



# The RIGHT WRITE-UP

## The Republican Club of Comal County

*A political group of conservative Republican men and women.  
Our goal is to inform about current issues and conservative candidates.*

Volume 7, Issue 1

[rcctx.org](http://rcctx.org)

January, 2022

### OUR NEXT MEETING

#### **THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY**

**will have our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m  
at the First Protestant Church of New Braunfels, 172 W. Coll Street  
NEW LOCATION: Enter the parking lot by the Civic Center from Coll St.**

***THIS MEETING WILL INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022.***

Refreshments will have the theme of “Warm-up Winter.”

Members are encouraged to bring soups, salads,  
breads, and small sandwiches.

We encourage members to arrive early. This will allow  
time to pay dues, greet friends and guests, and partake of  
refreshments before the meeting starts.

Please share this meeting announcement with friends and  
family. As we grow in numbers, our influence grows with  
our elected officials, and they will respond to our calls on  
legislative priorities.

Questions? Call or email our President, Al Highfield,  
at 830-255-1367 or at [president@rcctx.org](mailto:president@rcctx.org).

*(For information about our new President, see p. 5.)*



Our guest speaker will be

**Colonel Doug “Stoli” Nikolai.**

Colonel Nikolai will talk about

**The Habits of Honor and Patriotism.**

Please join us for this inspiring talk.

*(For more information about Col Nikolai, see p. 5.)*

## A Message from our incoming Club President

Thank you to all the members and our guests who attended the after Christmas Meeting and party on December 28. Your support for my nomination and election to this office is an honor and privilege as we begin our journey together. Since my wife, Vicky, and I joined this organization, our desire for a successful Republican party has been fueled by the RCCC members' enthusiasm. I look forward with eager feelings for a successful "Red Wave" in the 2022 election cycle!

We need to go forward with a renewed bold approach to secure a future for our party. Let us all get out and pursue new members, spread our beliefs in the Republican party platform, support the Precinct Chairs in our communities, and get the conservative neighborhoods motivated.

Again, thanks to all of you for making a difference and God Bless us during this journey.

President Albert F. Highfield

## OUR PATRON PROGRAM

The Republican Club of Comal County is thankful for those who have contributed to our Club through the Patron Program during 2021. Patrons donate \$100 per year per person to help us finance our 2021 election strategy.

Robbie Borchers	Scott Haag	Susie Le Canu	Dennis Shumaker
Glen Breitung	Albert Haddad	Kerry Ledford	Priscilla Shumaker
Mary Breitung	Tex Hall	Donna Lee	Joy Streater
John Brewer	Don Hensz	Ernie Lee	Teri Taylor
Bob Byrnes	Ginny Hensz	Al Malmsten	John Walker
Joe Carroll	Carolyn Herbert	Sharon Hall Monge	Susan Walker
Ruth Chambers	Bob Hieronymus	Cyndi Montgomery	Linda Williamson
Mark Delaney	Albert Highfield	Mark Montgomery	Jim Wilson
Cassie Dyson	John Hobson	Mallory Moore	Karen Wilson
Judd Earley	Karen Hobson	Reeves Moore	Judy Wooten
Sheila Earley	Don Johnson	Gina Motz	Michael Wooten
Paul Grohman	John Kucewicz	Sue Piner	John Young
Gail Grohman	Sharon Kucewicz	Sandra Shelton	

Contact our Patron Program chair, Carolyn Herbert, at 830-515-5919 to become a Patron or for more information. Patrons receive a special personalized Texas flag name tag.

### Let's make a deal!

**Pay your dues for 2021 at our November meeting, and you will be covered for 2022 as well! Such a deal! The dues are only \$25 for a family and \$15 for an individual. Another wise choice is to become a Patron for only \$100 as we strive to build up our Club's treasury to prepare for the crucial election season that starts next year!**

### Our Officers for 2022

President	Al Highfield
Vice President	Dr. Kerry Ledford
Secretary	Patty Kirk-Trimble
Treasurer	John Hobson
Past President	Mary Wohl

### Committee Chairs

Membership	Robbie Borchers
Legislative Affairs	Don Johnson
Campaign Activities	Susan Walker
Hospitality	Lori Mayfield
Parliamentarian	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Publicity Chair	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Founder/Facebook	Sonja & Bill Harris
Newsletter Editor	Kerry Ledford
Associate Editor	Karen Hobson
Special Events	Donna Lee
Special Projects	Ruth Chambers
Patron Program	Carolyn Herbert
Precinct Whip	Joe Carroll
Web Master	Audrey Johnson Scheper

## Comal County Precinct Chairs

Why do we publish the Comal County Precinct Chair List in the Republican Club Newsletter each month? Our mission as active Republicans is to support the political process. Each one of us should know what Precinct we live in and who serves as our Precinct Chair.

We should offer our assistance to our Precinct Chair for the elections. We can assist as an Election clerk or Election Judge on Election Day. We can offer to block walk to inform our neighbors of early voting. We can block walk for our chosen candidates. We can offer to take a list of Republicans to call with a reminder of the times and places to vote early. There are a number of ways an individual can help to assure a maximum Republican vote.

Studies show that when people intend to vote, but fail to vote early, a substantial percentage of that vote is lost on Election Day. There is a lot to be done. Please offer your help to your Precinct Chair.

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Name</u>
County Chair	Sue Piner
Recording Secretary	Judy Walker
Treasurer	Minnie Altum
101	Sharon Hall Monge
102	Kaci Sisk
103	Laura Buske
104	Haskell Hart
105	Ernie Lee
106	Chris Byrd
107	Anita Valdez
108	Albert Highfield
201	Mike Penshorn
202	Sharlene Fey
203	James "Hoss" Boyd
204	Marlin Brown
205	Steven White
206	Richard "Tex" Hall
207	John Brewer
208	Joanne Martin
301	Will Moravits
302	Mary Lou Erben
303	Cheryl Jacobs
304	Amanda Ackerman
305	LaFawn Thompson
306	Barbara Harrell
401	Robbie Borchers
402	Melinda Rapp
403	Don Johnson
404	Teri Taylor
405	Molly Vogt
406	Joe Carroll
407	Susan Walker

## Our new President, Albert F. Highfield

What I bring to the RCCC as President is a firm belief in this mission statement: First, it's about PEOPLE! About our mutual concerns, our mutual Christian Values, and our mutual Republican Conservative ideals.

Communicating all of this in an effective manner to our Comal County voters will be a goal of my office.



**Mr. and Mrs. Highfield**

As our RCCC presents speakers, programs, and workshops to promote patriotic zeal, we can empower our members to come together and **KEEP COMAL COUNTY AND TEXAS RED.** My life experiences have prepared me to carry out these goals: a Military Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, Safety Director, Precinct Chair, Election Clerk a future Election Judge, as the party headquarters volunteer and Chair of the Party Headquarters Volunteer Committee. Being a Deacon I have faith in God to lead us through our crisis. Scripture tells us in Ecclesiastes 10:2 "A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left", therefore...I have begun the work. I have driven my neighborhood many times making new friends for the party and will continue throughout the county!

**TOGETHER WE CAN GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP AND HAVE AN EVER-INCREASING POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR HOME HERE IN COMAL COUNTY! ALL THIS WE DO FOR LIBERTY AND FREEDOM IN AMERICA!**

**Albert F. Highfield**

## Col. Doug "Stoli" Nikolai

Colonel Nikolai gives a motivating program encouraging us all to create habits of honor and patriotism for our country and fellow citizens. A Marshfield, WI, native, Colonel Nikolai received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1989. He has extensive combat, tactical, and operational experience with more than 2,800 flying hours, including more than 260 combat hours earned during Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom.

