

RELEASE IN
PART B6

a bit of atypical thought on Tea Party... worth pondering...

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Subject: a bit of atypical thought on Tea Party... worth pondering...

We will have this posted tomorrow on Huffington Post... we think it's important to end the demonizing and consider all the facts and how to deal most effectively with this group:

The Tea Party is Mostly Pro-Choice and Pro-Gay: Knowing That Matters

Sun Tzu, the famous Chinese tactician said, "Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight a hundred battles without disaster. But if you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat." For Democrats and progressives trying to make sense of the electoral map and early outcomes of this past year, those words explain a lot.

As a movement and a Party we have come a long way since the Kerry years when Democrats stood for a laundry list of policies but could not articulate a core set of principles and values that defined us. We have become better at articulating our values and speaking not just to voters' heads but to their hearts (where most actually make political decisions). And we'd done a pretty good job of understanding Republicans and their voters during the Bush years--effectively peeling off independent voters and even some more conservative ones in our return to power.

But then came the Tea Party. And we find ourselves facing a new foe who's harder to understand. Some things are clear. Tea Party members ID as "conservative," most are registered Republicans (Gallop just announced that 80% self-ID as Republicans