



# 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 11

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

November, 2022

### OUR NEXT MEETING

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

**will meet on Tuesday, November 22, 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 November is “Grateful Harvest.”**

The Club will provide chicken. Members and guests should bring casseroles, salads, soups, and desserts to share.

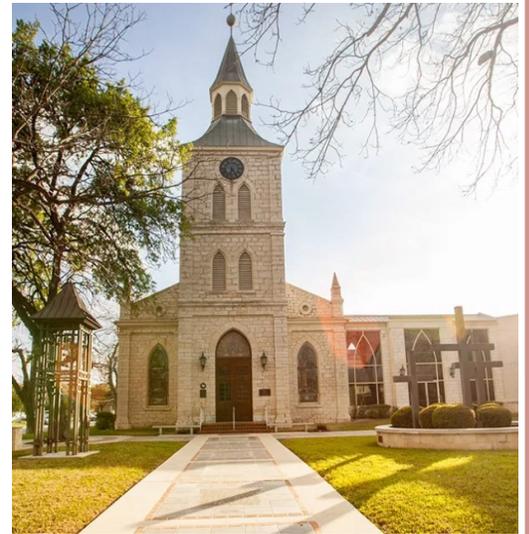
The Club will also provide utensils, water, tea, and coffee.

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**

**Dr. Richard A. Johnson,**

**director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's  
Booker T. Washington Initiative.**

**He will speak about Education and Workforce  
Development Policy Reforms  
for the 88th Legislative Session of Texas.**

*(See more information about Dr. Johnson on p. 6.)*

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

**We will also have the installation of our new  
officers for 2023.**

## A Message from our Club President

Good day and Happy Holidays!!! The elections came and went! We as an organization hope and pray it has or will reflect an enthusiasm in our government. As we sit down this month to our Thanksgiving dinner and our Christmas celebrations, please thank our God, Lord and Savior, that we live in a free country. As a Christian, I am hopeful that we “Let Freedom Ring” and put our country first in 2023. The “woke society” has infiltrated our country, and we need to take our country back. I believe that we must let God take care of it. However, we need to make the right decisions. The Newsletter and lots of other good Club information can be found at [rccc.org](http://rccc.org). Also, there are lots of photos, videos, and events posted there.

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	Don Hensz	Reeves Moore	Missy Smith
James (Hoss) Boyd	Ginny Hensz	Thomas Morrissey	Joy Streater
Glenn Breitung	Bob Hieronymus	Charles Motz	Lynellen Sullivan
Mary Breitung	Albert Highfield	Gina Motz	Charlotte Swoboda
John Brewer	Vicky Highfield	Jeffrey Narvaiz	Shelby Trial
Joe Carroll	Marty Hiles	Naomi Narvaiz	Dib Waldrip
Susan Casey	John Hobson	Sandy O’Brien	John Walker
Carter Casteel	Karen Hobson	Ruth Pharis	Susan Walker
Ruth Chambers	Don Johnson	Kathy Phillips	Charmaine Wilde
William Cooley	Patty Kirk-Trimble	Robert Phillips	Diana Williamson
Mark Delaney	John Kucewicz	Sue Piner	Jim Wilson
Karen Diver	Sharon Kucewicz	Merrie Schmidt	Karen Wilson
Cassie Dyson	Susie Le Canu	Steven Schmidt	Judy Wooten
Judd Earley	Kerry Ledford	Dennis Schumaker	Michael Wooten
Sheila Earley	Al Malmsten	Priscilla Schumaker	Tracie Wright-Reneau
Steve Gallets	W. Lindy Menefee	Maria Seiler	John Young
Scott Haag	Sharon Hall Monge	Patrick Seiler	Karen Young
Tex Hall	Cyndi Montgomery	Jeff Shelton	
Bill Harris	Mark Montgomery	Kaci Sisk	
Sonja Heldt Harris	Mallory Moore	Lindy Sisk	

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	Cindi Montgomery
Legislative Affairs	Don Johnson
Campaign Activities	Susan Walker
Hospitality	Lori Mayfield
Parliamentarian	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Publicity Chair	Audrey Johnson Scheper
Facebook	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
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 Scheper
Sergeant-at-Arms	Marty Hiles

