



# The R I G H T W R I T E - U P

## 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 9

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

September, 2022

### OUR NEXT MEETING

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

**will meet on Tuesday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m. (setup at 5:00, social mixer at 5:30)**

**at the First Protestant Church of New Braunfels, 172 W. Coll Street**

**(enter the parking lot by the Civic Center from Coll St.)**

**The refreshment theme for September is “Pizza.”**

Members and guests should bring any dish you would like to share:

Main dish or salad, sandwiches, snack tray, or dessert.

The Club will provide PIZZA and will provide utensils  
and water, tea, and coffee.

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 [Albert.Highfield@yahoo.com](mailto:Albert.Highfield@yahoo.com).



**Our guest speaker will be**

**Robert Montoya,**

**a Senior Journalist at Texas Scorecard.  
His topics will be Border Security and the  
Communist Chinese infiltration of Texas.**

**Please join us for this timely and informative talk.**

*(For more information about Mr. Montoya, see page 6.)*

**Special appearance by  
Texas Senator Donna Campbell,  
to celebrate her birthday!**



## A Message from our Club President

Fellow members of the Republican Club of Comal County, we must fight with the only weapon that counts this November. **OUR VOTE!** The “Red Wave” can only be effective if we get all registered Republicans to the polls during Early Voting, 24 October to 4 November 2022, and on Election Day 8 November 2022. Please get all your friends, neighbors, and family to go vote! Our club will go through some changes the next few months, and I hope they will be for the better. Your support, as always, is the backbone of our efforts and are a blessing every day.

The Newsletter and lots of other good Club information can be found at [rcocc.org](http://rcocc.org). Also, there are lots of photos, videos and events posted.

**Keep the faith and keep reaching for the stars.**

God Bless and keep us safe during these trying times. As always, my email and phone number are listed on the front of the Newsletter and on the website, [rcocc.org](http://rcocc.org).

President Albert F. Highfield

**“Ask me what You can do to get involved!”**

## 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 and 2022.

|                   |                    |                   |                      |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Robbie Borchers   | Albert Haddad      | Ernie Lee         | Sandra Shelton       |
| James (Hoss) Boyd | Tex Hall           | Al Malmsten       | Dennis Shumaker      |
| Glenn Breitung    | Bill Harris        | W. Lindy Menefee  | Priscilla Shumaker   |
| Mary Breitung     | Sonja Heldt Harris | Sharon Hall Monge | Kaci Sisk            |
| John Brewer       | Don Hensz          | Cyndi Montgomery  | Lindy Sisk           |
| Bob Byrnes        | Ginny Hensz        | James Montgomery  | Missy Smith          |
| Joe Carroll       | Carolyn Herbert    | Mark Montgomery   | Joy Streater         |
| Susan Casey       | Bob Hieronymus     | Mallory Moore     | Lynellen Sullivan    |
| Carter Casteel    | Albert Highfield   | Reeves Moore      | Charlotte Swoboda    |
| Ruth Chambers     | Vicky Highfield    | Thomas Morrissey  | Teri Taylor          |
| William Cooley    | Marty Hiles        | Charles Motz      | Shelby Trial         |
| Mark Delaney      | John Hobson        | Gina Motz         | John Walker          |
| Karen Diver       | Karen Hobson       | Jeffrey Narvaiz   | Susan Walker         |
| Cassie Dyson      | Don Johnson        | Naomi Narvaiz     | Linda Williamson     |
| Judd Earley       | Patty Kirk-Trimble | Sandy O'Brien     | Jim Wilson           |
| Sheila Earley     | John Kucewicz      | Ruth Pharis       | Karen Wilson         |
| Steve Gallets     | Sharon Kucewicz    | Sue Piner         | Judy Wooten          |
| Paul Grohman      | Susie Le Canu      | Merrie Schmidt    | Michael Wooten       |
| Gail Grohman      | Kerry Ledford      | Steven Schmidt    | Tracie Wright-Reneau |
| Scott Haag        | Donna Lee          | Jeff Shelton      | John Young           |

Patrons donate \$100 per year per person to help us finance our 2022 election strategy. Contact our Secretary, Patty Kirk-Trimble, at 830-483-1416 to become a Patron member or for more information. Patrons receive a special personalized Texas flag name tag.

