

MSNBC's *Morning Joe*
02/16/22
6:00:39 a.m. [TEASE]
12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: *San Francisco Chronicle*; S.F. school board recall: Alison Collins, Gabriela López and Faauuga Moliga ousted]

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: San Francisco just recalled three members of the city's school board as that city, along with the rest of the country, deals with the impact of the pandemic. We'll get into the politics of that.

(...)

6:04:19 a.m.
3 minutes and 6 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Three San Francisco School Board Members Ousted in Landslide Recall Election]

BRZEZINSKI: We're going now to turn to a developing story out of San Francisco, where voters last night ousted three members of its board of education in a landslide recall election.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: This is a huge story.

BRZEZINSKI: Yeah.

SCARBOROUGH: Politically —

BRZEZINSKI: The recall —

SCARBOROUGH: — nationwide, this is a huge story.

BRZEZINSKI: — the recall of each member was supported by more than 70 percent of voters. Critics accuse them of putting progressive politics over priorities like the pandemic. For example, the board was criticized for crying to rename schools when many parents —

SCARBOROUGH: Including schools named after Abraham Lincoln and Diane Feinstein.

BRZEZINSKI: — and this is when many parents wanted to focus on the reopening of schools. Some of the schools targeted were named after Abraham Lincoln, as Joe said, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and even long-time U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein. The election also galvanized Asian-American parents after the board changed admissions requirements for one of the city's most prestigious high schools. San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who supported the recall, will now have to appoint replacements.

SCARBOROUGH: And, of course, Elise Jordan, the headline here is this is happening in San Francisco in one of the most Progressive cities in America. And you have parents — and this is a clear warning. We saw it from Virginia. We can now say, you know, from Norfolk to San Francisco, you have parents in the Virginia election enraged that schools were shut down for too long, there was too much distance learning. They were talking about critical race theory, which, of course, we heard is not taught in Virginia schools. Still, you're hearing the same thing about a rebellion — and I've been saying this for a couple years. People get really angry, some people in their mom's basement on Twitter get really angry, tweeting out, “How dare you talk about woke poli” — it — it — really — it pisses off liberals. It pisses off liberals as much as it does conservatives. Woke politics is actually really hurting Democratic candidates. You take that and you take what, again, Asian-Americans and the feelings that, you know, they're actually being preyed upon, not just physically in violence but also politically. And it was a toxic mix and a very liberal city three out three progressive board members and it wasn't even close.

ELISE JORDAN: I mean, Joe, how happy would you be if you had won an election by 70 percent? That was pretty universal, the outcry from San Francisco parents and, like you said, it's just reverberating around the nation, the anger over misplaced priorities in our schools. Parents want their children back in a classroom and want them to not — [SIGNAL DROPS]

BRZEZINSKI: We're going to have more with Reverend Al on this a little bit later.

(...)

7:24:32 a.m. [TEASE]
20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up]

BRZEZINSKI: Still ahead on *Morning Joe*, a school board recall election is making — a school board recall election is making national headlines. The surprising results from San Francisco and what it could mean for school districts across the country.

(...)

7:34:01 a.m.
55 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: *San Francisco Chronicle*; S.F. school board recall: Alison Collins, Gabriela López and Faauuga Moliga ousted]

BRZEZINSKI: Meanwhile, in San Francisco, voters last night ousted three members of its board of education in a landslide recall election. The recall of each member was supported by more than 70 percent of voters. Critics accuse them of putting progressive politics over policies like the pandemic, for example. The board was criticized for trying to rename schools when many parents wanted the focus to be on reopening schools.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Three San Francisco School Board Members Ousted in Landslide Recall Election]

Some of the schools targeted were named after Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and even long-time U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein. The election also galvanized Asian-American parents after the board changed admissions requirements for one of its city's most prestigious high schools. San Francisco Mayor London Breed, who supported the recall, will now have to appoint replacements. This is a lot.

(...)

7:37:54 p.m.

1 minute and 19 seconds

DONNY DEUTSCH: You gotta — the Democrats have got to step away from the super wokeness. I mean, San Francisco really tells what's going on. You've got three school board members that were voted out by 70 percent because they're focusing on things like changing the name of schools. Abraham Lincoln on a school. George Washington on a school. This is not what voters care about. When it comes to school, they care about: Are kids safe? Are they getting the right education?

SCARBOROUGH: Are the schools open?

DEUTSCH: Are the schools open?

BRZEZINSKI: Yeah.