His assignments have included the following duties: F-16 Weapons Instructor Course Pilot, Flight Examiner, Flight Commander, Assistant Operations Officer, Chief of Wing Weapons and Tactics, Chief of Squadron Standardization and Evaluation, Chief of 11 Air Force Weapons and Tactics, Operations Officer, Director of Staff, F-16 Squadron Commander, and Deputy Group Commander. Col. Nikolai is still affiliated with the Air Force as a F-16 Simulator Instructor Pilot (IP)/Subject Matter Expert (SME) at Kelly/Lackland AFB and is working with the Texas Air National Guard. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as Chief of the Weapon Systems Liaison Division of the Secretary of the Air Force's Legislative Liaison Office, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

## Our Mission

The mission of the Republican Club of Comal County is to promote “Faith, Family, and Freedom” by providing information and education about critical political issues, by encouraging active participation in the political process, by supporting conservative Republican nominees, and by fostering loyalty to the Republican Party and its conservative ideals.

### The 2020 Principles of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT)

The following is a portion of the RPT 2020 Platform. This is an outline of what we believe our Party stands for and should be made familiar to all Texas Republicans so when we are asked, "Why are you a Republican?" you can cite one or all of these ten primary reasons.

#### Preamble

Affirming our belief in God, we still hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Throughout the world, people dare to dream of freedom and opportunity. The Republican Party of Texas unequivocally defends that dream. We strive to preserve the freedom given to us by God, implemented by our Founding Fathers, and embodied in the Constitution. We recognize that the traditional family is the strength of our nation. It is our solemn duty to protect innocent life and develop responsible citizens. We understand that our economic success depends upon free market principles. If we fail to maintain our sovereignty, we risk losing the freedom to live these ideals.

#### Principles

We, the 2020 Republican Party of Texas, believe in this platform and expect our elected leaders to uphold these truths through acknowledgment and action. We believe in:

1. "The laws of nature and nature's God," and we support the strict adherence to the original language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and of Texas.
2. The sanctity of innocent human life, created in the image of God, which should be equally protected from fertilization to natural death.
3. Preserving American and Texas sovereignty and freedom.
4. Limiting government power to those items enumerated in the United States and Texas Constitutions.
5. Personal accountability and responsibility.
6. Self-sufficient families, founded on the traditional marriage of a natural man and a natural woman.
7. Having an educated population, with parents having the freedom of choice for the education of their children.
8. The inalienable right of all people to defend themselves and their property.
9. A free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies.
10. Honoring all of those who serve and protect our freedom.

COMAL COUNTY  
*Republican Candidate Forum*  
JANUARY 17 • 6PM  
THE VILLAGE VENUE  
2032 CENTRAL PLAZA  
RSVP TO CCGOPINFO@GMAIL.COM  
Light Refreshments will be served  
Doors open @ 5  
BSB CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS  
REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY  
New Braunfels CONSERVATIVES  
POL AD PAID FOR BY CCGOP

**Vote for competence,  
experience, and dedication.  
Re-elect **Sue Piner**  
as Comal County  
Republican Party Chairman!**

## **SUE PINER – TRIED and TRUE TEXAS!**

### **A MEMBER OF THE COMAL COUNTY COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS!**

- ◆ Active in the Republican Party since 2007
- ◆ Served as an election Judge and Clerk for 10 years
- ◆ Active member of all five Comal County Republican Clubs
- ◆ President of the Republican Club of Comal County for three years
- ◆ Comal County Party Chair for two years

My mission as the Comal County Republican Chair begins with one important focus:

**"GETTING OUT THE REPUBLICAN VOTE."**

Comal County ranks in the top 5% out of 254 counties in Texas in getting out the Republican vote, that keeps Comal County and Texas **RED**.

My focus over the next two years will be to continue to inform the Comal County voters about the Republican Party platform and principles.

Our platform's first sentence affirms our belief in God. What better way to discern our path than to ask in humble prayer for God's Blessings in these troubled days of the COVID virus, grocery store shortages, gas prices, and whatever comes next?

We have choices to make now in leadership, from Governor of Texas all the way down the ballot to Comal County Chair.

I have worked non-stop and effectively to keep Comal County strong and **RED**.

I am asking for your support and your vote.

Sue Piner, a Tried and True Texas Republican.  
Cell: 830-214-3687

# Notice of Convention



Conventions (held every two years at the precinct, county, and state level) allow ordinary citizens, like you, to get involved in the Republican Party's platform and priorities. At the Precinct Convention, we will elect delegates to the Comal County Convention and submit, discuss, and pass resolutions that add or remove items from the Texas Republican Party Platform. All resolutions passed during the Precinct Conventions will be submitted to the Comal County Platform Committee. The Platform Committee will prepare these resolutions for submission at the County Convention on March 26. At the County Convention, we will elect delegates to the State Convention, and discuss and vote on platform items to be submitted to the State Platform Committee. To learn more, visit [comalcountygop.org](http://comalcountygop.org) or scan the QR code - More on Conventions.



**Comal County Republican Convention**  
March 26, 2022 - 10 AM - First Protestant Church  
172 W. Coll Street, New Braunfels

**Comal County Republican Party**  
**830-837-5748**

EMAIL: [INFO@COMALCOUNTYGOP.ORG](mailto:INFO@COMALCOUNTYGOP.ORG)  
WEBSITE: [COMALCOUNTYGOP.ORG](http://COMALCOUNTYGOP.ORG)

## Republican Precinct Conventions - March 5, 2022 - 10 AM

To participate in your precinct convention, vote in the Republican primary or bring a Certificate of Affiliation to your precinct convention.

### **Precinct 101, 103, 301, 302, 308**

Comal County GOP HQ. 265 Landa, \*NB

### **Precinct 104, 108, 402**

Grace Bible Church, 1101 Triple Peak Dr, \*CL

### **Precinct 107**

Vintage Oaks Amen Ctr, 1250 Via Principa, \*NB

### **Precinct 306, 404, 406**

Gruene Methodist Church, 2629 Common, \*NB

### **Precinct 105**

Comal Spgs Resort CH, 691 Canyon Spgs, \*CL

### **Precinct 205**

City of GR Com Ctr, ,9400 Municipal Pkwy, \*GR

### **Precinct 102, 106, 204, 206, 208, 405**

Bulverde Baptist Church, 1331 Bulv Rd, \*Bulv

### **Precinct 305**

Westside Comm Ctr, 2932 S IH Frontage Rd, \*NB

### **Precinct 201, 303, 304 307**

NB Christian Church, 734 N Loop 337, \*NB

### **Precinct 401**

Pinnacle, 631 Lakeview Town Hall Rm, \*NB

### **Precinct 202, 203, 207**

Anglican Church, 115 Kings Way, \*NB

### **Precinct 403, 408**

Mystic Shrs Comm Ctr, 25801 Mystic Pkwy, \*SB

### **Precinct 407**

River Chase Clubhouse, 436 Riv Chs Way, \*NB

Your precinct number is listed on your voter registration card. You can also use the QR code - What is my precinct. This will take you to the Texas Secretary of State website. On the form, enter your first name, last name, county, date of birth, & zip code. Your precinct number will be listed at the bottom of voter information

\*NB - New Braunfels, \*CL - Canyon Lake, \*GR - Garden Ridge, \*Bulv - Bulverde, \*SB - Spring Branch.



