

Sophia Carroll
Fall 2024
Slug: Election Preview

It ain't easy being blue, when everyone else is red



The newly elected Harrison County, Mississippi, Democratic delegates to the congressional district convention. (Photo by: Aphrodite McCarthy.)

By: Sophia Carroll

With the 2024 presidential election steadily approaching, those voting for the Democratic Party nominee in majority Republican voting states, like Mississippi, are feeling a mixture of emotions.

The Republican Party has won the state of Mississippi in every presidential election since 1980. Yet that doesn't stop Mississippi voters like Aphrodite McCarthy from advocating for what she believes the country needs.

And right now, for McCarthy, that is the Democratic Party nominee, Kamala Harris, in the White House.

McCarthy, an attorney working for the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, currently works with multiple local and state Democratic Party organizations.

McCarthy is a member of the Executives Committee for the Mississippi Democratic State Party alongside 80 other

elected officials. She is the Fourth Congressional District VP of the Mississippi Federation of Democratic Women, and volunteers with the Pass Christian, Mississippi Democratic Coalition.

McCarthy has been an avid Democratic Party supporter since the year 2000 when she realized her values and policy beliefs tended to align most frequently with the Democratic Party's stances.

Throughout her years in Mississippi as a proud Democratic Party supporter, McCarthy has faced numerous experiences of push back from her fellow Mississippi citizens. This is likely due to the fact that Mississippi is a majority red party voting state.

When asked about polling data in Mississippi for the upcoming presidential election, American University Public Communications Professor Leonard Steinhorn said, "I don't imagine there are too many polls done in MS — it's just too red a state."

And according to Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential elections, Steinhorn's right. In the 2020 presidential election the state of Mississippi had a [57.57% popular vote for Donald Trump](#). The state is currently polling at [58% for Donald Trump for the 2024 presidential election](#).

McCarthy recounts many unfortunate experiences she's faced while living in a majority red state. She says, "I always have bumper stickers on [her car] that are liberal, and I've had people damage my car."

McCarthy continues with stories of people yelling expletives like "F— Joe Biden" in response to signage posted in her front lawn.

She is not alone, though, in her support for the Democratic Party in Mississippi. Democratic Delegate of Mississippi, Kelly Jacobs, brought McCarthy to the Democratic National Convention this August where the two represented the Democratic Party supporters of Mississippi.

And despite the unfortunate instances previously mentioned, McCarthy's hopes for the future are not yet lost. She says "It empowers me more to continue." And says, "You gotta not care what people think."

McCarthy knows that for many blue voters in states like Mississippi, it is not so easy. She acknowledges people's feelings of hopelessness and understands why many people have a "what's the point?" outlook on U.S. politics and elections.

To those thoughts, McCarthy says, "I feel like I have to be on the right side of history". For her it's not necessarily about the win, but about the fight for what she believes in. And the fight for all the people whose lives may be affected by such an influential election.

McCarthy also discussed her feelings toward the Republican Party. McCarthy said, "Their [Republican Party] policies are in direct conflict with policies I think we need, and their policies represent values that are contrary to mine."

McCarthy does, however, acknowledge Republican politicians like Dick Channey and Adam Kinzinger, who she says she admires for their commitment to their values and democracy.

Overall, voters like McCarthy and Jacobs don't intend to back down, and have hope that the work they are doing today could change what color Mississippi will be in future elections.

-30-

Source List

Aphrodite McCarthy
dita.mccarthy@gmail.com

Leonard Steinhorn
lsteinh@american.edu

Kelly Jacobs