, and my intuition tells me it's true. This is a person I respect and trust completely.

But man, his policy choices are exquisite. His plan for a Universal Basic Income and his plan to replace outdated measurements like GDP with the American Scorecard are utterly brilliant and attack the source of so many problems in one fell swoop. I love that. Being called radical is often so scary to people nowadays. As Paris Marx wrote on Medium last year, "radicalism, especially in a social context, is associated with extreme views and the desire for rapid change." Change scares people. But as he also rightly notes in the same article, the actual definition of a radical is someone who "attempt[s] to understand the root of the social problem—to cultivate an approach that goes beyond what can be easily observed on the surface." Andrew Yang is a true radical: He has learned that lack of cash in the hands of Americans and the failure to measure what matters to people are at the root of so many social and economic problems.

He is the only candidate who truly understands the way technology is changing our lives and how we must adapt our institutions to make progress and innovation a social good instead of an existential threat. He has the most realistic and comprehensive plan to fight global climate change. He has common sense plans to evolve our education system and gun regulations. The list goes on and on.

If that weren't enough, his campaign strategy, policy platforms, and compassionate rhetoric make him our best shot of defeating Donald Trump in the general election. He's the only Democratic candidate who doesn't judge or condescend to Trump supporters. He makes an effort to understand where

everyone is coming from and what they need so he can represent the whole country's interests instead of just half. I am not conservative and have never voted Republican, but even I have come to understand why so many people voted for Trump. I can actually empathize with them! I love Andrew for helping me open my heart and mind to those I had become exhausted from hating and fearing.

As a country, we need someone to unite us, empower us, trust us, and lift us out of scarcity. As Yang says, we need a new way forward and we need to get moving very quickly. Andrew Yang is the best person to do that, so I support him.

Anna Munsey-Kano, 26, NH

THE CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT FOR ANDREW YANG

Members of the Christian faith are often assumed to be conservative voters. **Pastor Steven Broers**, head of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fontanelle, Iowa, explains why he finds Andrew Yang's message compelling.

Grace and Forgiveness. Humanity First. A Mindset of Abundance. Not Left, Not Right, Forward. These are the values that supporters of Democratic Presidential hopeful Andrew Yang are called on to embrace. However, they could just as easily be a list of values for my church. In fact, these are values I strive to live by every day as a Christian.

I am a 42-year-old Lutheran pastor who has served the last ten years in Southwest Iowa with my wife and our four kids. I have never before publicly supported a political campaign, but that changed when I heard Andrew Yang's platform. Let me share with you some connections I see between my Christian values and the values of the Andrew Yang campaign.

Jesus says that He did not come for the healthy, but for the sick; not for the righteous, but for sinners. We have all sinned, but it is a breath of fresh air to hear someone running for President admit that he makes mistakes just like the rest of us! Yang doesn't pretend to be anything other than a normal human being. He is a parent and a patriot, but not a politician. He values grace and forgiveness just as every Christian is called to do.

As a Christian, I believe that all people have value because they were created in God's image. I recognize that I will not always agree with every person's choices, lifestyle or opinions; however, Jesus calls me to love all of humanity. Andrew Yang also values all of humanity both in how we treat one another and with respect to the economy. The Bible tells a story where Jesus' disciples were picking off heads of grain on a Sabbath because they were hungry. While others criticized them, Jesus argued that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. In

other words, God's Law was meant to bless people—not to be an obstacle in their lives. In the same way, Yang wants to create an economy where people are more important than dollars.

Andrew Yang's headline policy, called the Freedom Dividend, is an example of this Human-Centered Capitalism. The Dividend would provide every adult citizen with \$1000 per month for the rest of their lives—No Strings Attached! That is a perfect illustration of Grace! It's not based on income, so it takes away the stigma of receiving government assistance. It would be universally supported because even the richest Americans would have the option of receiving it. It would essentially be a \$1000 per month increase for those on Social Security. It would practically eliminate poverty. It would support teachers, families, small businesses and rural communities by investing millions of dollars in local economies.

Jesus said that He came so that we might have life and have it abundantly! We do not need to live with a spirit of fear; we are called to live with the knowledge of God's abundance! Yang argues that we need to look at our government in the same way. Instead of finding reasons why we can't do things to help people, he reminds us that we live in the richest nation in the history of the Earth: We have the money and have been blessed!

God is neither a Democrat, nor a Republican, and Christians come from all sides of the political spectrum. Andrew Yang argues that while we will not always agree with one another, we can respect one another and work together toward common goals. Andrew Yang's policies support and respect everyone in the country no matter whether they are on the Left or the Right! He simply wants to solve problems.

I thank God every day for giving me the opportunity to support Andrew Yang for President. If you have been looking for a candidate who exemplifies Christian values, I encourage you to pray about supporting Andrew Yang as well so that we can find a new way forward for our nation. Thank you.