## Our Officers for 2022

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | Al Highfield       |
| Vice President | Dr. Kerry Ledford  |
| Secretary      | Patty Kirk-Trimble |
| Treasurer      | John Hobson        |
| Past President | Mary Wohl          |
| County Chair   | Sue Piner          |

## Committee Chairs

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Membership          | Patty Kirk-Trimble     |
| Legislative Affairs | Don Johnson            |
| Campaign Activities | Susan Walker           |
| Hospitality         | Lori Mayfield          |
| Parliamentarian     | (Currently vacant)     |
| Publicity Chair     | Audrey Johnson Scheper |
| Founder/Facebook    | Sonja and Bill Harris  |
| Newsletter Editor   | Kerry Ledford          |
| Associate Editor    | Karen Hobson           |
| Special Events      | Donna Lee              |
| Special Projects    | Ruth Chambers          |
| Patron Program      | Patty Kirk-Trimble     |
| Precinct Whip       | Joe Carroll            |
| Web Master          | Audrey Johnson Scherer |
| Sergeant-at-Arms    | Marty Hines            |

## 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         |
| Vice Chair          | Susan Walker      |
| Recording Secretary | Judy Walker       |
| Treasurer           | Don Johnson       |
| 101                 | Sharon Hall Monge |
| 102                 | Kaci Sisk         |
| 103                 | Lauren Buske      |
| 104                 | J.B. Williamson   |
| 105                 | Ernie Lee         |
| 106                 | Chris Byrd        |
| 107                 | Anita Valdez      |
| 108                 | Albert Highfield  |
| 109                 | Geri Becker       |
| 110                 | Joanne Martin     |
| 201                 | Marty Hiles       |
| 203                 | James "Hoss" Boyd |
| 204                 | Marlin Brown      |
| 205                 | Steve White       |
| 206                 | Kathy Phillips    |
| 207                 | John Brewer       |
| 208                 | Geri Becker       |
| 301                 | Will Moravits     |
| 303                 | Kenneth Kasper    |
| 304                 | Amanda Ackerman   |
| 305                 | Isabel Ibarra     |
| 306                 | Barbara Harrell   |
| 307                 | Timothy Davis     |
| 308                 | Mary Lou Erben    |
| 401                 | Robbie Borchers   |
| 402                 | Melinda Rapp      |
| 403                 | Carolyn Besselman |
| 404                 | Teri Taylor       |
| 405                 | Molly Vogt        |
| 406                 | Joe Carroll       |
| 407                 | Susan Walker      |
| 408                 | Don Johnson       |

## 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 2022 Principles of the Republican Party of Texas (RPT)**

The following is a portion of the RPT 2022 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 human nature is immutable.. We further 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 2022 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 individual, Texan, and American 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.

## Robert Montoya

Mr. Montoya is a University of North Texas graduate, former filmmaker, and one-time assistant language teacher. He misses Japan and the 1980s. He is currently an investigative reporter for Texas Scorecard, and has written articles about the Communist Chinese takeover of Texas, including Texas schools.

Texas Scorecard exists for the purpose of reporting on the advancement of self-governance in the Lone Star State, and beyond. Through news reporting and investigative journalism, Texas Scorecard exists to disrupt statism and reconstitute self-governance by changing the Capitol-centric political and lobby culture so citizens can impose their agendas on politicians. Visit their website at [texasscorecard.com](http://texasscorecard.com).

Texas Scorecard is:

- ♦ Never personal
- ♦ Always trustworthy, with the facts in context
- ♦ Relentlessly pro-citizen, unabashedly pro-liberty
- ♦ Pursuing our heritage of self-governance
- ♦ Inspiring, without venting

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### The Benefits of Being Blue When Facing the Justice System

Adriana Cohen, The Patriot Post, September 8, 2022

It's good to be a Democrat. You get to trash political opponents and support prosecution of your enemies for similar acts you got away with.

It's good to be a Democrat. You get favorable treatment by the U.S. Department of Justice — especially when it comes to the handling, or mishandling, of classified information. You get to evade prosecution and early morning raids by dozens of armed FBI agents at your home, like what happened to former President Donald Trump last month. And then, years later if you're Hillary Clinton, you get to rewrite history, spread misinformation to your millions of Twitter followers and not get censored or banned by Big Tech, which holds conservatives to a totally different standard than the left on its biased platforms.

On Tuesday, former Secretary of State and 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton unleashed a tweet storm about her infamous emails that were under FBI investigation while she ran for president against Trump. "I can't believe we're still talking about this, but my emails ... As Trump's problems continue to mount, the right is trying to make this about me again. There's even a 'Clinton Standard.' The fact is that I had zero emails that were classified. Comey admitted he was wrong after he claimed I had classified emails. Trump's own State Department, under two different Secretaries, found I had no classified emails. That's right: ZERO. By contrast, Trump has hundreds of documents clearly marked classified, and the investigation just started. I'm more tired of talking about this than anyone, but here we are. If you're interested in the facts, you can read more [here](#)." She tweeted a link to an opinion piece by a liberal columnist parroting her fact-free claims.