**What is my  
precinct?**

## Rep. Gaetz Rips 'Fedsurrection'; Republicans Denounce Jan. 6 By Eric Mack, Newsmax, 6 January 2022

Nearly lost in the comparisons by Democrats and the White House between Jan. 6, 2021, and two of the deadliest days in U.S. history — Pearl Harbor and 9/11 — was a news conference on Thursday afternoon by Reps. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., and Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga.

One person, Ashli Babbitt, was shot during the attack on the U.S. Capitol, and she was fatally shot by Capitol Police Lt. Michael Byrd, who fired one round into the unarmed Air Force veteran and supporter of then-President Donald Trump. That was just one of the points the two lawmakers made as they rebutted the Democratic-led commemoration of a year since the Capitol siege.

"It's very important for the Republican voice to be heard today, because it's the Republican voice, the Republican voter, and the Trump supporter that has been smeared constantly over this past year," Greene told reporters at the Washington news conference.

Greene and other Republicans have denounced the interruption of the "very important work" of Congress during its Jan. 6 debate on certifying President Joe Biden's Electoral College victory.

Gaetz laid out a detailed report by Revolver.News, published by former White House speechwriter Darren Beattie, has been hailed by Trump as an earnest attempt to get the real story of Jan. 6.

"We are here to expose the truth, to ask key questions about what happened on Jan. 6, who animated the violence, the extent to which the federal government may have been involved," Gaetz told reporters.

"We know this: Jan. 6 last year wasn't an insurrection. No one has been charged with insurrection. No one has been charged with treason. But it very well may have been a fedsurrection."

Gaetz and Greene's news conference showed footage of the storming of the Capitol last Jan. 6, including Beattie's Revolver.news compilation that suggested there were numerous unindicted conspirators, led by Arizona Oath Keeper Ray Epps, a Marine Corps veteran and Trump supporter who started the "we must go into the Capitol" campaign Jan. 5 — a day before the Capitol riot.

"Imagine if we actually had the powers of the Jan. 6 [House] committee, the powers of the federal government, to understand why Ray Epps, the evening of the 5th, is out telling people dispassionately, professionally, with laser focus that the objective is to enter the United States Capitol building?" Gaetz said, after showing a video of Epps whispering into the ear of an indicted suspect right before the final blockade was breached Jan. 6.

Revolver.News' video evidence shows this to have occurred before the conclusion of Trump's speech at a rally nearby — a speech Democrats assert incited supporters to breach the Capitol.

"Then, on the 6th, it's not the Proud Boys who engaged in the initial breach, it's Ray Epps at that precise moment."

### Other Reactions

The news conference by Gaetz and Greene was among many strong reactions Thursday from Republicans. Many of them bristled at what they dubbed divisive, politicizing Jan. 6 rhetoric from Biden and his fellow Democrats.

Trump, who had canceled his own Jan. 6 news conference, wrote a lengthy statement from his Save America PAC, denouncing Biden's tone and his remarks as "very hurtful." The former president continued to claim that Jan. 6 took place because many Americans were protesting election fraud in the presidential vote.

Trump blasted the Biden administration's first-year struggles, and he urged Republican voters to retake power in the upcoming midterm elections.

"He acts like he's aggrieved, but we're the ones who were aggrieved and America is suffering because of it with poisonous Borders, record Inflation, a humiliating surrender in Afghanistan, \$5 a gallon gas and higher, empty stock shelves, and rampant crime," Trump said in his statement.

"America is a laughingstock of the world, and it's all because of the real insurrection, which took place Nov. 3, but this is an election year and MAGA Republicans should get elected and work with me to fix this horror that Joe Biden and the Democrats have brought us."

Trump, blocked on Twitter and Facebook in the days after the Capitol siege, is launching the social media app Truth Social on Feb. 21 while weighing his options for a 2024 presidential bid.

Meanwhile, other top Republicans joined Trump in blasting Biden.

"What brazen politicization of January 6 by President Biden," tweeted Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

"Finally, President Biden and Vice President Harris's speeches today were an effort to resurrect a failed presidency more than marking the anniversary of a dark day in American history," Graham added, also denouncing the criminal violence of Jan. 6 protesters and so-called social justice protests that unfolded the summer before the 2020 presidential election campaign.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who has notably broken from Trump on contesting the election results over unproven claims of voter fraud and the events of Jan. 6, adding condemnation of the violence at the Capitol.

"January 6th, 2021 was a dark day for Congress and our country," McConnell wrote in a lengthy statement. "The United States Capitol, the seat of the first branch of our federal government, was stormed by criminals who brutalized police officers and used force to try to stop Congress from doing its job. This disgraceful scene was antithetical to the rule of law."

But he echoed criticisms aimed at Democrats for "exploiting" Jan. 6 for partisan purposes.

"It has been stunning to see some Washington Democrats try to exploit this anniversary to advance partisan policy goals that long predated this event," his statement added. "It is especially jaw-dropping to hear some Senate Democrats invoke the mob's attempt to disrupt our country's norms, rules, and institutions as a justification to discard our norms, rules, and institutions themselves."

## **'BLM and CRT Movements Comprise a Gigantic Step Backward': Leftist Professor of Media Studies**

By Enrico Trigo, The Epoch Times, December 31, 2021

Professor Mark Crispin has been teaching propaganda classes at NYU for more than 20 years, a very popular subject that always has more student participation than the designated maximum typically allows.

Crispin had always identified himself as being on the left, not as a communist but as part of the campus left, the counter-cultural left of the 60s which was heavily influenced by the anti-war and civil rights movement.

The left back then was targeted by certain agencies with concealed intentions, he believes, and was subsequently divided, further noting that the left he was part of was completely different than the one today.

"When I look back on what we then believed in, I can't help but be shocked—repelled by what the so-called left has become today. The two lefts have nothing in common," Crispin told The Epoch Times, "today's left is the far-right."

"When I was a kid, the far-right really kind of distrusted and feared the working class. They wanted them to stay away from politics, they didn't like labor unions. Well, who are the deplorables? That's the working class. The constant demonization of Trump's base is essentially an attack—an elite attack—on the working class and its refusal to follow the script dictated to them by the liberal media.

"So they're constantly dismissed and attacked as Nazis, as far-right, white supremacists."

According to the professor—who was canceled by some of his colleagues and a few students and then exonerated—this procedure doesn't apply to black people.

"The left fetishizes black people. The left thinks that black people are automatically on their side, especially if those black people subscribe to the same political views that the Democrats hold.

"The fact is that, putting aside the weird attitude of the so-called left toward black people, they have no use for the working class, they have nothing for contempt for them, and that strikes me as another symptom of their being on the far-right."

Crispin doesn't idealize the campus left of the 60s, acknowledging that there was a lot wrong with it. However, he asserts that they were the subject of a concerted and highly sophisticated attack from big liberal foundations, "Ford and Rockefeller especially," who started favoring research projects focused on race and gender.

"I believe that's a key reason why the academic left became a tribalist mob," he continued, "because it suited [their] professional interests to [have you] become a devotee of identity politics. What those liberal foundations did not want you to study was class or political economy. They did not want the left to do that anymore."

**'Black Lives Matter Is a Brand'**

According to the professor, these foundations artificially directed the civil rights movement into an operation completely obsessed with race and identity.

"That's what we have now. That's what Black Lives Matter is, Black Lives Matter is basically a brand. I don't see them doing anything, for example, about the health impact on black people of lockdowns," Crispin said. "Why haven't Black Lives Matter said anything about what Dr. Fauci did to all those black orphans during the AIDS years?"

"They'll get all exercised about Confederate generals—the statues that commemorate them on campuses and in city halls, and they'll scream and yell and demand that Thomas Jefferson's statue be taken out of the New York City Hall. Seriously? That ancient history gets them all worked up. What about what Dr. Fauci did, to black orphans, children, a few decades ago, and he's still around, he's still our health czar, right? Why isn't Black Lives Matter screaming about him?"