## 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

## 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 Republican Contract with America, 2022**

- 1) A Safe and Law-Abiding America. Crime prevention and punishment is mostly a local and state affair. But the federal government promises to prosecute fully any criminal who crosses state lines or uses interstate communications to commit arson, public destruction, smash-and-grab looting, or general attacks on any federal property within the states.
- 2) Affordable Energy for an Energy-Independent America. Restoration of gas and oil energy independence; reopening of federal lands for new energy leases; fast-tracking natural gas and oil pipelines; encouragement and incentives to mine rare and precious metals inside the United States needed for batteries and new sources of energy.
- 3) A Secure Border. Immediate completion of the border wall. Deportation of all those who crossed illegally between 2017 and 2024 and all criminals convicted of felonies or serious misdemeanors; employer sanctions; an end to catch-and-release; all refugee seekers apply outside the United States; a tax on remittances sent south of the border on those here illegally and on public assistance; the end of the primacy of family considerations in fast-tracking immigration requests, replaced by meritocratic considerations of English facility, skill sets, and education. All immigration would be predicated on legality, diversity, meritocracy, and measured and manageable numbers necessary for assimilation and integration.
- 4) A Sacrosanct Constitution and Preservation of Long-Held Traditions. On record for no changes to the Constitution; no dismantling of the Electoral College; no federalization of states' voting laws; no increase in a nine-justice Supreme Court; no statehood for Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico; no end to the Senate filibuster.
- 5) The Restoration of Election Day. Encouragement to the states to limit mail-in balloting, return to the old notion of absentee balloting as an exception rather than the norm, and cut back on extended/early balloting — with the goal that 60 to 70% of ballots cast are done so on Election Day.
- 6) A "Don't Tread on Me" Foreign Policy. Strong support for the sanctity of allied nations. Deterrence against Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and other belligerents. A realistic foreign policy of "No better friend, no worse enemy." An end to optional large, on-the-ground military engagements in the Middle East. A return of Pentagon emphasis on battle readiness rather than social justice and woke agendas, with budgets redirected to missile defense and naval and air deterrence.
- 7) Towards a Balanced Budget. Expenditures must match revenues. An update of the Simpson-Bowles National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform or enactment of its recommendations, with the aim of achieving a balanced budget in four years.
- 8) Anti-Trust, Anti-Monopoly Legislation. An end to Silicon Valley's vast monopolies, cartels, and immunity from public-utility regulations.
- 9) Strict Enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Prohibition of the use of racial bias/advantage/preference in the operations of public local, state, and federal agencies. No federal funds allotted for critical-race-theory indoctrination.
- 10) No Federal Funds for Lawbreakers. An end to federal support of state agencies and private institutions that violate federal statutes and the Bill of Rights, whether sanctuary-city jurisdictions or campuses whose speech and trial codes violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. Loss of tax-free status on income from university endowments of more than \$10 billion.

## Dr. Richard Johnson

Richard A. Johnson, Ed.D., is the director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Booker T. Washington Initiative, which examines the effects of public policy on African-American communities.

Previously, Dr. Johnson served as a chief of staff in both municipal and state governments. As chief of staff for a Houston City Council member, he played a significant role in drafting and navigating policies related to public safety, public works, and housing and community development. During the 85th and 86th Texas Legislatures, he served as chief of staff and senior policy analyst for a House member and worked on education, public safety, healthcare, and workforce development legislation.

An educator for more than 20 years, Dr. Johnson has extensive experience in teaching and research. He worked as a research assistant at the University of Texas Mental Science Institute, studying the efficacy of counseling and pharmacological therapy on cocaine and heroin addicts. He began counseling inner-city adolescent males and founded an academy for troubled boys which provided education, discipline, and residential substance abuse treatment. In 2007 he began teaching and researching in the areas of psychology and academic performance.

Johnson was the president of the Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation for nearly two decades, building more than 20 churches inside prison walls. In addition, Johnson served as the co-founder and second president of 100 Black Men Metropolitan Houston, vice president of development for 100 Black Men San Antonio, and co-chair of the education committee of the NAACP, Houston.

Johnson served in the U.S. Army after college, obtaining the rank of sergeant. He was selected to play for the All-Army basketball team.

A Texas native, Johnson has a Doctor of Education degree in education administration and an M.A. in clinical psychology from Texas Southern University. He received a B.A. in history and government from Wiley College.

## The Republican Philosophy

That the rights of the individual to achieve the best that is within him, as long as he respects the rights of others, is the source of our nation's strength.

That government exists to protect the freedom of opportunity in which each individual's creative ability can flourish.

That government activities should be limited to those things which people cannot do at all, or cannot do so well for themselves.

The most effective government is government closest to the people.

That those who cannot provide for themselves should be assisted by both government and society, but that every effort should be made to help them to become self-supporting, productive citizens with pride in their independence.

That equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunity belong to all, regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or national origin.

That the preservation of our nation and the security of our citizens depend upon the constitution, the laws, and the courts, and that respect for them is the responsibility of every individual.

That government is accountable for maintaining sound money and a responsible economy. Individual rights, liberties, and properties are continually eroded when citizens are oppressed by excessive taxation, inflation, government waste, and over regulation.

That the government is responsible for national defense and that only a strong America can remain a free America.

That it is absolutely essential to maintain a strong national defense posture in order that we may at all times negotiate from a position of strength, not weakness, in our continuing efforts toward peace and friendship.

That these concepts are the foundation of our national strength and the Republican Party, which is committed to their preservation, is the party of today and the party of the future.