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Clinton's misleading tweets to her over 31 million followers received 220,000 likes and over 53,000 retweets as of Wednesday afternoon. But of course, no "Fact Check" was issued by the biased political activists at Twitter, despite the fact that a simple visit to the FBI's site plainly contradicts her statements.

The FBI published a transcript of former Director James Comey's July 5, 2016, televised press conference titled "Statement by FBI Director James B. Comey on the Investigation of Secretary Hillary Clinton's Use of a Personal Email System" easily obtainable by Silicon Valley, the media and anyone who seeks the truth. Comey stated, "From the group of 30,000 e-mails returned to the State Department, 110 e-mails in 52 e-mail chains have been determined by the owning agency to contain classified information at the time they were sent or received."

That's a sharp contrast to what Clinton told voters months prior during the Feb. 4, 2016, Democratic debate with Sen. Bernie Sanders in New Hampshire, where she said, "I never sent or received any classified material." And the opposite of what she's telling us now.

The FBI's probe into Clinton's unlawful servers found "eight of those chains contained information that was Top Secret at the time they were sent; 36 chains contained Secret information at the time; and eight contained Confidential information, which is the lowest level of classification ... Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Comey continued, "With respect to the thousands of e-mails we found that were not among those produced to State, agencies have concluded that three of those were classified at the time they were sent or received, one at the Secret level and two at the Confidential level. ... For example, seven e-mail chains concern matters that were classified at the Top Secret/Special Access Program level when they were sent and received. ... In addition to this highly sensitive information, we also found information that was properly classified as Secret by the U.S. Intelligence Community at the time it was discussed on e-mail."

He added, "None of these e-mails should have been on any kind of unclassified system, but their presence is especially concerning because all of these e-mails were housed on unclassified personal servers not even supported by full-time security staff, like those found at Departments and Agencies of the U.S. Government — or even with a commercial service like Gmail."

So Clinton not only housed secret unauthorized email servers in her home — jeopardizing U.S. national security, as foreign enemies likely hacked her rogue servers according to the FBI — Team Hillary also deleted at least 30,000 emails under federal subpoena and destroyed devices with hammers without penalty. Yet on Wednesday this week while appearing on the TV show "The View," Clinton haughtily told the hosts "no one is above the law" while discussing the documents seized from Trump's Florida estate.

Again, it's good to be a Democrat. You get to trash political opponents in the public square and support prosecution of your enemies for similar acts you got away with.

Talk about a corrupt "justice" system!

## Candidates supported by the Republican Club of Comal County

Here are the candidates that your dues are helping to support this year:

Commissioner of the General Land Office

**Dawn Buckingham**

\$250



Justice, Supreme Court, Place 5

**Rebecca Huddle – Incumbent**

\$200



Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3

**Debra Lehrmann - Incumbent**

\$200



Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 6

**Jesse McClure**

\$500



State Representative District 73

**Carrie Isaac**

\$500



Justice, 3rd Court of Appeals, Place 4

**Lesli R. Fitzpatrick**

\$500



District Judge, 207th Judicial District

**Tracie Wright-Reneau**

\$200



Justice of the Peace Precinct 4

**Ashley R. Evans**

\$200



## Our Bodies, Our Selves: Gender Dysphoria and the Longing for Wholeness

August 28, 2022, Public Discourse, by Abigail Favale

Gender dysphoria needs to be acknowledged and treated as a psychological illness. I understand the resistance to language of disorder and pathology, motivated by a fear that such language is stigmatizing. I understand, but I disagree. To reclassify disorder as order forecloses the possibility of recovery. I think of my own battles with anxiety, depression, self-harm. I don't want someone telling me those things are normal and good. I want to be healed.

I have given birth four times. Five, if you include the tiny body, no longer living, that was released from my womb at only ten weeks. The other four pregnancies bloomed to full term, my body stretched by a cumbersome metamorphosis, in which I am the cocoon. After the baby comes, once the chrysalis opens to unveil the face of a new human being, I feel shipwrecked, flung onto the shore in a state of limp exhaustion, not by the sea, but by my own terrible undulations. Thus begins the long season of postpartum aftermath, a grueling stretch of time that no one really talks about, that never appears on screen and is etched on few pages.