"The point is the Black Lives Matter and the whole critical race theory movement, comprise a gigantic step backward. Because we now have on college campuses all over the country, segregated dining facilities and segregated graduation ceremonies. To someone like me, who comes out of the 60s, who remembers the civil rights struggle and was deeply sympathetic to it—and a believer in it—this is stunning, just mind-boggling. All of a sudden now, there's just a new reassertion of racism, which also entails this notion that all white people are white supremacists, which is a profoundly racist idea."

The Epoch Times reached out to Black Lives Matter for comment.

## The Steal

By Bill O'Reilly, October 17, 2021

It was always wrong. But no one could explain exactly how votes were being corrupted in the 2020 presidential election. Trump legal people like Rudy Giuliani and Sydney Powell ran around condemning voting machines and promoting shady allegations of fraud. But they could never produce forensic evidence of wrongdoing - and both have suffered greatly for their advocacy.

Attorney General William Barr publicly stated that election fraud was committed. Then he disappeared. To this day, President Trump is crazed over the vote. But he and his supporters were on the wrong trail.

I, your humble correspondent, watched closely as the situation unfolded. Corruption in precincts like Detroit, Atlanta, and Philadelphia is not exactly unheard of - is it?

But, again, no hard evidence came forward and I accurately reported that.

Now, a terrible picture is beginning to emerge and ground zero is Silicon Valley, California.

That's where Mark Zuckerberg lives. The Facebook chief apparently took a very large financial interest in the Trump/Biden race for the White House. How large? Well, how about \$420 million dollars.

According to a number of reports which have not been denied, Mr. Zuckerberg donated that colossal amount of money to a couple of "non-partisan," tax-exempt political operations: The Center for Technology and Civic Life and The Center for Election Innovation and Research.

Turns out these two "centers" are about as non-partisan as Nancy Pelosi.

Reporter Mollie Hemingway, who works for Heritage, investigated the Zuckerberg situation and calls it "genius."

Here's how it worked:

"Vote Navigators" were paid well to canvas mostly poor neighborhoods that traditionally vote for Democrats. Often, these ballot mercenaries would go inside the homes of voters.

Even though it is a crime in all 50 states to "electioneer" at polling places where you walk into and vote, it is not a criminal activity for a third party to interfere with a mail-in ballot. That's the vital loophole.

Thousands of navigators flooded the democrat precincts in Wisconsin, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia - all states that were close between Biden and Trump.

The navigators "assisted" voters in filling out ballots and, at times, "cured" mistakes. That means they corrected ballots so they wouldn't be thrown out.

Sometimes the hired political guns took the actual ballots from the folks and brought them to polling places. That is called "bundling."

The result was a much higher vote count for Joe Biden, as citizens who rarely participate in elections did so with the tutoring.

So, now we know why the left loves mail-in ballots so much. They can easily be manipulated with guys like Zuckerberg donating cash to make it happen.

By the way, Marky Mark broke no laws. What he did was perfectly legal and if the states don't crack down on this colossal con, it will happen again in 2024.

Donald Trump lost some of the states mentioned above by extremely small margins. So, this is an enormously important story.

But chances are you will not see it on the network news because the fix is in there, as well. A situation of this magnitude should be front page, lead on TV, for days.

That will not happen and "the steal" could very well continue next time around. So goes our democracy.

## The Right — and Wrong — Way to Overturn 'Roe v. Wade' Tim Busch, National Catholic Register, December 28, 2021

COMMENTARY: If the Supreme Court's six originalist justices are truly originalists, they will end abortion altogether in their 'Dobbs' decision, which should have happened in 'Roe.'

Roe v. Wade is not long for this world. When the Supreme Court heard oral argument in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization on Dec. 1, most of the justices seemed ready to roll back the 1973 decision that forced abortion on the United States and poisoned our national politics.

Yet there's a right way and a wrong way to overturn Roe, and, right now, the Supreme Court seems likely to make a profound mistake.

It's not enough simply to return abortion policy to the states, as the justices seem inclined to do. The Constitution requires ending abortion altogether.

When Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, the Supreme Court didn't just overrule the 46 states that refused to allow abortion on demand. The Court also rejected the understanding of personhood contained within the Constitution. Roe is based on the 14th Amendment, which says states shall not "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." While the Court defined "person" to mean a mother and no one else, the 14th Amendment was unquestionably written to include unborn children.

This fact has been decisively proved by constitutional scholars, who have picked apart the words and writings of the 14th Amendment's drafters, as well as the legal texts that guided them.

In the 1960s, it was universally understood that unborn children were people and therefore deserve the protection of the law. Not only can their life, liberty and property not be taken away without due process of law, but they are also covered by the 14th Amendment's promise of "equal protection of the laws." Abortion profoundly violates both of these constitutional guarantees.

The Supreme Court ignored this reality in Roe, effectively rewriting the 14th Amendment to exclude the unborn. It was a fundamental violation of the Court's role in America's constitutional order.

The unelected justices have no authority to change the meaning of the Constitution's words, which is something only the American people can do, usually through our elected representatives. Instead, justices must understand and enforce the Constitution's plain and unchanging meaning, anything beyond which opens the door to judicial dictatorship. This is the doctrine of originalism, and, today, six of the nine Supreme Court justices call themselves originalists.

Given the history and text of the 14th Amendment, Roe should have declared that abortion is a violation of unborn children's constitutional rights. That was, and is, the originalist argument. Not only does the meaning of the 14th Amendment prove it, but so does the fact that a clear majority of states criminalized abortion when the amendment was passed, on the grounds that it constituted the killing of a person.

Instead, the Supreme Court chose the political and activist route, mandating abortion nationwide. The outcry at the time was massive, and even prominent liberal scholars who supported abortion publicly argued that the Court's decision was constitutionally indefensible.

Yet ever since, Roe's opponents have largely avoided the question of whether unborn children are people. Instead of basing their opposition on the 14th Amendment, they've rallied around the strategy of returning abortion policy to the states.

The current Supreme Court appears ready to accept that argument. Yet returning abortion policy to the states is as unconstitutional as mandating abortion nationwide. Both approaches involve substituting a justice's opinion for the Constitution's plain meaning, which, in this case, is the 14th Amendment's protection of people, including the unborn. Both approaches allow something the Constitution prohibits. Whether abortion is mandated nationwide or allowed by individual states, it conflicts with America's governing charter.

If the Supreme Court's six originalist justices are truly originalists, they will end abortion altogether in their Dobbs decision, which should have happened in Roe. There are those who say that returning abortion to the states is the prudential path and that it's better to go slow and be incremental. But the Constitution does not give them that choice.

Either the 14th Amendment means what it says, or it's meaningless. The Supreme Court already tried to render it meaningless nearly 50 years ago in Roe v. Wade, and, ever since, abortion has roiled our country and claimed tens of millions of lives.

The justices have an opportunity — and an obligation — to right that wrong. The Constitution demands it. The unborn deserve it.

## **DESTRUCTIVELY EMBRACING (GROUP) IDENTITY. DEI bureaucracies and the politicization of American identity.**

By Andrew Fillat, Human Events, December 13, 2021

"Destructively Embracing Identity" is a far more appropriate meaning for the acronym DEI than the customary abbreviation for "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." Though once well intended, DEI has become a radical movement: the soldiers being the proliferating academic deans and human resource staff focused on policing every aspect of conduct and speech; and the generals, the pundits, activists, politicians, and elites, typically unaffected by the consequences of the movement. This army of DEI staff in educational, business, and government institutions have now gained oversight of decisions far beyond their competence or proper purview.