**Candidates supported by the Republican Club of Comal County**

**All of these candidates except Lesli Fitzpatrick won! Thanks for your help.**

Commissioner of the General Land Office  
**Dawn Buckingham**  
\$250



Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3  
**Debra Lehrmann - Incumbent**  
\$200



Justice, Supreme Court, Place 5  
**Rebecca Huddle - Incumbent**  
\$200



Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9  
**Evan Young - 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



**The Membership Drive for 2023 is Here!**

**Please show your support for the Republican Club of Comal County  
by renewing today.**

**Cindi Montgomery, Membership Director  
214-908-7212**

## Why I Left the Left

Jennifer Galardi, The Epoch Times, October 13, 2022

In 1998 I moved to Los Angeles, California, and like many young women, I had dreams of something bigger than the small-town life I had experienced up until then. I had a desire to rebel against my rather strict upbringing in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and conservative education in rural Virginia. I didn't want to "go to school, get a job, get married, have kids" and put them in a nice house with a white picket fence. I didn't want to shuffle them to soccer practice and dance classes in a Range Rover. How boring. I wanted to be free.

I packed up my four-door powder blue Ford Taurus with the shifter on the right side of the wheel and rallied a friend to drive west with me from Birmingham, Alabama. The dread of another day behind a desk in a 9-5 job was intolerable. Four days later, I arrived at my apartment across from CBS Studios in West Hollywood. I was clueless and jobless, and intentionally disconnected from any past that could define me. I was searching for something without knowing what that something was. I was perfect fodder for the progressive agenda.

I abandoned my past to re-create a life I saw as idyllic and quickly fell into all the tropes of an L.A. starlet. I got an agent and began acting classes. I worked all sorts of different jobs to support myself, but with no definitive direction, was never able to save money or find stability, living mostly paycheck to paycheck. I was a "free spirit." I bounced from blue city to blue city—L.A., New York, Austin, back to L.A.—and traveled to countries around the world. I enshrined myself in every self-help book and spiritual practice I could. Sound baths, breathwork, yoga, meditation, journeys to India and sacred sites, crystals, reiki, endless retreats and yoga teacher trainings, psychedelic voyages—these were my life. All in the name of evolving into a more conscious human. I even made a career of some of it.

While I was somewhat successful in my professional life as a fitness and wellness "personality," my personal life was a mess. I became increasingly depressed, lonely, isolated, and self-obsessed. I lost any sense of who I truly was. I craved a sense of belonging and would bounce from group to group in search of a community where I felt I fit. Some might call some of my associations cultish. Looking back, I'd agree.

I became increasingly fragile. I hid in spiritual safety and used my "voice" to rally against all the travesties of the world, much like an "In this house, we believe" sign, ubiquitous on lawns throughout Los Angeles. Yet, it was never me who needed to change. Rather, the world needed to conform to make me more comfortable. In some cases, it needed to be completely dismantled. The patriarchy needed to crumble. We all needed to become aware of our white fragility. If everyone were just more enlightened like I was, the world would be a better place. Any challenge to my ideology was someone else's ignorance or inability to see "my truth."

As it did for many people, my life began to shift in 2020. I began to take personal inventory and examine where I was going. While the rest of the world was safely sheltering, a series of cataclysmic events prompted me to rouse from the spiritual cave I had been hiding in. I realized how selfish I had become. I realized how much anger and resentment I was holding on to, despite all my attempts to "heal myself." I realized how much I sought validation from the outside world. I began to take responsibility for my life and act on the things I wanted rather than trying to "manifest" them with positive affirmations and visualization.

Most importantly, I was called to the Christian faith and woke up from the woke spell L.A. and the progressive narrative had cast. Jesus gave shape and form to my spirituality. It became a source of stability and comfort rather than volatility, angst, and reform. I returned to a sense of logos and reason that began to steady my pervasive and unpredictable emotional world. Jesus merged my head and heart together rather than asking me to abandon the former for the latter. Having heart but using your head is a potent and empowering combination. The far left only wants to pull at your heartstrings, and if you don't respond appropriately, which is the way they want you to, you're a bad person. Thus, silence is violence, and any dissension from their idea of a good society is grounds for shame, reprimand, job removal, or extrication from the public sphere. Following the far left requires an abandonment of rational, clear, and critical thinking.

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While the far left proselytizes about empowering people, it does anything but. It insists you focus on all the ways you're a victim because of any number of external identities—race, gender, sexual preference, age, disability, geography—you name it, they'll use it. It peddles in grand abstractions, assuming belonging to any one of these categories means you're just like everyone else in that group. It's never about the individual, someone with a unique history or cultural ties. It assigns a unilateral experience on what it means to be black or lesbian or Asian or any other external parameter progressives insist one adopt. I'm a female, therefore I must accept that I've been a victim of toxic masculinity and systemic oppression by the patriarchy. I did that for a long time, despite the fact it wasn't true.

By today's pedagogy, I was successful not through any effort of my own, but because I was "pretty" and "white." At the same time, anything I didn't achieve was because I was discriminated against. I can't think of anything more disempowering.