After each of my births, there is a moment when I am able to hobble to the toilet on my own, a massive pad pressed between my legs to catch the gush of blood that comes when I stand upright. I have to shuffle past a mirror to get there, and I can't help but look at the stranger I see, as if she is a monstrous Gorgon and I am trapped by her gaze. I see a body that doesn't look like me, that never matches how I appear in dreams or my own mental image. She has a dazed, half-crazed look, like she's just crawled out from the underworld; her breasts hang down, already beginning to harden with milk; her womb protrudes, emptied now but swollen nonetheless, as it will continue to be, for months. She fills me with disgust, that postpartum Medusa. She is grotesque and excessive, bleeding and leaking and saddled with flesh. I try to forget her, but she is there in every mirror, staring back at me when I expect to see myself.

With her comes a quiet terror that seeps slowly into my mind, like rising bathwater, until I'm submerged. Every sudden sound becomes a threat. Especially the crying—when the baby screams, I feel zaps of electricity in my brain, jolts of panic that sometimes get so bad I seek pain to release the tension, pricking the skin on my arm with a needle or stabbing my thigh with a key until it purples. Then my panic eases, giving way to a pervasive shame that irradiates my whole being like magma. There are moments of calm and even bliss, yes—but how quickly these can be shattered, how suddenly I can collapse into self-loathing and fear, how utterly this black flag can unfurl and block out the light.

Even now, as I write this, almost nine months postpartum, I still can't look at myself in the mirror without feeling disgust and a desire to punish my body, to starve it into submission.

In this state, my own mind becomes a predator. Thoughts invade my skull like a corkscrew, turning and turning until I can't pull them out. They strike in moments of quiet, like during Mass, and instead of Christ in the elevated Host I'm seeing a gunman burst in from the back of the church, and everyone's cowering under the pews, and I try to hide my baby, but he's strapped to me and crying and the gunman can hear him, and there's no way out; my flesh can't stop the bullet that will pierce us both.

This is what it's like for me, the aftermath of birth. Even now, as I write this, almost nine months postpartum, I still can't look at myself in the mirror without feeling disgust and a desire to punish my body, to starve it into submission. When I get out of the bath, I stand off to the side, hiding from my own reflection. I never thought, until recently, to compare my postpartum body dysmorphia to gender dysphoria. I am not plagued by the desire to be a man, that's true. Nonetheless, the more obviously female my body becomes, the more discomfort I feel. Post-maternity, I long to embody a fantasy of womanhood divorced from femaleness, a woman who is hard-bodied, straight-hipped, and unbreasted, whose womb is imperceptible, unassertive. Even while I enjoy the skin-to-skin intimacy of breastfeeding, my breasts feel like interlopers, artificial appendages.

The acuteness of the dualism I feel, the disintegrated sense of self, is not unlike the descriptions I have heard from women who have identified as trans at one point or another. I do not pretend that my experience gives me full insight into the transgender experience—it does not—but when I hear women talk about gender dysphoria, I feel an echo in myself, an inner voice that whispers, I know what that feels like. Unlike the dysphoria of many of these women, however, mine is an acutely postpartum phenomenon and, at least thus far, tends to resolve when I stop breastfeeding and my body deflates like a balloon. Accepting the truth and goodness of my femaleness does not immediately resolve episodes of bodily dysphoria, but it does, at least most of the time, keep me from self-harm.

It took years and multiple births to accept that my invasive thoughts and self-loathing were pathological, a clear sign of postpartum anxiety and depression. My first instinct was to resist the label, to power through on my own strength, teeth clenched. I hunkered down in an alcove of denial, shielding myself from reality—the reality of my maternal body and the reality of my mental illness.

### Self-Harm as Self-Care

According to Laura Reynolds, a former trans-identified woman, the gender paradigm has "rebranded self-harm as self-care." This is yet another contortion of language with devastating consequences. Clinical guidelines for gender dysphoria have shifted in recent years toward the affirmation model of care, which unquestioningly affirms a patient's interpretation of his or her condition. This seems to be the lone corner of psychology where the typical approach to psychological distress is upended, where practitioners are encouraged to take a patient's self-assessment at face value, rather than testing that assessment against reality.

What would it look like, I wonder, to take a so-called "affirmative" approach to my own mental illness? What would it sound like for a therapist to affirm my perception of reality? "Why yes, you should be hypervigilant at all times, especially during Mass, just in case a gunman shows up. You are in constant danger; your baby could die at any moment. Yes, your breasts aren't really part of you since you feel so disconnected from them. In fact, you might consider amputating them, so your reflection doesn't bother you anymore. And yes, if you feel like you are a terrible mother, I'm sure that you are."

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You may think I'm being flippant here, because those responses seem so absurd, the dire opposite of therapeutic. Yet when I listen to the stories of detransitioners, this is often how they describe their experiences with affirmative care. The affirming doctors and therapists do not explore other causes or potential solutions but send the patient straight down the medical transition track.