A destructive and divisive view of a very heterogeneous society...

A recent article in this publication has explained how even modest criticism of DEI has become a canceling offense, as in the case of University of Chicago professor Dorian Abbot. Yet modest criticism is insufficient. The DEI movement has become blatantly racist—by the definition of the word—judging people not as individuals, but by the alleged characteristics or stereotypes of their identity groups. It is a significant contributor to the current anti-white and anti-male zeitgeist by virtue of its expansive focus on all people "of color" (i.e., non-white) to create the broadest possible coalition of supporters.

This is a destructive and divisive view of a very heterogeneous society, a perspective whose most important distinctions involve differences of group affinity rather than individual merit or idiosyncrasies. The emphasis on group identity is seemingly intended to entrench the power of DEI and its proponents, rather than embrace the idea of the "inclusion" that is in DEI's very name.

### THE FALLACY OF "EQUITY"

DEI's core premise is that equal opportunity is insufficient to achieve social justice—a concept with its foundation in the Marxist ideal of a classless society—and that only by enforcing proportional outcomes based on identity will such justice be achieved. This is DEI's "Equity," a perverse interpretation of classlessness that justifies inequitable treatment based solely on one's immutable traits or identity group "membership," and that seeks to neutralize any natural advantages that might allow an individual to rise above the crowd.

The movement thereby rejects basic principles upon which the United States was founded and have guided us for 250 years. Our republic is based on the sanctity of the individual's inalienable rights, including equal treatment under the law—any law. Nowhere do our governing documents grant one ethnic or racial group preference over any other, regardless of their history or representation in any statistical category.

Proportional outcome has never been guaranteed.

As if to defy these principles, DEI proponents advocate explicit quotas on behalf of their designated disadvantaged groups—their view of "equity." In 2018, former Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill requiring that all publicly traded corporations headquartered in California include at least one woman on their boards of directors, "part of an effort to close the gender gap in business." The constitutionality of this bill is still, and rightly, in dispute. Quotas are not new, but have a long history of failed attempts to alleviate historic disadvantage. An early example of quotas is found in immigration law, but that was largely reversed in 1965. The U.S. Supreme Court then effectively outlawed racial quotas in 1978 for universities. Many other forms of quotas have been deemed to violate the equal protection guarantees of the 14th Amendment or have been explicitly banned by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Courts have expanded on this recently in responding to COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Proportional outcome has never been guaranteed.

Nevertheless, DEI essentially declares that an organization is morally obligated to elevate the physical appearance and demographic profile of its personnel over effectiveness. For them, identity must trump individual qualifications, or more broadly, "merit." But even in positions where necessary qualifications are few, values such as reliability, punctuality, and diligence can make a big difference. All people are not equally capable of playing professional sports, designing nuclear power plants, performing surgery, or analyzing and negotiating megamergers, for instance. Mental capacity, physical ability, or social skills matter, often extensively. These are all traits of individuals, not groups.

In addition, when DEI activists cite alleged patterns of bias to justify the devaluation of merit, they discount the obvious reality of human nature for millennia and the real world. Many religions consider outsiders or non-believers to be deprived, lesser in the eyes of God, damned, or even deserving of elimination. Is this a form of racism or simply a reflection of people's differences and beliefs?

DEI also appears to minimize the influence of culture as a powerful differentiating force that directly affects outcomes. It is not biased or racist to recognize and credit culture's impacts, both positive and negative. For example, the disproportionate share of black and Hispanic single-parent households creates disproportionate educational disadvantages and has a direct connection to crime. On the flip side, East Asians focus heavily on education and, as a result, outperform others. Statistics that describe patterns consistent in certain cultures are often considered "racist pseudoscience and misleading" by DEI advocates, demonstrating how they pick and choose (and politicize) scientific observation to suit their ends.

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The DEI army of activists fails to recognize that merit-based equal opportunity empowers individuals to transcend the straitjacket of identity and bias. To be sure, equal opportunity is a fragile idea. It depends upon those who have the responsibility of selecting people for jobs or educational slots putting aside their personal biases and evaluating the individual in front of them. But today, most people in this position do make a diligent effort in this regard and abide by fairness principles, many already codified in law. Systemic discrimination is, in fact, now quite rare (ironically, except where DEI imposes it). DEI creates exactly what it claims to oppose—and then leverages it self-servingly to enhance its influence.

#### THE INEQUALITY OF IDENTITY POLITICS

Public sympathy for the historical battles to overcome entrenched institutionalized discrimination is the main source of DEI's energy. It's important to note how inconsistently this principle is applied, however. The long history of discrimination against women is one example of a DEI narrative that remains, though most institutional barriers have now been removed, thanks in part to women's rights organizations which have long predated DEI. Other groups have had transitory periods or pockets of discrimination aimed at them, and some do persist—but this has very little bearing on whether or not the group is adopted by DEI advocates as a token cause.

Blaming all whites and favoring all people of color is overly simplistic and unjust.

But it is the history of slavery and persistent discrimination against African Americans that is uniquely compelling because affirmative action—itsself still controversial—seems not to have adequately enhanced their prospects in society. Yet DEI advocates double down on affirmative action's failures with an extremely aggressive attempt to redefine and strengthen it by expanding its purview to redress any form of perceived bias in school admissions or workplace hiring, regardless of whether institutionalized barriers exist to support a bias. In effect, DEI seeks to delve into the mind of individuals and then label any claimed pattern of bias as "systemic racism," presuming that this justifies cancellation or counter-discrimination in the form of informal (often cloaked) quotas.

And having anointed themselves as the authority on social justice, DEI advocates often respond with other ill-conceived or misguided initiatives besides quotas. A prime example is the assault on magnet schools and accelerated academic programs, where participation is predicated on tests or other objective measures, and that tend to admit a racially and ethnically non-proportionate population. New York City has flirted with eliminating the entry test for its elite high schools, and Seattle is among other cities killing its gifted child program. Eliminating or reducing these programs is subtractive for society as a whole and damaging to the deserving individuals while achieving nothing but the bogus denial of innate and cultural distinctions among candidates.

Even DEI's mainstay of proportional representation is flawed because of the challenges of delineating identity groups, which is an increasingly impossible task in this day and age. Our country's history of ever-increasing social tolerance has led to an ever-increasing mixing of different ethnic groups and cultures. Races, religions, and ethnicities intermarry more than ever before. So, how much "minority" genetic or cultural content is relevant to be embraced by DEI-tokenism? Embracing an oversimplified dichotomy between people "of color" and whites has become the easy response, which aligns nicely with the woke dogma of whites as oppressors and everybody else as oppressed. But this blithely ignores the fact that even within these two groups, there is a wide spectrum of experiences with discrimination. Blaming all whites and favoring all people of color is overly simplistic and unjust.

Nor has DEI ideology articulated any limiting principles about how identity should be formally recognized. DEI harps on "intersectionality"—the slicing and dicing of society into a myriad of ever smaller and overlapping groups based on identity memberships—and even adds such problematic categorization concepts as non-specific, elective, or fluid genders. This leads to an almost unbounded set of rules for dealing with individuals' many identity components in a workplace or educational institution. Taking intersectionality into account in admissions or hiring thus becomes a heuristic exercise in balancing all facets of identity, which further submerges measures of merit or qualifications in service of identity diversity.

Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King. We all need to listen.