The far left is neither grateful nor gracious. I consistently focused on what I didn't have. Rather than feel blessed by my upbringing, I was burdened by it and constantly fighting against it. I could only see my younger years through the lens of trauma and emotional neglect, although, despite sometimes challenging situations, I lived a quite idyllic childhood. I was loved and cared for. I never went without. Yet, my L.A. gurus and therapists convinced me my traumas constantly needed to be examined as opposed to accepting myself and my past as unique and flawed. There was always more inner work I had to do to achieve an ideal life. I had to be polished to perfection, every judgmental error in my bones washed clean. I loathed confrontation and avoided it at all costs, yet I would simultaneously be agitated when people didn't understand what I was going through or my point of view. I rode a rollercoaster of emotions and expectations and insisted everyone else cater to them.

For the left, the list of travesties that need to be overcome is relentless, and one is guilty until proven innocent. There will never be enough—enough social justice, enough equity, enough change. Progressives are unyielding in their pursuit of a world perfected, despite the impossibility of such a utopia.

It's an exhausting way to live, and I'm thrilled to say I escaped the insanity. My relationship with both of my parents has improved significantly. I'm a more pleasant person to be around. I can listen without being constantly triggered. I don't take things personally and—gasp—my sense of humor returned! I'm filled with gratitude and, for the first time in my life, excited about my future, despite the uncertainty of what that looks like. I returned to school to receive a master's degree in public policy. I've become more educated on the roots of our country and returned to the ethics of responsibility and discipline I grew up on. I feel truly empowered not to change the world but to overcome obstacles that will inevitably be placed on my path. Most importantly, I found a love and self-respect that only comes from a true connection to God, not some vague never-ending cycle of self-help or political party. I'm more positive than when I endlessly repeated words of affirmation. I'm content. I'm at peace.

For those seeking as I was—those of you who feel lost, or confused, or like you don't belong—know this: You're looking for love in all the wrong places. The left will never fill the void inside. No person, institution, movement, or policy can. What they will do is feed on your insecurities and self-doubt and convince you they have the cure. They don't.

The world isn't a safe space. It can be dangerous, unfair, and quite cruel. So, buckle up and enjoy the ride of life with all its speedbumps, potholes, detours, and dead ends. It can be a lot of fun when you accept who you—and others—are without trying to change everything and everyone to accommodate you. Look upward and inward rather than outside of you for the answers. Aim towards excellence and aspire to be the best version of yourself. Be inspired by others' success rather than tearing it down. If you truly want to change the world, start with yourself.

## What If We Took Critical Race Theory Seriously?

Human Events, Mark Goldblatt, 10/13/2022

New York City's public school children haven't fared well during the pandemic, according to recently released data. Standardized English test scores have held relatively steady among third through eighth graders, but the results in mathematics are grim, with under 38 percent of students demonstrating grade-level proficiency, down from 46 percent pre-pandemic. The math scores of black students remain grimmest of all, with a mere 21 percent passing the exam—compared with 59 percent of white students and 68 percent of Asian students—and with no sign of the gap widening or narrowing.

The persistence of that gap is noteworthy. The pandemic surely didn't help black students in their math studies, but it doesn't seem to have particularly hurt them either. They continue to falter in the subject, no better or worse for the interruptions in their schooling.

Maybe it's time to confront the argument—put forward regularly and vigorously by advocates of Critical Race Theory—that black kids aren't wired to perform well on math tests, that the sort of logical operations required to pass standardized exams don't come naturally to them, and that they therefore shouldn't be expected to "do" math the same way as other kids.

To be clear: I'm not suggesting that's the case; truth be told, I'm repulsed by the argument. But the argument is out there, passionately advocated by many leading lights of CRT, and if we're determined to integrate the insights of CRT into classroom pedagogy, we cannot avoid a serious consideration of racial essentialism—since that's what we're talking about. Let's recall the 2020 chart published, then sheepishly withdrawn, by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, titled Aspects and Assumptions of Whiteness and White Culture. Those "aspects" and "assumptions" include "objective, rational, linear thinking," "cause and effect relationships," and "quantitative emphasis."

If those qualities are natural to white minds, but alien to black minds—if, in short words, there exist essential cognitive differences—then the expectation that black kids pass standardized math tests is nothing more than the normalization of the way white minds work. Standardized testing thus becomes a quintessential tool of white supremacy.

Of course, the notion that black people have different modes of cognition than white people do, modes that are less objective, rational, and linear, and thus less suited to standard mathematics, did not spontaneously evolve in the halls of the Smithsonian. It's commonplace among critical race theorists. So, for example, Dr. Deborah Loewenberg Ball, professor of education at the University of Michigan and former Dean of the University of Michigan School of Education, asserts that math, "is a harbor for whiteness...the very nature of the knowledge and who's produced it, and what has counted as mathematics is itself also dominated by whiteness and by racism."