This seems to be the lone corner of psychology where the typical approach to psychological distress is upended, where practitioners are encouraged to take a patient's self-assessment at face value, rather than testing that assessment against reality.

In story after story, I hear descriptions of complex mental distress that is attributed to a single source, gender, and "treated" through the unproven, catch-all solution of medical transition. I am not surprised that people latch onto the notion of transition as a panacea for all their problems. The idea of a straightforward and decisive solution to layers of psychological distress would be tantalizing to anyone. What's surprising to me are the clinicians, thoughtlessly trotting down the affirmation route like lemmings, unconcerned by the lack of high-quality evidence justifying medicalization. The affirmation model departs from proven therapeutic approaches like cognitive behavioral therapy, which tests a patient's perceptions against objective facts and evaluates cognitive distortions.

Gender dysphoria needs to be acknowledged and treated as a psychological illness. I understand the resistance to language of disorder and pathology, motivated by a fear that such language is stigmatizing. I understand, but I disagree. To reclassify disorder as order forecloses the possibility of recovery. I think of my own battles with anxiety, depression, self-harm. I don't want someone telling me those things are normal and good. I want to be healed. I think of Jesus in the Gospels, healing people from all kinds of maladies. They cry out to him, reach for him, call upon him, potently aware of their need for healing. We should not resist the language of pathology here. What we must resist is the stigma, the othering, of those who struggle with mental illness. We should normalize the experience of this struggle, but not the illness itself. And when I speak of those who struggle, I include myself among them.

The affirmation model, while often motivated by good will, is ultimately unethical. It is dependent upon a diminished, dualistic model of personhood. The goodness, wholeness, and givenness of the body is discarded. The body is seen merely as an inert object, upon which an idealized sense of self is projected. This approach inverts the very definition of health, by pursuing a "treatment" that makes a healthy body ill, actively disrupting the delicate balance of the endocrine system in ways that have cascading and harmful effects. Invasive surgeries on healthy genitalia are often irreversible and involve short-term pain and long-term complications. The affirmation approach encourages violence to the healthy body rather than carefully working through the underlying causes of psychological distress and considering ways to manage that distress that do not cause physical harm. In this model, the body is the scapegoat, blamed as the sole source of one's pain and sacrificed on the altar of self-will.

What would it look like to approach a person in the depth of his complexity? In the fullness of her dignity? Such an approach would first seek to understand whether the person is actually suffering from gender dysphoria or whether there is something else going on. Classically, gender dysphoria manifests in early childhood and, in the vast majority of cases, resolves through the process of puberty. In cases of late or sudden onset, it's unlikely that there is an underlying neurological condition. I've heard stories from women who experienced childhood dysphoria and never transitioned; I've heard stories from girls who transitioned without experiencing true dysphoria. Even if there are patterns and mutual echoes among these stories, none are exactly alike. Each person must be approached in her unique situation.

When sexed identity is grounded in the body, rather than confined to stereotypical mimicry, we are freer to be who we are.

#### A Longing for Wholeness

By now I've made it clear that I disagree with transgender anthropology, namely its denial of the sacramental principle that the body reveals the person. Nonetheless, in every desire can be found a desire for something good, even if that good desire becomes distorted or aimed at the wrong thing. Trans identities signal a longing for wholeness, for an integrated sense of self, in which the body does reveal the person. This desire is fundamentally a good one; it reflects the truth of the human being as a unity of body and soul. The error comes in thinking that this integration has to be achieved through artifice, through violence against the body, rather than recognizing that we are integrated by our very nature. The lie—I have to force my body to reveal my true self—supplants the truth: the body I am is always already revealing my personhood.

This enduring desire for integration and wholeness can be harnessed, I think, as a bridge from a dualistic anthropology to a holistic one: a bridge from self-rejection to self-acceptance. In many transition stories, I hear a fundamental desire to escape the self. The allure of transition is about not self-expression but self-destruction, and the creation of a new persona altogether. I can see how intoxicating this must be, especially to adolescents. How I would have leapt at the chance to be someone other than myself in the throes of teendom. My intermittent suicidal ideation as a teenager was not so much about the desire to be dead, but the desire to stop being me, to self-immolate and rise again like a phoenix.

The affirmation model cannot offer true self-acceptance, unless the body is no longer considered part of the self. Choosing a lifetime of medicalization in order to maintain an illusion of cross-sex identity is not "being who you really are." The affirmation model is self-denial masquerading as self-acceptance. Because our bodies are ourselves, what is being "affirmed," ultimately, is the patient's self-hatred.

## About All You 'Election Deniers'

Mark Alexander, Patriot Post

Biden is betting that Americans have forgotten that he and his Demos are on the record as "election deniers."