The better response to unequal outcomes is seeking a leveling of capability by attacking education gaps through school choice—including support for a wider range of alternatives like charter schools—and establishing adult remedial programs that focus on the industry or field that a candidate aspires to. Rather than funding overreaching, wasteful, and pernicious DEI bureaucracies, business, academic, and government institutions should reallocate money to these types of programs. (Former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg clearly agrees and has announced this month that he will put \$750 million of his own money into charter schools and improving public education.)

The core value we must protect is the primacy of the individual. Society is improved by having the most competent people pursuing its most important and difficult goals. Diluting the quality of research, medical care, teaching, management, governmental policy, etc., to achieve DEI's goals, as is too often the reality, is counterproductive and unfair to all those affected by poorer performance of lesser qualified beneficiaries of DEI.

The irony is that the greatest civil rights icon of the last hundred years would wholeheartedly agree. He beseeched us all to judge people by their character, not their skin color.

Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King. We all need to listen.

## Jussie Smollett is a victim of the systemic racism maintained by white liberals

Jason Whitlock, The Blaze, December 8, 2021

Jussie Smollett destroyed his career and reputation trying to live up to a racist expectation of "blackness." It's the same mistake former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick made.

Popular culture's puppet masters — academia, Big Tech's social media apps, the executives running the TV, movie, music, and sports industries, and the political left — have established victimhood as the highest form of blackness. Attaining victim status is the primary expectation placed on American black men.

Meeting this expectation is especially important for mixed-race, wealthy celebrities. In the culture created by the left, victimhood is their rite of passage into the fraternity of blackness.

As much as I despise Smollett for the 2019 racial hoax he staged in Chicago, the alleged crime that currently has him on trial, my disdain for the culture that baited him into the act far exceeds my disgust for Smollett.

Smollett, the child of a black woman and a white Jewish man, did what the culture told him to do and what the culture puts enormous pressure on half-black, half-white kids to do: prove their blackness. In modern American culture, there's nothing blacker than being worthy of a white man's aggression. Smollett isn't worthy. So he allegedly paid two black men to pose as white and attack him.

The whole scenario is funny until you consider the sadness of the mental state that would devise such a scheme and a culture that would entice it.

Smollett and Kaepernick, the self-made national anthem martyr, are victims. They're victims of the racist expectations imposed on them by a sick, secular culture. At different levels, all American black people are victims of this culture.

Human beings respond to expectations. Expectations can be and should be the greatest gift imposed on human beings. Expectations inspire behavior and shape mindsets.

Tuesday night, I had dinner with two friends. We engaged in a debate about white privilege. What is it? Does it exist? Can it be fixed?

I argued that white privilege certainly exists in America and that the greatest white privilege is expectations that align with success. White people are expected to achieve academically. They're expected to master the English language. They're expected to have good credit. They're expected to show up on time. They're expected not to use the N-word. They're expected to make an effort to avoid racist thoughts and actions. They're expected to wed the mothers or fathers of their children.

Do all white people meet these expectations? Absolutely not. But being born into a world that expects you to adopt principles and behaviors that lead to success is a privilege that puts you far ahead of people who don't have those expectations on them.

Black people, as a collective, don't have those expectations on them. Popular culture, as controlled by liberals, removes virtually all expectations from black people, particularly black men. We're expected to excel at football and basketball. And we're expected to meet the liberal standard of blackness. Anything we do or achieve beyond that is considered a bonus.

The lack of expectations imposed on black people is the most racist act in America. It's far more racist than Derek Chauvin kneeling on George Floyd's neck and back. Had George Floyd entered a world that expected him to achieve beyond the athletic field, he would have been much less likely to find himself needing to be restrained by police.

The lack of expectations placed on black people is systemic racism. Victimhood being the highest level of blackness is systemic racism.

Jussie Smollett is a victim of the systemic racism maintained by white liberals.

On Tuesday, while being cross-examined by the prosecution, Smollett complained that the white prosecutor was offending the black people in the courtroom by reading aloud Smollett's direct messages to one of his black attackers. Smollett repeatedly used the N-word in the direct messages. The prosecutor apologized and asked Smollett to read the direct messages. Smollett obliged.

We expect black people to call each other derogatory names. It's acceptable and appropriate. We've been programmed to hate ourselves and express our self-hatred in writing, music, and acts of violence. We expect it.

Our expectations for white people are much different. We're shocked and outraged when they mimic our anti-black behavior. We don't expect that from them. We're determined to rid them of the negative behavior.

Our expectations for ourselves are much lower and/or nonexistent. That's why it's easy for us to ignore thousands of gang murders in black neighborhoods and hold summer-long protests over a tiny handful of police-involved shootings. That's why Jussie Smollett has no problem saying the N-word repeatedly, but is mortified when a white man reads his words inside a courtroom.

We're victims of the racist expectations we've adopted.

## The Moral Idiocy of the Left's Policies

The Patriot Post / Emmy Griffin / December 7, 2021

From demonizing cops to abortion to even enabling the Waukesha killer,  
the Left's commitment to utopia is killing us.

There is a battle going on for the very soul of our country. Good is called evil and evil good. The voices of the victims are drowned out by the voices of those who have trespassed against them, and it can all be traced back to the moral idiocy of the Left.

The men and women who make up our law enforcement have borne the brunt of this moral idiocy. The job of policing is a very difficult one, but theirs has been made intolerable in many Democrat-run cities. The sins of a few demonize the entire institution, leading to calls to defund the police, vaccine mandates (which further drive able-bodied cops out of the force), and by extension a recruitment crisis. The workload of cops has become increasingly heavy with riots and, more recently, organized looting and violent crimes. This is due to poor leftist policies like that in California, where looters won't be stopped if their burgled goods ring up to less than \$1,000. This crime wave has also proven deadly. This year will go down in the books as one of the deadliest for cops, already surpassing both 2019 and 2020.

The moral idiocy here lies in the policies that seek to fix a perceived wrongdoing or inequity. Instead of fixing the problem, they exacerbate it. But it's not just in the way leftist policies are shabbily dealing with the police force. Leftists' moral idiocy extends to the criminal as well. Take the sad case in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The criminal who blatantly drove his SUV through a Christmas parade, killing six and injuring dozens more, should not have been a free man. And yet he was allowed to go free from other horrific crimes because of terrible leftist policies that advocate for the criminal and not for the victim.

Adding insult to injury, the perpetrator's mother blames the system for not giving her son the help he needed. Even the criminal blames everyone but himself, claiming that he has been demonized and dehumanized. Of course, there's a legitimate debate to be had regarding mental illness and the way our system handles it. But at the same time, grandmothers and a child are dead because of this man, and yet the stories we hear attempt to make us feel sorry for him?

Regardless, leftist politicians, instead of acknowledging the wrong (i.e., their pernicious soft-on-crime policies) and working toward protecting the innocent, are doubling down on their stance. Amazingly, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez asserts, "A lot of these allegations of organized retail theft are not actually panning out."

The secularization of America has dragged us down to these hellish depths of depravity and the Left keeps pushing us further. It's not satisfied with dismantling once-great cities; it even has the audacity to advocate for more lenient policies for criminals after their own policies have inflicted damage on communities. As outraged as this insane, prideful destruction can make us, that outrage doesn't do any good unless we, the American people, do something about it. Some constructive ways to fight against these leftist policies is to vote for people who want to fix the problems using methods that actually work (incarceration serving as deterrence, higher bails, three-strikes rule, etc.). And as individual citizens, we must stand up for the vulnerable and the marginalized. America is still a land of great people, if only we have the courage to fight back and reclaim it.

