What are we learning from the election results?

By Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

(1) It is a much closer race than any side expected or wanted. We are a deeply polarized country; some people think Trump’s victory will create a semblance of unity, but the opposite is likely to happen. Trump won because he energized those who believe the system is rigged against them.

(2) We all are taking a dose of patience and waiting for all votes to be counted. I know this is a lot to ask; yet, this is what we do as a democratic nation. It is not something that can be easily done anywhere in the world.

(3) The USA is a union of states. Each state has their own rules and they are being followed and respected following the basic premise, “If you voted, your vote should be counted,” (regardless of who your vote is for) – an idea that is not a good thing.

It creates anxiety. Yet, it is our democracy at work.

We need to remember that this was an election that was expected to be very close. The polls had indicated that the election would be a close one. What is now clear is that “blue wave” never happened.

In the end, we need to be accepting. We need to accept that we live in a country where everyone has the right to vote. People who did not vote need to respect that we voted. People who did not vote need to respect the process of democracy.

We also need to respect those who were different from us. We should be able to respect those we do not agree with. We need to respect co-workers, who voted differently than we did. We all need to do our best to respect that difference, be tolerant and constructive, build on it to become more agreeable going forward.

What are we learning from the election results? We need to be tolerant and respectful. We need to be respectful following the basic premise, “If you voted, your vote should be counted,” (regardless of who you voted for).

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