DEMOCRATIC DROPOUTS

Three candidates have dropped out of the race in three days. **Ori Simon Bechtel** does an autopsy on their campaigns and explains the significance to the Yang campaign.

Three more have fallen: Steve Bullock, Joe Sestak, and Kamala Harris. In any other presidential election cycle, three candidates dropping out in three days would be treated as a major development. This, as you might have noticed, is different.

An unprecedented number of major candidates have entered the race to take their shot at transforming the Democratic party at this crucial point in American history. Each candidate entering thinks they have the answer, but eventually it comes time for them to pack it in.

Navy veteran and former Pennsylvania representative Joe Sestak was the first of the three to drop. He had announced his candidacy for President in late June but failed to gain any significant traction, languishing at 0% in the polls and raising relatively small amounts of money despite having large donors for a majority of his contributions. He also had not qualified for any of the debates. At the time of this writing, Sestak's next moves are unclear.

The second of the three was Steve Bullock, the governor of Montana. Adored by his Montana constituents, he had attempted to sell himself as a moderate who could beat Trump in red states. However, with the field already crowded with old-school moderates like John Delaney, Michael Bennet, Joe Biden, and Amy Klobuchar, it quickly became obvious that Bullock didn't have a niche, or any significant differentiating factor to make moderates choose him over the aforementioned four. His polling average was hovering at 0.4% and his fundraising efforts

were struggling when he decided to call time on his campaign. Despite the urging of many Democrats around the country, Bullock has announced that he does not intend to run for Senate in Montana, even though he is likely the Democrats' best chance to pick up a Senate seat there.

The third and most high-profile candidate of the trio, Senator Kamala Harris, had checked all the boxes for a potential candidate that the left could unite behind. Initially, her campaign was going well—her fundraising looked good, her first debate performance was widely considered to be strong, and she immediately spiked in the polls following it, jumping up to second place overall.

However, in the second debate, Hawaii Representative Tulsi Gabbard landed a very effective attack on Harris's record as attorney general that Harris was clearly not prepared to answer. Harris's polling took a dive, and this, along with Senator Elizabeth Warren taking aim at Harris's base, started a domino effect that Harris simply couldn't recover from. Harris's fundraising wasn't enough to sustain her above-average burn rate, and the campaign fell into disarray. The extent of the chaos was revealed in a publicized resignation letter from state operations director Kelly Mehlenbacher, which spelled the end of Harris's campaign. Kamala Harris dropped out of the race less than a week after the article was published, to the dismay of her fans.

What does this mean for Andrew Yang? Not a lot. Neither Harris, Bullock, or Sestak had much in the way of crossover support with Andrew Yang. He might see a small bump, but we're likely talking tenths of a percent here, if that. However, for Andrew, the fewer people he has to contend with for air time, the better off he'll be.

RESOURCES

LONG-FORM VIDEO INTERVIEWS



AARP Forum

youtube.com/watch?v=NXQ3DEFI1eg

July 19, 2019

25 minutes



The Rubin Report with Dave Rubin

yang.video/rubin-report

June 7, 2019

2 hours



MSNBC Climate Forum with Ali Velshi

youtube.com/watch?v=D7hiD-TLZDE

September 19, 2019

1 hour



The Hill with Krystal Ball

youtube.com/watch?v=i0GTulhxZmM

September 22, 2019

30 minutes



NEW: National Public Radio

youtube.com/watch?v=f2Wr7IDI-Hg

October 23, 2019

1 hour



NEW: New Hampshire Public Radio

youtube.com/watch?v=YtKDgpMHnwc

November 7, 2019

1 hour



NEW: Breakfast Club Power 105.1 FM

youtube.com/watch?v=FFW8ys0E_14

November 13, 2019

40 minutes



NEW: Karen Hunter Show

youtube.com/watch?v=XAehF8ZdwIU

November 14, 2019

1 hour

UPCOMING EVENTS

Democratic Debate



Watch Andrew Yang debate on stage with six other candidates. Thu Dec 19, 8 pm EST / 5 pm PST: PBS NewsHour

Yang Week

Visit Iowa and canvass for Andrew Yang with other volunteers. Sun Jan 5 - Sat Jan 11: Iowa; yangweek.org

To sign up for these events or browse other Yang Gang meetups, visit mobilize.us/yang2020.



TECH TIPS

Wondering what those funky-looking squares do?

They're called QR Codes! They're a little like barcodes, but they contain more information and you can scan them with your smartphone in three easy steps.

1. Open the camera app on your smartphone.
2. Point the camera at the QR Code.
3. When a link pops up on your camera, tap on the link and you'll open up the website.

Give it a try here:

This code should take you to yang2020.com.



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