That thought is seconded by University of Illinois Professor Rochelle Gutierrez: "On many levels, mathematics itself operates as whiteness. Who gets credit for doing and developing mathematics, who is capable in mathematics, and who is seen as part of the mathematical community is generally viewed as white."

Purdue University Professor and head of its School of Engineering Education Donna Riley similarly sees the demand for mathematical rigor as a hindrance to equity:

"Rigor accomplishes dirty deeds, however, serving three primary ends across engineering, engineering education, and engineering education research: disciplining, demarcating boundaries, and demonstrating white male heterosexual privilege. Understanding how rigor reproduces inequality, we cannot reinvent it but rather must relinquish it, looking to alternative conceptualizations for evaluating knowledge, welcoming diverse ways of knowing, doing, and being, and moving from compliance to engagement, from rigor to vigor."

Is it really possible that black minds are cognitively different from non-black minds, and that tasks requiring linear logic bring that difference into play? Educational consultant and Columbia University Professor Maria Tope Akinyele thinks so. As she explained to fellow black educators in a 2021 YouTube talk: "Black people, we are relational people. We are people of context. Like, it's very Western and European to dissect and analyze and take apart things, whereas [in] Afrocentric schooling or Afrocentric spirituality or African epistemology or ways of knowing, everything is connected. So this is why education is not working for so many students of color because we are context-driven people.... There's no such thing as like thinking in isolation—isolating yourself from nature, from your family. It's just not part of our ways of knowing and being in the world."

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It should be noted that later in that same talk, Professor Akinyele also insists that race is a "made up thing"—which seems directly at odds with her claim that black people have a distinct way of "being in the world." But is it fair to criticize her for simultaneously denying the existence of race and underscoring the essential nature of race? Isn't an aversion to contradictions of that sort merely a fetish of logical, linear thought? Isn't it, in other words, a white criticism? This, of course, is the great rhetorical trump card of CRT. How do you logically critique a theory that not only rejects logic as decisive but regards the demand for logical consistency as oppressive?

Yet what are the practical consequences of a belief that black kids properly process mathematical topics in distinctly non-linear ways? One answer comes from Seattle's 2019 Math Ethnic Studies Framework, intended to overhaul instruction in grades K-12. The priority in math instruction, according to the framework, shouldn't be to assist students in their pursuit of correct answers to math problems but rather to nurture their "sense of advocacy, empowerment and action." Fixation on correctness, on a step-by-step process that gets you to correctness, and on showing your work along the way, comes from linear thinking; it's a white thing; it doesn't allow black students to develop "their identities as mathematicians." What's crucial for black students is to "construct and decode... mathematical knowledge, truth, and beauty" in order to "contribute to their experiences and the experiences of people in their community." It's the meander, in other words, not the destination. "What does it mean to do math," the framework inquires. "How important is it to be Right? What is Right?... Who holds power in a mathematical classroom? Is there a place for power and authority in the math classroom? Who gets to say if an answer is right?"

Ethnically appropriate math thus becomes another way to educate black students in the varieties of systemic racism, a means of liberation. Not by pushing them to make equations work but by encouraging them to interrogate the injustices of the status quo. It is another front of the sociopolitical struggle engaged by CRT: "How is math manipulated to allow inequality and oppression to persist? Who is doing the oppressing? Who does the oppression protect? Who does the oppression harm? Where is there an opportunity to examine systemic oppression? How can math help us understand the impact of economic conditions and systems that contribute to poverty and slave labor?"

There remains, even at this late date, considerable confusion about CRT. Is it a scholarly initiative to recollect forgotten history? Is it a revolutionary concept of the law evolved to redress centuries of racial injustice? Or is it a broader political strategy for advancing the socioeconomic interests of black people?

To get at the answer, we need to focus on the last, and most straightforward, element of CRT: It is a theory. It is an attempt to explain something, to account for a set of facts that seem otherwise perplexing. What does Critical Race Theory attempt to explain? The fact that even after the breakthroughs of the Civil Rights Era, even after Supreme Court decisions outlawing discrimination based on ethnicity, even after survey after survey reveals an abiding national consensus in favor of a colorblind society, black Americans, taken as a whole, continue to trail other demographic groups in educational attainment as well as a vast array of socioeconomic measures.

What is the theoretical explanation put forward by CRT for the lag? Racism.

That's it. Racism is the exclusive explanation for any measurable gap in outcomes between black people and non-black people. It's axiomatic: if there's a gap, there's racism. There may be other, more immediately observable forces at work. But racism underlies the rest. The task of the critical race theorist is to uncover that racism.

Thus, if the standardized math scores of black kids are lagging behind the scores of other kids, critical race theorists seek to locate the racism in the system. Even if that means embracing racial essentialism: Mathematics, as it has been historically taught, requires objective, rational, linear thinking, and therefore normalizes the way white minds work. That's the reason black kids' scores are lagging.

Whatever else may be said about CRT, it provides an altogether consistent explanation for the ongoing struggle of black kids on standardized math tests. It also implies at least two remedies: segregate math classes by race and end standardized testing for black students. But are we willing to go down that road? How seriously should we take CRT?