"We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. There is nothing progressive about being pig-headed and refusing to admit a mistake. And I think if you look at the present state of the world it's pretty plain that humanity has been making some big mistake. We're on the wrong road. And if that is so we must go back. Going back is the quickest way on." —C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

## Critical Race Theory Teaches False Ideas to Students, Shouldn't Become Normalized: Rep. Foxx

By Zachary Stieber, November 22, 2021

Lessons based on critical race theory (CRT) are growing more common in school systems across the country despite CRT containing false ideas, a top Republican says.

Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) is the ranking member on the House Education and Labor Committee.

CRT categorizes people based on their race and alleges some people are oppressors while others are victims. For instance, in a class in Nevada that used CRT ideas, students were told the most important way to think about themselves was through the identity groups they belong to, including race and gender.

CRT, which declares racism systematic, is rooted in Marxism, experts say.

Foxx said she sees concepts from CRT being inserted into curriculums in various jurisdictions.

CRT "says to students of color that they are victims and it tells white students they are oppressors, and that we're stuck as a result of our race," Foxx told NTD's "Capitol Report" in an interview broadcast over the weekend.

"Well, that's simply not true in this country. It might be true other places, but it's certainly not true in this country."

Foxx recounted growing up in a home with no electricity and no running water and noted she's now a member of Congress. Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), she added, also grew up poor and is one of 100 U.S. senators. Dr. Ben Carson, meanwhile, another black man, ascended to be one of the top doctors in the country, and served as housing secretary during the Trump administration.

"Their mothers told them, 'you can be anything you want to be,'" Foxx said. "My parents didn't exactly say that to me. But they demanded excellence of me in school. And so I studied hard and I went through an academic route and again, here I am, in the Congress of the United States. Any person in this country can achieve their God-given talents and take them to the ultimate if they want to—doesn't matter your color, your religion, your race, where you grew up—and we don't want CRT to become the norm in this country or for people to believe in that."

In some cases, the insertion of CRT elements into lessons has been hidden from parents. That prompted Foxx and Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Wis.) to introduce a bill that would make school districts post their curriculums online if they want to receive federal funding.

"Knowledge is strength. And we want parents to know what is being taught in the schools. The curriculum should not be a secret," Foxx said. "Basically this is about transparency, and about the curriculum being open and available."

## NY Times journalists explore what happens when Democrats have all the power, find out 'blue states are the problem'

Phil Shiver, November 18, 2021

A pair of New York Times journalists who recently set out to explore what happens when Democrats control all the levels of power in state and local governments across the country were shocked to discover that "blue states" — not red ones — "are the problem."

"What do Democrats actually do when they have all the power?" Times video journalist Johnny Harris asked at the outset of an opinion video posted by the paper last week.

Harris teamed up with Times editorial board writer Binyamin Appelbaum to examine why famously liberal states — such as New York, California, and Washington — struggle to advance the progressive policies despite little to no Republican opposition.

They focused on three core initiatives of the Democratic Party platform: affordable housing, economic equality, and educational opportunity. And in the end, they discovered that "liberal hypocrisy," not Republican opposition, "is fueling American inequality" and that things are actually much worse in blue states than they are in red.

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"In key respects, many blue states are actually doing worse than red states," the journalists noted in a written report accompanying the video. "It is in the blue states where affordable housing is often hardest to find, there are some of the most acute disparities in education funding and economic inequality is increasing most quickly."

"Blue states are the problem," Applebaum, who covers economics and business for the Times, exclaimed.

"Blue states are where the housing crisis is located. Blue states are where the disparities in education funding are the most dramatic. Blue states are the places where tens of thousands of homeless people are living on the streets. Blue states are the places where economic inequality is increasing most quickly in this country. This is not a problem of not doing well enough; it is a situation where blue states are the problem," he added.

At one point, Harris noted that "affluent liberals tend to be really good at showing up at the marches and talking about how they love equality, [and] at putting signs in their lawns saying, 'All are welcome here.'"

"But by their actions," he continued, "What they are actually saying is, 'Yes, we believe in these ideals, just not in my backyard.'"

The New York Times may just be waking up to this notion, but the American people have been keen to it for some time — and have been showing their dissatisfaction by leaving blue states and moving to red ones at record levels.

## A One-Time Progressive Sees the Light

Douglas Andrews, The Patriot Post, November 18, 2021

A new book by a former leftist sheds light on how progressives are ruining our nation's cities.

Michael Shellenberger lives in Berkeley, once worked for George Soros, and once teamed up with Maxine Waters to make sure addicts had clean needles. Somewhere along the way, though, he came to his senses, and it's from this hard-left foundation that he wrote the book *San Fransicko: Why Progressives Ruin Cities*.

"I wanted to write 'San Fransicko,'" Shellenberger tells *The Daily Signal*, "to both get to the bottom of what's really going on and also figure out what the solutions are because, obviously, we're dealing with a catastrophe." He notes that drug overdose deaths rose from 17,000 to 70,000 by 2017, but that they totaled 93,000 in 2020 (and now over 100,000 in the last 12 months), which is almost three times as many people as die in car accidents and four times as many as die from homicide.

In a 16-minute interview with the *Washington Examiner's* Doug McKelway, Shellenberger, a one-time winner of *Time* magazine's "Hero of the Environment" award, explained his metamorphosis, which was catalyzed by a series of policy prescriptions that he now sees were deeply wrong-headed. Among them: the de-criminalization of up to three grams of very dangerous drugs, including deadly levels of fentanyl and meth; and the de-criminalization of shoplifting up to \$950 of goods, which gave crooks *carte blanche* and gave retailers reason to pack up and leave. One wonders: What did he and his fellow travelers think was going to happen?

As Shellenberger writes in the book: "Many of the problems stemmed from COVID-19. ... Fewer people were being arrested for public intoxication and aggressive behavior. ... And we started finding people passed out on the sidewalk, sometimes with their pants around their knees. But none of these problems started with the pandemic. Between 2008 and 2019, 18,000 companies, including Toyota, Charles Schwab, and Hewlett-Packard, fled California due to a constellation of problems sometimes summarized as 'poor business climate.'"

As for energy policy and the decline of our progressive-run cities, he now realizes that they're related. Both, he says, involve a progressive victimology, even a religion. We force more wind and solar power on people at greater prices, and we back them up with fossil fuels when they inevitably fail to deliver. And we coddle addicts and criminals rather than providing them with the discipline and the rules they need to build happy and healthy lives. As he trenchantly puts it, "In this effort to harmonize with nature, we're actually destroying it; and in this effort to help victims, we're actually killing them."

Victimology is the central theme of the book — a progressive ideology that designates some people, by identity or experience, as victims who are entitled to behave in destructive ways. The result is an undermining of the values that make cities, and civilization itself, possible. As Shellenberger says:

The racist aspect of this is that progressives classify all African Americans, all people of color, except for Asians, as victims. But they also classify people with mental illness as victims. They classify children. They classify women, gays and lesbians, people suffering addiction are all classified as victims. That's the first thing they do.

The second thing they do, which is as insidious, is that they believe that, to victims, everything should be given and nothing demanded. This is terrible for raising kids. It's also terrible for dealing with people suffering from addiction and mental illness.

In addition to discussing his book, Shellenberger mentioned a newly published project that's sure to antagonize his former fellow travelers. It's a collaborative one-pager he produced with colleague Peter Boghossian called "Woke Religion: A Taxonomy." If you've ever wanted a chart-based Rosetta Stone for understanding the woke Left and the way it approaches issues such as racism, climate change, drugs, crime, and transgenderism, this is it.

Shellenberger, who moved to San Francisco in 1993, says he no longer feels moral living in the Golden State, and he feels like his taxes are going to unethical activities. Clearly, the scales have fallen from his eyes. If only every leftist were so willing to see the failures of progressivism.