Democrats are doing everything possible to avoid a midterm bloodbath like the one suffered by their last first-term president. In the 2010 midterm election, their man, Barack Obama, was the catalyst for a 63-seat Republican gain in the House (the largest seat shift since 1948) and a seven-seat gain in the Senate. In the states, Republicans gained six gubernatorial seats and flipped 20 state legislative chambers.

Of course, in 2010, Demos did not have the now-unlimited power of systemic BIG Tech and Leftmedia free speech suppression acting as political surrogates for them. Those two factors alone are now the greatest threat to "free and fair elections."

Launching their major battlefield initiative to thwart Republican wins in nine weeks, their man, Joe Biden — Obama's corrupt, intellectually impaired understudy — delivered an unprecedented tirade of partisan vitriol revealing their key strategy: Make the midterm election about Donald Trump and his "semi-fascist" hordes of "Trumpies" in order to rally the Democrat Party's Trump-hating base.

Focusing all his wrath on Trump's "extremist" legions of "MAGA Republicans" in his latest Soviet dictatorial-style red-set screed, Biden promoted himself as the savior of America's soul and the great defender of "democracy" (which he errantly referenced 32 times to describe our Republic) against those MAGA Republican "threats" to democracy.

Biden claimed that "democracy cannot survive" if MAGA Republicans question election results: MAGA Republicans do not respect the Constitution. They do not believe in the rule of law. They do not recognize the will of the people. ... They refuse to accept the results of a free election. And they're working right now, as I speak, in state after state to give power to decide elections in America to partisans and cronies, empowering election deniers to undermine democracy itself. ... And they see their MAGA failure to stop a peaceful transfer of power after the 2020 election as preparation for the 2022 and 2024 elections. ... This is a nation that respects free and fair elections. We honor the will of the people. We do not deny it. ... We can't let the integrity of our elections be undermined, for that is a path to chaos. ... But democracy endures only if we, the people, respect the guardrails of the republic. Only if we, the people, accept the results of free and fair elections. ... Democracy cannot survive when one side believes there are only two outcomes to an election: either they win or they were cheated. And that's where MAGA Republicans are today. ... I will not stand by and watch elections in this country stolen by people who simply refuse to accept that they lost.

I believe questioning election integrity is a very healthy debate in a Republic, but apparently not so in an authoritarian democracy.

Biden doubled down a day later, declaring, "I do think anyone who ... refuses to acknowledge an election has been won, insists upon changing the way in which we rule and count votes, that is a threat to democracy."

Apparently, in Biden's warped political universe, to "insist upon" the most rudimentary requirement for voting — the global standard of producing an ID to ensure election integrity — constitutes "a threat to democracy" and makes its proponents "election deniers." In fact, it actually constitutes a threat to the socialist Democrat Party's effort to nationalize the bulk-mail ballot fraud they perfected in 2020.

Further, regarding those who "insists upon changing the way in which we rule and count votes," he is referring to states that are passing laws to strengthen election integrity — again, a threat to the Democrats' goal of manipulating elections to ensure a permanent majority.

For the record, as Biden condemns those who question the integrity of the 2020 election results — more than half the country — he is hoping that Americans have forgotten that he and many Demos are on the record as "election deniers."

Recall that in 2017, almost 70 congressional Democrats boycotted Trump's inauguration, claiming his election was fraudulent — you know, his defeat of Hillary Clinton was a Trump/Russia collusion conspiracy.

Recall also that Clinton herself denied Trump's election: "I believe he knows he's an illegitimate president. He knows. He knows that there were a bunch of different reasons why the election turned out the way it did."

That congressional boycott group was led by the late John Lewis (D-GA), who declared: "I don't see this president-elect as a legitimate president. I think the Russians participated in helping this man get elected, and they helped destroy the candidacy of Hillary Clinton." Calling out the "conspiracy," Lewis added: "That's not right. That's not fair. That's not the open democratic process."

Other boycotters issued similar claims. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) said, "I will not be part of normalizing or legitimizing a man whose election may well have depended on the malicious foreign interference of Russia's leaders." Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA) insisted: "I will not be attending the inauguration. Russian hacking must be investigated."

*(Continued on next page)*

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Looking back, here are some other "election deniers."

### **On the 2000 Presidential Election**

On Al Gore's defeat by George W. Bush, in 2013 Biden asserted, "[Gore] was elected president of the United States of America."

Biden's Chief of Staff Ron Klain said: "People frequently tell me that I should 'get over' the 2000 election and recount. I haven't, and I don't think I ever will."

Joe Biden, 2016: "I think [Gore] won."