## The End of Racial Discrimination?

Douglas Andrews, October 31, 2022

A conservative Supreme Court hears opening arguments today on a pair of high-profile cases involving racial discrimination in college admissions.

Is the Supreme Court finally committed to color-blindness? Finally committed to striking down the age-old scourge of racial discrimination? Finally committed to insisting that Americans are to be judged, as Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed, not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character?

If the rumblings around a pair of cases now before the High Court are to be believed, the answer is yes. Today, the justices will hear oral arguments in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College* and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina*, both of which challenge the racially discriminatory admissions practices of their respective schools. As the Wall Street Journal editorial page notes, the outcome will affect racially discriminatory practices beyond college admissions.

The case is an important moment for American law but even more for the country's social and political future. America is becoming increasingly diverse. Yet rather than assimilate this melting pot with race-neutral principles, many in our political class want to divide America into racial categories, allocating jobs, benefits and even elections based on race.

The Biden Administration is trying to embed this practice across the federal government and impose it on the private economy. This is a destructive trend that will inevitably lead to more racial balkanization and enmity.

How could it not? One statistical analysis from the North Carolina case noted that an out-of-state Asian-American has only a 6.5% chance of admission compared to 57.7% for an equally credentialed black. Another analysis found that a white out-of-state male with a 10% chance of admission would have his odds improve to 98% if he were black.

Put another way: *Students for Fair Admissions*, which brought both lawsuits, says: "An Asian American in the fourth-lowest decile [of Harvard's academic index] has virtually no chance of being admitted to Harvard (0.9 percent); but an African American in that decile has a higher chance of admission (12.8 percent) than an Asian American in the top decile (12.7 percent)."

That's the difference between equality and equity. Or, as Chief Justice John Roberts put it back in 2006, the "sordid business" of "divvying us up by race."

Affirmative action, that sweet-sounding euphemism for government-sanctioned racial discrimination, has been plaguing our nation for decades. It does so by stigmatizing whites as irredeemably racist and blacks as hopelessly incapable. In college admissions, affirmative action has had the Supreme Court's blessing since its ill-considered *Bakke* decision in 1978, which allowed the camel's nose of racial preferences to get under the tent. With the Court's equally awful 5-4 decision in the University of Michigan's 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* case, racial discrimination became standard operating procedure at our colleges and universities.

The Court's great mistake in *Grutter* was to allow race-based discrimination in admissions so long as it was in the pursuit of that noble goal of a diverse student body. Of course, diversity comes in many forms beyond mere skin color, such as the political leanings of a university's faculty, but those considerations never factored into the *Grutter* decision.

And that's how the pursuit of diversity, an invented concept and a word that appears not once in the Constitution, somehow trumps that document's numerous proscriptions against racial discrimination. As columnist George Will, himself a former college professor, writes: "The diversity rationale for racial discrimination in admissions ... is mocked by campuses that offer racially segregated dormitories, graduation ceremonies, etc. And by the survey of Harvard's class of 2025 showing that 72.4 percent are predominantly liberal, and 8.6 percent are very or somewhat conservative. And by the fact that since the court embraced the 'diversity' rationale for racial discrimination, universities have become markedly more intellectually monochrome and intolerant."

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The Grutter decision also invited mischief by way of its complexity. "The Court set some guardrails," notes the Journal, "including that race may only be a 'plus' factor, cannot 'unduly harm' non-minority applicants; and must be considered alongside 'all' forms of diversity. Universities were also required to consider race-neutral alternatives and to ensure that racial preferences are 'limited in time.'"

Yeah, right. How's that "limited in time" directive working out? Justice Sandra Day O'Connor tried to sell us the Grutter opinion by assuring us that racial discrimination wouldn't be necessary 25 years hence. But here we are, 19 years later, and things have only gotten worse.

As the Journal reports: "The plaintiffs in Harvard and UNC argue that the schools violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which bars recipients of federal aid from discriminating by race. The Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause also prohibits states, including public universities, from discriminating by race."

Surely colleges and universities that set a lower admissions bar for blacks and Hispanics than they do for whites and Asians are discriminating by race. And given this seemingly air-tight argument, we wonder: What on earth has the Supreme Court been waiting for?

It will be a glorious day when government-sanctioned racial discrimination is struck down once and for all, but we'd be naive to think that the leftists who control our colleges and universities will blithely accept such a ruling. Their preference for preferences will continue on, especially if the Court's ruling affords them what Will calls "a semantic fog" through which to avoid accountability. He writes, "Colleges will continue allocating opportunity through racial discrimination, thus continuing their adversarial stance regarding the national aspiration for a colorblind society."

If SFFA wins, the academy will accelerate its abandonment of standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT, which will allow them to focus on more "holistic" credentials, such as an applicant's name or zip code or means of expression.