DEUTSCH: The thing — and this is a fact, this is not up for discussion and this is not even a moral discussion. This is a factual political discussion, that if you give the Republicans the ability to point to Democrats as this super woke culture focused on the wrong things that don't matter to voters, that don't matter to them putting food on the table, don't matter to their kids going to school, that don't matter the higher wages, you're going to lose. And it's that simple. You need to step away from super wokeness.

SCARBOROUGH: And I know, Eddie, you're of a different opinion on this. Do you have any concerns about the Democrats going too far for rank and file voters and all demographic groups?

EDDIE GLAUDE: So, my concern is whether or not we have the right calls of attribution, that is super wokeness doing this. That's my concern. So, I think I've always been worried as a student of history, as one of the ivory tower theorists, Rev.

(...)

7:40:04 p.m.

58 seconds

GLAUDE: But as a student of history though — appreciate that. As a student of history, one of the things I see as one of the most dangerous combinations to thwart American progress is the combination of those who are explicitly bigoted and those who are worried about going too far. So, you can have someone actually co-write, co-author the 13th Amendment, but think the 15th Amendment goes too far.

SCARBOROUGH: Right.

GLAUDE: You can have someone actually support desegregation in the south but actually think — right — Fair Housing Act goes too far. Great Society goes too far. So whenever I hear the language of going too far, I hear — and it usually comes from latte liberals, mocha liberals — mocha liberals, right? It usually go — not you, rev. But I'm just saying, you know?

AL SHARPTON: I'll give you the mocha. I use the latte.

GLAUDE: Latte, right.

SHARPTON: Let's get copyrights on those.

GLAUDE: But it usually comes from those who are invested in the status quo, who are worried they're going to lose something.

(...)

7:41:24 p.m.

1 minute and 43 seconds

GLAUDE: So I think they're afraid that the party's going — the fear of the party going too far is actually a fear based in a framework that has been defined by the age of Reagan. A Democratic party that sought to think of itself — and we had this conversation at Princeton — as the third way — right — which is basically the Republican light. And I believe that, when Repub — when voters have a choice between real Republicans and Republican light, they more often go to the Republicans. And so, part of what I think is to avoid this kind of political spectrum, left, right, alt — progressive, conservative, and actually speak to the issues on the ground. In San Francisco, it's more complicated. In San Francisco, there's a whole — there was a whole bunch of outside money that came into there. In San Francisco, there's a debate about whether the mayor is engaged in a power grab because these same three were going to go for reelection in November.

SHARPTON: Yeah.

GLAUDE: When we begin to chart the money, we see that the money is not necessarily local. It is part of a concerted campaign around the country by folks who are targeting school boards, who are connected to CRT. So this — mind you —

SCARBOROUGH: But this is San Francisco though.

GLAUDE: But mind —

SCARBOROUGH: This is not —

GLAUDE: — but mind — I was going to say —

SCARBOROUGH: — Birmingham, Alabama.

GLAUDE: You're right.

SHARPTON: No, but it is outside money and there's some power grab stuff in there.

DEUTSCH: But it's the issues also.

GLAUDE: I was going to say that, though. You're right.

SHARPTON: Where I was going with the issue, where I would only add this to what Eddie's analysis was —

SCARBOROUGH: Yeah.

SHARPTON: — is it's not only do you have those who think going to the 15th Amendment, 16th Amendment or whatever is too far, you have those that undercut those of us that are really on the frontlines saying, well, we don't need the 13th, 14th, 15th Amendment. We need to do away with everything and that's easy for them to say in theory. That's what I'm saying.

(...)

7:43:46 a.m.

28 seconds

SCARBOROUGH: Mike Barnicle, obviously, a lot of concerns — lot of concerns inside the Biden White House that the Democratic Party going too far left. And they will also be quietly pointing to what happened in San Francisco to say, you know, we've got to keep the school — we've got to get the schools open. We've got to focus on educating our kids, doing the right thing. I need to stop talking because, man, you sound like you're loaded for bear. Go.

(...)

7:44:23 a.m.

2 minutes and 54 seconds

MIKE BARNICLE: I'll take it down and boil it down to this. You can make a strong case, I think, that too many Democrats just don't speak in terms of the average American comprehending what they're saying.

BRZEZINSKI: Right.

BARNICLE: They don't use language that is understandable to the average American.

SCARBOROUGH: You're talking democratic politicians?

BARNICLE: Huh?

SCARBOROUGH: Democratic politicians, you're saying?

