

The New Republican Party

How young politicians are freshening the face of the GOP.

BY: DUNCAN LEWIS



Polkadot48 (red) sits down with MrWhiteyIsAwesome to talk with the press at a Republican charity dinner.

The Grand Old Party isn't cool--and it hasn't been for quite some time. Compared to the Democratic party, the GOP is a party of old and stuffy conservative grandpas. A relic of a bygone era, without the benefits of nostalgia. The Republican party is out of style, and it has a big impact on its prospects for future electoral success.

But, amidst all of the doom and gloom in the hallways of the RNC and the private chambers of Republican operatives, one politician is determined to change that. She wants to make the Republican party the party of young people. She's committed, determined, and she sees a clean way out for the party. That woman is Polkadot48, a freshman representative hailing from Chesapeake's 1st congressional district.

I sat down with Representative polkadot48 for an interview to discuss her views on the future of the Republican party and her personal political ambitions. The following is a compiled transcript of the highlights of the interview, edited minimally for clarity.

DL: *The Republican party is increasingly becoming the party of the elderly and doesn't seem to be able to woo over young voters. How do you think this will affect the GOP's electoral success in the future?*

PD: There is no question that the GOP needs to find a way to appeal more to younger voters. In the 2016 presidential election, 56% of 18-24 year olds voted for the Democratic Party candidate while only 35% voted for the Republican Party candidate. If the GOP does not reform and find a way to bring young voters into the party, I believe the GOP will have a very difficult time finding electoral success in the future.

DL: *Well, do you see a way out of this?*

PD: I do, in fact, believe that there is a way out of this bleak future for the GOP. In my opinion, the way out of this is to increase diversity and acceptance in the party. When I first joined the GOP, intolerance shown towards certain groups of individuals nearly led me to leave the party. However, I believe that the GOP can reform and grow to become more accepting, which in turn will help the party appeal more to younger voters. President Gunnz011 has taken action to stand up for the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community by issuing an Executive Order establishing a Task Force to Promote the Acceptance of the LGBTQ+ Community Around the World. I authored the No Discrimination in Pay Act my most recent term in Congress to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community from pay discrimination. With actions like these, the GOP can show young voters that the party is evolving for the modern era.

DL: *Uh-huh. Well, I was about to ask you if you could elaborate on some ways they could woo over younger voters, but you just answered that for me. Uhh... Do you think the Republican party should reverse it's long standing strategy towards minority voters?*

PD: Clearly, the GOP strategy for attracting minority voters to the party is not working. As of 2017, 84% of black voters were registered as Democrats while just

8% were registered as Republicans. I believe that going forward, the GOP must take steps to distance itself from racist groups and individuals that have become associated with the party. If the GOP continues to have the negative connotation it has today among minority groups due to this association, it won't matter what strategy the party implements, minority groups will never vote Republican. In addition, in regards to Latinx voters, the GOP must become more accepting of immigrants. It is okay to oppose illegal immigration, however it is not okay to display discriminatory and racist attitudes towards any immigrants or anyone descended from a recent immigrant.

DL: *Mmm, good stuff. What are some of your hopes for the future of the Republican party?*

PD: My hopes for the future of the Republican Party are that this party becomes more diverse and inclusive in the future. I'm not a typical Republican. I'm a woman, pro-choice, and socially liberal. The GOP needs to modernize its thinking and policies and I believe that I can be part of this effort due to the unique viewpoint I offer within the party.

DL: *With regards to your answer to that last question, how do you square off your more liberal leanings with the Republican party? How can you consider yourself a Republican when the party has traditionally held conservative values above all else?*

PD: I will admit that at times it is a struggle to have liberal leanings in a traditionally conservative party. However, I believe that for most people, they will never fully agree with a specific political party's position on everything. On mostly all other issues, I align more with traditional Republican views, which is why I consider myself a Republican. I am fiscally conservative, advocate for reducing the size of government, and oppose any efforts to infringe on the 2nd Amendment rights of Americans. Overall, I believe that the Republican Party is progressing and currently changing for the better. This is very important to me and I discussed it at length in my recent press release, which I titled "A New Era of the GOP." While there is still much work to be done, I am proud to be a member of an evolving Republican Party.

DL: *You talk a lot about a party effort for reform, to evolve. Do you see yourself becoming involved in the national leadership of the Republican Party, sort of spearheading this effort?*

PD: As for whether or not I see myself getting involved in the national leadership of the Republican Party, I honestly haven't considered it up to this point. Right now my primary focuses are the interests of the American people and preparing for the upcoming federal election. However, if I see that my party is struggling to move forward in its thinking and attitudes and needs assistance, I would be willing to serve my party as part of the national leadership.

DL: *So, if not leadership, then what are your biggest political or party ambitions?*

PD: My biggest political ambitions are to one day become President of the United States. It's about time this country has had a female president and I think that I am the right woman for the job. I care so much about the future of this country and I believe that I could help this country in many ways if I were fortunate enough to be elected.

DL: *Well, that just about wraps things up. Thank you for your excellent commentary on this pressing issue. Goodbye!*

Polkadot's message is a breath of fresh air, a break from the repetitive gloom and doom surrounding the Republican party. However, something tells me that this shift won't be received so easily. With the Republican party so entrenched in traditional conservatism, shifting gears ideologically may cause many Republicans to lose their sense of political identity that makes them such a formidable voting block. Again, this could also ruin the Republicans electorally.

So which option will the Republican Party pick? A hail Mary or a suicide squeeze? Only time will tell, but if current affairs are any indication, the party as a whole is trending toward polkadot's frame of reference. Whether this shift is good or bad remains to be seen.