Fourteen years ago, this nation elected a mixed-race president, the son of a white mother and a black father. And we did so despite the fact that his middle name was "Hussein," he was the most liberal member of the Senate, and he was perhaps the least experienced candidate ever put forth by one of the two major political parties.

That our leftist colleges and universities still feel a need to discriminate against certain races in their admissions processes is an un-American, anti-constitutional disgrace. It's about time to make good on what Chief Justice Roberts said 15 years ago: "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race."



**Time to renew your membership!**

## The case for non-maximalism in energy and climate debate

Michael Taylor, The Smart Money S.A., Nov. 2, 2022

SAN ANTONIO — I feel despair over our societal dialogue about the link between energy production, climate change and economic trade-offs. I lament that the messy energy compromises of today — which feel good and important to me — rarely get praised. I'm here to praise unpleasant, compromised complexity.

Our ludicrous maximalism on both sides of the conversation shuts down dialogue.

There is an assumption among my left-of-center friends — misplaced, I believe — that acknowledging the importance of fossil fuels to our personal well-being is akin to praising cancer. They express a vague sense that our failure to go cold turkey on coal, oil and gas is due to some shadowy campaign of wealthy energy industry executives. It seems that these executives are fiddling while drowning the world in rising sea levels and burning it in wildfires.

If you take this flawed assumption to the extreme, which my left-of-center friends do not, you could justify the absurdist attacks in recent weeks on paintings by van Gogh, Monet and Vermeer in the name of calling attention to the "Just Stop Oil" campaigns.

On the other side, a right-of-center sense exists that climate change science is an overhyped power grab by regulators against the energy industry. If you take their assumption to the extreme, you get chants of "Drill Baby Drill" and bans on public contracts with companies in Texas that pursue environmental goals.

It is in this state of frustration that I read the 2022 environmental tech dystopian novel "Venomous Lumpsucker" by Ned Beuman.

Where regular left-right dialogue breaks down, maybe absurdist dystopian literature can help?

In the novel's near-future setting, an accelerating environmental collapse leads to mass extinctions amid megacorporate environmental rapacity. But while the corporate money grabs are clearly bad, the story is also full of well-intentioned solutions for environmental protection gone horribly awry.

One terrible invention is extinction credits, which allow corporations and governments to pay fines if they cause a species to disappear from the Earth, modeled somewhat on real-world carbon credits. The incentives behind extinction credits distort and corrupt groups and individuals throughout the novel in ways that are believable, if somewhat exaggerated.

Another environment solution depicted in the story — described as "genetically modified peat moss that could digest even the vilest industrial pollutants, leaving behind only a harmless compost" — turns out to be a complete financial graft. There was never any such product, only many green-tech capital raises that enriched insiders.

A third solution — an artificial intelligence-powered technology solution called a spindrifter, designed to mitigate climate change through cloud and rain formations — turns into a maritime menace when the founding companies go bust. These autonomous spindrifters mindlessly continue to cause storms and even biblical-level plague long after their creators have disappeared.

A recurring theme in "Venomous Lumpsucker" is that these fictional inventions show how policy and tech solutions to environmental challenges might cause irreparable harm. Our solutions for environmental protection may be worse than the problems they seek to solve.

Applied to our current debate, any confidence in our maximalist approach to either solving climate change — impossible — or shutting down the fossil fuel industry feels deeply unwise in 2022.

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Can we keep these two contradictory thoughts in our heads at the same time?

- Dependence on fossil fuel brings terrible climate risks.
- Shutting down such dependence in the short run is unwise and counterproductive to modern life.

And if we can grasp both ideas, could we refrain from vilifying oil and gas companies? Could we also not attack climate mitigation strategies, which seems to be a central goal of Texas state leaders?

This may be all too normie and boring. It's also deeply unsatisfying, I guess. It's unpleasant to have to compromise this way because the other side of the debate, unfortunately, is neither evil nor stupid.

In the long run, we need sustainable energy sources that do not heat the planet. In the short run, we need affordable energy sources — from fossil fuels.

The rise in gas prices this summer due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the upcoming winter energy scarcity in Europe underline our current need for affordable energy. In the future, I want affordable renewables and affordable nuclear- and hydrogen-based energy as much as anyone. But, unfortunately, fossil fuels are the present-day affordable and reliable energy source for the world.

It is also true but upsetting to climate change maximalists that the U.S. status as a dominant oil and gas producer is a huge geopolitical boon. This country's emergence as a fossil fuel superpower over the past decade gives us important moral independence from the murderous and despotic regimes of Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iran.

Throwing soup at a van Gogh painting — and then a Monet, and then a Vermeer — to call out the evils of fossil fuels is a maximalist approach that would have fit right into "Venomous Lumpsucker." And that maximalist approach, as supremely unhelpful as it is to mitigating climate change, seems to be spreading.

I can't agree that outright fracking bans, fighting new pipelines like enemy invaders, and making a sudden and clean break toward renewable energy worldwide are viable solutions, if only we could marshal the silent many against the powerful few.