BARNICLE: Yes, yes. Okay and what I mean by that is more of the more important issues in this country was unveiled for the umpteenth time yesterday in San Francisco with the — with the supervisors being voted out. And the issue is this, if you have a child who was 12 years old two years ago when the pandemic began, you can look at that child now in high school and think that that child has missed so much of life. Socialization, education, promise of perhaps college, gone, erased, taken from him or her because there's been no school for all practical purposes for two years for millions of American families. And they wake up each day and have each day for the past couple of years, wondering, school today? No school today? Virtual school today? Masks today? No masks today? Work today? No work today? Stay home today? What are we going to do?

BRZEZINSKI: Tests?

BARNICLE: So, the anxiety level in this country is like a pressure cooker, a pressure cooker.

GLAUDE: That's right.

SCARBOROUGH: Yep.

GLAUDE: That's right.

BARNICLE: So, when they hear these, for lack of a better phrase, and I hate the phrase, woke Democrats talking about something that does not apply to them or their household —

BRZEZINSKI: Right.

BARNICLE: — where are they going to go? They're going to go to two places. One is truly dangerous, they go online. That's where they live, online. That's where the ocean of hate and resentment and anxiety further fuels them and then the other place that they could go, unfortunately for the Democrats, the Republican Party.

BRZEZINSKI: Well, that's — that's —

SCARBOROUGH: They're doing it.

BRZEZINSKI:— a little of what we were talking about at dinner last night and sort of, like, the Democrats, if there are three issues that I think people are looking for answers on, it's COVID and that has been the Biden answer on that? And it's economy and it's crime.

SCARBOROUGH: Yeah.

BRZEZINSKI: And how do they speak for themselves on those three issues so that they stand out.

SCARBOROUGH: Let's remember the three Cs here, Donnie. COVID, crime, cost of living.

BRZEZINSKI: Okay.

SCARBOROUGH: Those are the three issues. Democrats: COVID, crime, cost of living. Write it down on your blackboard. Write it down on your hand. COVID, crime, cost of living. Those are the three issues, Donnie, that people are going to be talking about. And when they step into the voting booth, that's what's going to drive the voters who are going to determine whether Republicans control the House and Senate or Democrats control the House and Senate.

(....)

7:47:44 a.m.

1 minute and 7 seconds

SCARBOROUGH: I figured out pretty quickly they were voting for their best interest, for their kids' best interest, for their parents' best interest, for their schools' best interest. It was all stuff — let's just face it, it's the wealthy. It's the elites. It's the people in the ivory towers. It's those of us around the table. We can go, well, you know, I'm really concerned just generally about where the Republican — I mean, we have the luxury of being philosophical when we go into vote. The majority of Americans, they're trying to get by. They want their kids who are having emotional problems be able to go back to school. They want their small businesses, they want people to come into the stores again. We elites, Republican elites, Democratic elites, independent elites, have the luxury of sort of looking at it from 30,000 feet. Most Americans don't. So you're right, they vote for their family's best interest, and they should.

(....)

7:49:35 a.m.

21 seconds

BARNICLE: You know, both parties, Republicans and Democrats, too many of them don't understand, I don't think, grasp one fundamental thing in this country. They always talk about, we want your family to get ahead. We want your family to do better. Huge majority of families, I would submit, would settle for, hey, I want to get even with things. I just want to stay even with things.

(....)

7:50:34 a.m.

54 seconds

GLAUDE: There's sense in which that we — as — like you say, that we, in some instances, consolidate some instances, it's — it's — it's contested. Who's the we? That's part of the problem, but I think you're absolutely right. When there are folks who are on the so-called progressive side, when kids aren't in school, when our kids are experiencing anxiety and they're busy, concerned about the names on buildings —

SCARBOROUGH: Right.

GLAUDE: — that's a problem. When we're talking about fundamental issues like putting food on the table, keeping a roof over your head, and sending your kids to college, and folks are performing progressivism

SCARBOROUGH: Oh.

GLAUDE: — as opposed to engaging in substantive change —

SCARBOROUGH: You just said it —

SHARPTON: That's my point.

SCARBOROUGH: — you just said it, Eddie. It's a performance art.

GLAUDE: It's a performance art, absolutely.

BARNICLE: It's a performance art, yeah.

SCARBOROUGH: You said it. Let's face it. So many of these people that get on pro-Trump television, it's all performance. But you're getting that on the woke side too. It's performative art.

GLAUDE: And it's not — it's leaving the country in peril.