Four years ago, despite losing the popular vote by over 2% of the votes cast, 306 Electoral votes was considered a “landslide victory” by the Republicans. As I write this, 2020’s Electoral College results are exactly the same, but President-elect Joe Biden...
was elected with over 15 million more votes than Donald Trump’s total in 2016.

Americans have spoken loud and clear. Never has a sitting president been rejected by more voters in the history of this country. And with that comes a real mandate for the incoming administration.

The closest rejection of a sitting president was in 1932 when Franklin Roosevelt won his first term. Among the many programs started during this term was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). If you’ve ever been to Allegany State Park, many of the rustic trails, bridges and roads you see today are some of the work the CCC did to improve the public’s access to protected wild areas across the United States. Closer to home, much of the forests in East Concord owned and managed by Erie County were planted by the CCC.
Biden addressed climate change issues throughout the campaign. It will not be enough to reverse the destructive policies of the last four years. We need immediate action to get back to where the United States was when President Obama signed the Paris Climate Accord and move forward quickly. Biden should look back to FDR and create a Climate Conservation Corps.

Going beyond the initial manual labor tasks of the CCC, the Climate Conservation Corps would also be tasked in training new leaders in climate mitigation and resilience to help create sustainability solutions for communities fighting climate enhanced risks from hurricanes, fires, floods, droughts, etc. The program would give a shot in the arm to national parks in
serious need of upgrades while also preparing a workforce with the skills needed to combat climate change.

John Szalasny

Williamsville

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