Hillary Clinton, 2016: The Supreme Court "took away a presidency."

Barack Obama, 2005: "Not every vote" was counted.

Bill Clinton, 2001: "The only way they could win the election was to stop the voting in Florida."

Jimmy Carter, 2005: "There's no doubt in my mind that Al Gore was elected president."

Jamie Raskin, 2003: George W. Bush was the "first court-appointed president."

Terry McAuliffe, 2004: "We won that election!"

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 2016: "The Supreme Court elected the president. Al Gore won the state of Florida in 2000."

Al Gore, 2017: "Actually I think I carried Florida."

### **On the 2004 Presidential Election**

Howard Dean, 2006: "I'm not confident" the election "was fairly decided" because "the machines were not reliable."

Hillary Clinton, 2005: "It's fair to say that there are many legitimate questions about" the "accuracy" and "integrity" of America's election system.

Jerry Nadler, 2005: "The right to vote has been stolen from qualified voters."

Sheila Jackson Lee, 2004: "We cannot declare that the election of November 2, 2004 was free and clear and transparent and real."

Maxine Waters, 2005: "Problems in the Ohio election" could have been "outcome determinative."

### **On the 2016 Presidential Election**

Joe Biden, 2019: "I absolutely" agree that Trump is an "illegitimate president."

Hillary Clinton, 2019: The election was "stolen."

Jimmy Carter, 2019: "Trump didn't actually win the election in 2016. He lost the election and was put into office because of the Russians' interference on his behalf."

Kamala Harris, 2019: "Absolutely right" that Trump "didn't really win."

Jerry Nadler, 2017: It was a "tainted" and "illegitimate" election.

Karine Jean-Pierre, 2016: "Stolen emails, stolen drone, stolen election. Welcome to the world of #unpresidented Trump."

### **On the High-Profile 2018 Georgia Gubernatorial Election**

Stacey Abrams, 2019: "We won!"

Cory Booker, 2018: "Stacey Abrams' election is being stolen from her."

Sherrod Brown, 2018: "They stole it. It's clear."

Hillary Clinton, 2018: "If she had a fair election, she already would have won."

Kamala Harris, 2019: "Without voter suppression, Stacey Abrams would be the governor of Georgia; Andrew Gillum is the governor of Florida."

Karine Jean-Pierre, 2020: "Reminder: Brian Kemp stole the gubernatorial election from Georgians and Stacey Abrams."

Terry McAuliffe, 2021: Abrams would have been governor "had the governor of Georgia not disenfranchised 1.4 million Georgia voters."

Of course, in each of the aforementioned elections, Democrats rallied hordes of their own lemmings to become election deniers. As I have often noted, if not for double standards, Democrats would have no standards.

## The Moral Difference Between the Christian and Muslim Worlds

Faith, Dennis Prager, August 16, 2022

It is instructive to compare Christian reactions to insults to Christianity with Muslim reactions to what they perceive as insults to Islam.

About 40 years after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued his fatwa calling for Muslims to murder Salman Rushdie, the Indian author was finally attacked and nearly killed.

Stabbed 10 times by a young Muslim living in America, Rushdie is in a hospital, where his prognosis as of this writing is partial paralysis and the loss of an eye.

What was Rushdie's "crime"? He "insulted" Islam.

Tens of millions of Muslims believe that if a person insults Islam, Muhammad or the Quran, he should be killed. Any Muslim who does kill a person deemed to have insulted Islam goes straight to heaven when he or she dies.

The most famous case of Muslims murdering people charged with insulting Islam occurred in 2015, when two French Muslims entered the Paris editorial offices of the French satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, and murdered 12 people and wounded 11 others. Charlie Hebdo had printed cartoon images of Muhammad, which most Muslims consider forbidden even to non-Muslims.

That same week, Muslims also entered a kosher supermarket in Paris and murdered four Jews. For many Muslims, Jews don't have to do anything to insult Islam; their mere existence is an insult to Islam.

It is instructive to compare Christian reactions to insults to Christianity with Muslim reactions to what they perceive as insults to Islam.

If Christians reacted to insults to Christianity the way Muslims react to insults to Islam, there would be daily murders in America and elsewhere. Christianity is constantly insulted in America and elsewhere in the West, and Christians are regularly murdered by Muslims in the Middle East and Africa.

Perhaps the famous example of the former is the "artwork" by Andres Serrano titled "Piss Christ," which features a crucifix in a jar of urine.

Imagine how many people radical Muslims would kill if a Quran or an image of Muhammad submerged in a jar of urine were displayed in museums around America. It would never happen because museums would never put their staff or their visitors in that kind of danger. Museum staff and visitors to museums that featured this work would be killed.