## 1776, Not 1619

Commentary by Arthur Milikh, Oct 31, 2019  
Former Associate Director, B. Kenneth Simon Center

For decades, much of academia, the liberal activist class, and the public school system have operated on the premise that America is fundamentally racist. The latest manifestation of this outlook is the 1619 Project, rolled out last month by the New York Times. Claiming that "anti-black racism runs in the very DNA of this country," it "aims to reframe the country's history" by making 1619—the year slavery was first introduced by the British to Virginia—the year of "our true founding."

This narrative is akin to the Jacobins' alteration of the calendar to make their revolution the decisive turning point in human history. Just as they would save France from the monarchy, so, too, will the Times save America from white supremacy. The Times encourages public schools to adopt an accompanying curriculum that spreads the 1619 Project's message to young Americans. Its goal is to brand our founding documents—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—as immoral and thus unworthy of our allegiance.

To make America's Founding contemptible, one must hide, ignore, and distort the Founders' writings and thoughts. Irresponsibly omitted from this narrative is the fact that not a single major Founder endorsed slavery. On the contrary, the Founders unambiguously saw slavery as evil. George Washington said, "there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it," and Thomas Jefferson's original draft of the Declaration of Independence calls the slave trade an "execrable commerce" and an affront "against human nature itself." Gouverneur Morris called slavery a "nefarious institution" and "the curse of heaven," and John Jay said, "It is much to be wished that slavery may be abolished. . . . To contend for our own liberty, and to deny that blessing to others, involves an inconsistency not to be excused."

Franklin, Madison, Adams, and Hamilton spoke strongly against the institution of slavery, too. One could argue that these are merely hypocritical statements that the Founders did not believe, but they faced no pressure to dissimulate, whether in their private or public writing. Nor do any statements exist from the Founders elaborating a defense of human inequality or arguing that natural rights are based on race. Slavery was a prerevolutionary inheritance that the principles of the American Revolution unequivocally condemned. The Founders were self-consciously creating a nation based on natural human equality, a foundation intended to overturn the old world's supremacist theories—both feudalism and monarchy. The Revolution's equality principle, they hoped, formed the basis on which America would eventually abolish slavery.

Nevertheless, the Times—without citations, qualifications, or hesitation—claims that "one of the primary reasons the colonists decided to declare their independence from Britain was because they wanted to protect the institution of slavery." Colonial independence from Britain "was required in order to ensure that slavery would continue."

The Times is apparently referring to the *Somerset v. Stewart* case—a 1772 British judicial ruling that held that an enslaved person, James Somerset, could not be sold to a plantation in Jamaica against his will. In the decision, Chief Justice Lord Mansfield described slavery as "so odious, that nothing can be suffered to support it, but positive law." But Mansfield's ruling did not abolish slavery; it didn't even have legal standing in the colonies. By this time, colonial resistance against Britain had already begun, and nowhere in the Founders' writings do they describe the Revolution as being animated by fear that slaves would be taken away. Readers should ask the authors of the 1619 Project: Where in the writings of the leading American revolutionaries do they demand to maintain slavery?

If anything, John Jay notes, the equality principle of the Revolution began to make many Americans antislavery. The most ardently revolutionary region of the country, New England, also led the first abolition movement. Prior to the revolutionary period, few significant public discussions of slavery's injustice took place. But following the Revolution's equality principle, eight

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states—either through their legislatures or their courts—began abolishing slavery after the publication of the Declaration. Vermont did so in 1777, Pennsylvania in 1780, Massachusetts and New Hampshire in 1783, Connecticut and Rhode Island in 1784, New York in 1799, and New Jersey in 1804.

Ample evidence shows that the Founders wished for an end to slavery, contrary to the Times's assertion that "neither Jefferson nor most of the founders intended to abolish slavery." John Adams argued, "every measure of prudence, therefore, ought to be assumed for the eventual total extirpation of slavery from the United States." He hoped that the inequalities of the Old World would eventually disappear. In 1778, Jefferson introduced a bill in the Virginia legislature banning the importation of slavery, which he hoped would lead to the institution's "final eradication."

Not only are the Founders evil, the narrative goes—so, too, is their major achievement, the Constitution. As the Times writes, "The framers carefully constructed a document that preserved and protected slavery without ever using the word." Yet the facts point to the contrary. The Founders laid the constitutional ground for abolishing slavery. One example is Article I, Section 9, Clause 1, which states that Congress could prohibit importation of slaves starting in 1808. On the first day that this clause became operative, Congress passed, and President Thomas Jefferson signed, this prohibition into law. Congress took additional steps to restrict slavery. It passed the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which outlawed slavery in the Northwest Territories. Seven years later, Congress made it illegal to build ships for the purpose of the slave trade.

It is true that, in order to ratify the Constitution, the Founders decided to allow the abhorrent practice of slavery to continue for a limited time. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and possibly other states, would never have ratified the Constitution otherwise. This decision was made, however, on what the Founders considered prudential grounds—better to have union than endless wars among the states.

The Constitution of the Confederacy, by contrast, was truly a proslavery constitution, openly stating that no law shall be passed "impairing the right of property in negro slaves." Contrary to that impulse, James Madison states that the Framers (including himself) omitted the word "slave" or any classification by race from the Constitution in order to underscore the slaves' humanity—they are "persons," not chattel. It was "wrong," he writes, "to admit in the Constitution the idea that there could be property in men." Madison wanted the slave to be regarded "as a moral person, not as a mere article or property."

Fredrick Douglass was right in his belief that the Union was the indispensable condition of abolition. Either northern influence over the South would eventually prevail, as most Founders hoped, or it would end slavery by force in a just war. The South would not have abolished slavery under its own rule.

Another often-ignored fact is that America was home to approximately 60,000 free blacks around the time of the Founding; this number tripled in just 20 years. Black Americans voted in several states, which appears to make America the first nation in recorded history where both races voted side by side. Those free and freed persons represented the beginning of our long and strenuous path toward justice.

Black Americans have been treated in a grossly unjust fashion throughout our history. But the Declaration and the Constitution themselves, according to the Founders' intentions, contain the principles through which justice would come, as Fredrick Douglass and, later, Martin Luther King, Jr. believed. These countervailing facts and statements, should produce a more balanced view of America's Founding. Why, then, are they so thoroughly and carefully avoided by today's narrative-creators, who intend to persuade through distortion?

Rather than indulge in recrimination, we should follow Lincoln in seeking "to bind up the nation's wounds" and "to achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves." Manipulating the next generation to disdain the American Founding will not accomplish this.

“Race is all anyone would be talking about if a white man had slammed his vehicle into a parade full of black people. **Yet suddenly the left has gone colorblind.**”

—JASON RILEY

Opinion Columnist, Wall Street Journal



Source: YAF

“I think it’s good that they hunted down that guy who said Let’s Go Brandon and tried to destroy his life. In a democracy we simply should not be allowed to talk about our political leaders that way. **Besides, the Left has never shown any disrespect towards Republican presidents.**”

—MATT WALSH  
Daily Wire Host



“In his first year in office, Joe Biden has broken all the wrong records:

- 21-year high illegal immigration
- 39-year high inflation
- 12 major U.S. cities hit all-time homicide records.”

—SEN. MARSHA BLACKBURN (R-TN)



**Psaki: It’s ‘Unfair And Absurd’ That Companies Would Raise Costs For Consumers Due To Higher Taxes**

“If socialists understood economics they wouldn’t be socialists.”  
—Friedrich August von Hayek



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