

# Democrats' Radical Changing of the Guard

By Victor Davis Hanson

I'd like to talk today, if I could, about the changing of the Democratic guard. There was some news lately that Sen. Dick Durbin from Illinois—he was the author, remember, of the DREAM Act. He was a hardcore liberal. You could even say he was left of center. He's stepping down. He's in his 70s.

And there's a changing of the guard.

[Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer](#), in some polls, is running—I cannot believe it—behind [Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#) for his upcoming senatorial bid by 20 points and more in a primary.



And then, as a force multiplier, I just saw Rep. Nancy Pelosi, she was at a public event. I think she's 85, turning 86. She was as incoherent as former President Joe Biden.

So, what's Victor trying to say? We're watching a changing of the guard, both due to aging—and we see that with Joe Biden, and the Biden generation is over with, and Nancy Pelosi. And then the next cohort in their 70s, the septuagenarians, they're terrified.

Dick Durbin's terrified of being in a primary. And so is Chuck Schumer. He took the dignified way out. Chuck Schumer will probably fight to the very end and be humiliated by AOC.

Who are these people? Well, "the squad," remember, traditionally was Rep. Ilhan Omar, the Somalian who allegedly had married her brother to gain citizenship access to the United States. There was Ayanna Pressley. She was the radical African American congresswoman. We had, of course, AOC, who was a prominent member. And we have also, in addition, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, she was a member of the squad, she was the Michigan pro-Hamas congresswoman.

Then we had the [Democratic National Committee](#). And we had Ken Martin who won the DNC chairmanship. He's very much to the left. And really to the left is his subordinate, David Hogg, the vice chairman. He was a survivor of the Parkland shooting, remember, in 2018. And he transmogrified into anti-Second Amendment. But then he got even more and more and more radical. I don't think he's ever really done anything except raise money.

But here's my point. We're watching a metamorphosis of the Democratic Party that is out of power. The old guard: [Nancy Pelosi](#), Joe Biden, Chuck Schumer, Dick Durbin—that old guard did not deliver the 2024 election. And they lost the House. They lost the Senate. They don't have a majority in the Supreme Court. They lost the popular vote. They lost the Electoral College. So, in the eyes of the Democratic youth, they're discredited.

But here's the key. They didn't lose the 2024 election because they were too far—they didn't go far left enough. They lost it because [former Vice President Kamala Harris](#) and her supporters tried to move her from her hard left. And can I make a parentheses here? She had the most left-wing voting record in the U.S. Senate—to the left of Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. And she couldn't even move a little bit to

the center, although she tried. She said, remember that she was for fracking and she wanted the border wall and she was for deportation? That was all untrue.

But the point I'm making is, the party tried—in a very anemic fashion—to move to the center, where they knew the votes were. But this new cohort is saying, “You lost the election because you didn't go far left enough. And maybe we represent 20% of the Democratic registered cohort, but we're young. And we're charismatic. And we're dynamic. And we're gonna take this party, in the 2026 midterms and the 2028, to victory. And we're gonna do it by a socialist agenda. And a radical, radical, new, new, new green deal. And an open border. And a trans banner on every campaign event. That's who we are. And a disarmament. And we're gonna raise taxes on the billionaires.” And that's their message. It has no public support.

So, even though they think they're charismatic and they're youthful, we get back to the old proverb of the 80-20 paradigm. The Republican Party has been on the 70% to 80% of where the people are on the border, on foreign policy, on the economy, on social and cultural issues. These people—these Jacobin French revolutionaries—they're pulling 20% to 30% on this issue.

I'll leave you with a final thought. The Republicans are not afraid. They're not afraid of the squad and the Jacobins and this new cohort, the David Hoggs of the world. But you know who's terrified of them? Dick Durbin, Nancy Pelosi, and Chuck Schumer, because they don't know how to handle them. They're part of themselves. It's an incestuous relationship.

And they're saying to them, “But we're the old guard.” And they're saying, “You may be the old guard, but we're going to guillotine you and get rid of you. And we're coming in with a revolutionary fervor they're terrified of.”

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