Why doesn't that argue for the moral superiority of most Christians relative to most Muslims at this time in history? After all, some scholars argue that Muslims and Muslim civilization were morally superior to Christians and Christian civilization at various times during the Middle Ages. Whether or not that is accurate, no one charges the scholars who make that argument with an anti-Christian phobia or with harboring anti-Christian bigotry. Yet, anyone who would argue that contemporary Christian civilization is on a more elevated level than Muslim civilization — while of course acknowledging that this does not apply to all Muslims or to all Christians — would be attacked as an "Islamophobe," lose his reputation and quite possibly lose his job and career.

This inability to judge the West — which was created by Christians and has, with all its many flaws, been rooted in Judeo-Christian morality — as morally more elevated than the Muslim world goes to the heart of the crisis facing the West: the Left's desire to destroy it. Western elites in academia, media, politics and the business world — in short, everywhere — are moral fools.

They claim to be unable to make moral distinctions between the two civilizations — because of Western slavery and treatment of native populations, for example. Yet, they either do not know or simply ignore Muslims' far worse history of slavery and wiping out native populations. And they know but choose to ignore the fact that the worldwide antislavery movement began in the West and was founded by Christians. It did not begin in the Muslim world, which had no such widespread movement.

The Left has the same morally bankrupt view regarding Israel and its Muslim enemies. On the Left, Israel, with its robust freedoms that extend to its large Muslim minority, is not morally superior to its unfree, terror-honoring Muslim neighbors (e.g., Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Hamas).

It is true that it was only one Muslim who stabbed Salman Rushdie. But it is millions of Muslims who believe anyone who "insults" Islam should die. It was also one Muslim who murdered Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh for "insulting" Islam's take on women. And it was a lot more than one Muslim member of the Islamic State who slit the throats and beheaded countless infidels — that is, non-Muslims.

Author Taslima Nasrin fled her native Bangladesh, fearing for her life, after a court said she had hurt Muslims' religious feelings with her novel "Lajja" ("Shame"). Unlike virtually every Western author and leader, her reaction to the attack on Rushdie noted that the would-be murderer was Muslim: "I just learned that Salman Rushdie was attacked in New York. I am really shocked... If he is attacked, anyone who is critical of Islam can be attacked."

Exactly.

## THAT LOOK WHEN YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE PROMOTING SOCIALISM AND YOU FINALLY GET A TASTE OF IT:



MANY SCHOOLS USED TO HAVE RIFLE TEAMS AND STUDENTS BROUGHT GUNS TO SCHOOL



**NOBODY SHOT ANYBODY**  
GUNS AREN'T THE PROBLEM. OUR SOCIETY HAS DECAYED

## IF FACEBOOK EXISTED IN 1776:



### False Information

Checked by independent fact-checkers.

Not all of the British were coming, only the British Army.

What the word 'Tolerance' means:



What most people mean when they use the word 'Tolerance':



Charlie Kirk @charliekirk11

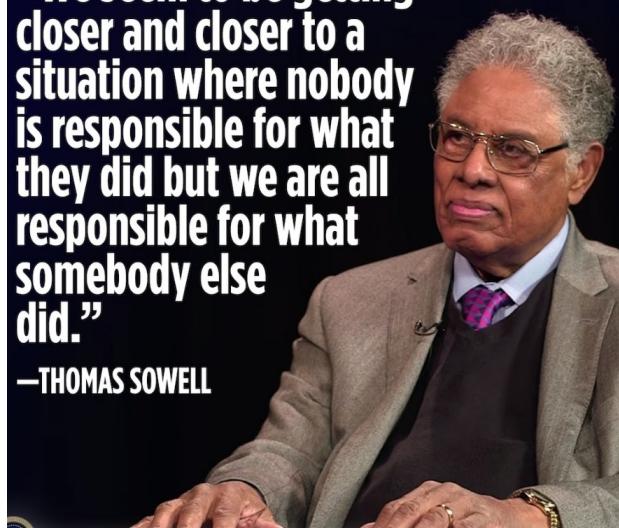
Mentions in Biden's speech:

China: 0  
Crime: 0  
Inflation: 0  
Fentanyl: 0  
The Border: 0  
Charlottesville: 1  
January 6th: 2  
Insurrection: 3  
Donald Trump: 3  
Extremism: 7  
Violence: 10  
MAGA: 13  
Republicans: 16

Priorities.

**"We seem to be getting closer and closer to a situation where nobody is responsible for what they did but we are all responsible for what somebody else did."**

—THOMAS SOWELL



## Kerry J. Ledford, Ph.D.



**Community  
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