On the other hand, there are people who think climate fears are overblown or who have a stake in the fossil fuel industry's success and believe their best approach is a take-no-prisoners stance against climate change mitigation. I'm thinking about Texas leaders who want to punish environmental, social and governance investing, and to roll back federal and state environmental regulation.

The maximalists on both sides, the ones who are positive they're correct, are the ones I'm worried about. Their present certainty leads to future dystopia.

*Michael Taylor is a columnist for the San Antonio Express-News, author of "The Financial Rules for New College Graduates" and host of the podcast "No Hill for a Climber."*

**REMEMBER WHEN LIBS SAID TRUMP WOULD  
CRASH THE ECONOMY AND START WWII?**



## Explaining Conservatism

Dennis Prager, The Patriot Post, October 11, 2022

I present here, and in subsequent columns, a list of conservatism's defining characteristics.

There are a number of reasons many young people shy away from conservatism.

The most obvious is that they have been exposed only to left-wing values — from elementary school through graduate school, in the movies, on television, on social media and now even at Disneyland.

Less obvious but equally significant is that they have never been properly exposed to conservative values. Since at least the World War II generation, most parents who held conservative values either did not think they had to teach their children those values or simply did not know how to do so. Most still don't. If asked to define conservative values, most conservatives will be tongue-tied.

In light of this, I present here, and in subsequent columns, a list of conservatism's defining characteristics.

We will begin with the most important conservative value — liberty.

Conservatives believe in individual liberty (there is no liberty other than individual liberty). It has been the primary value of the American experiment. While many countries include the word "liberty" in their national mottoes and national anthems, no country has so emphasized liberty as has America.

That is why:

- > The French designers of the Statue of Liberty gave the statue to America.
- > The iconic symbol of America is the Liberty Bell.
- > The one inscription on the Liberty Bell is a verse about liberty from the Book of Leviticus: "And you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."
- > Americans sing of their country as "the land of the free" and "sweet land of liberty."
- > Until recently, every American schoolchild knew by heart Patrick Henry's cry, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
- > Chinese young people who protested the Communist takeover of Hong Kong waved the American flag.

And that is why America's founders were adamant that the state — the national government — be as small, as limited, as possible. The bigger the government, the smaller the liberty. Big government and big liberty are mutually exclusive.

Moreover, liberty is not the only victim of big government. Human life is also a victim. Every genocide of the 20th century, the century of genocide, was committed by big government. Without big government, one hundred million people would not and could not have been slaughtered, and a billion more would not and could not have been enslaved. (There was one exception: the Hutu genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, which was tribal in nature. Tribal culture, like left-wing culture, emphasizes the group over the individual.)

In order to limit the size and power of the national government, the founders delegated most governmental powers to the states. They did so in the Constitution by specifying what powers the national government had and by asserting that all other powers be delegated to the states. In addition, they increased the power of the states by having presidential elections decided by the states — the Electoral College — rather than by the popular national vote, and by how they structured the Senate, one of the two branches of Congress. They gave every state equal representation in the Senate, no matter how small the population of the state.

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The Left's opposition to the Electoral College and to the Senate makes perfect sense. It is the power inherent in big government, not liberty, that animates the Left. The defining characteristic of every left-wing party and movement in the world has always been an ever bigger and therefore more powerful government.

Liberty is a liberal value as well as a conservative value, but it has never been a left-wing value. Liberty cannot be a left-wing value because the more liberty individuals have, the less power the government has. Conversely, the weaker the state, the weaker the Left.

This especially holds true for the greatest of all liberties — free speech.

Free speech is a fundamental conservative value, and it has been a fundamental liberal value. But it has never been a left-wing value. For that reason, everywhere the Left is dominant — government, media, universities — it stifles dissent. The reason is simple: no left-wing movement can survive an open exchange of ideas. Leftist ideologies are emotion- and power-based, not reason- or morality-based. So, leftists cannot allow honest debate. They do not argue with opponents; they suppress them.

For the first time in American history, freedom of speech is seriously threatened — indeed it has already been seriously curtailed. With the ascent of the Left, the inevitable suppression of free speech is taking place.

That liberals — who have always valued liberty and free speech — vote for the great suppressor of liberty, the Left, is the tragedy of our time. The reason they do so is that liberals forgot what they stand for; they only remember what they believe they stand against: conservatives.

So, the next time a liberal or left-wing friend or relative asks you what conservatives stand for, say "liberty" — especially free speech. And explain that is why you fear and oppose big government — because big government and individual liberty cannot coexist.

### **I am a Black principal. Here's why I defend Hillsdale College's 1776 Curriculum.**

Phillip Schwenk, The Tennessean, October 2022

There are misconceptions about our curriculum: Two main points regarding slavery and Civil Rights in American history demand repetition.

I've spent nearly 30 years in education. Twenty of those years were working at urban schools teaching mainly minority students. I'm an educator first and foremost because I care deeply about kids and their growth into well-educated, thoughtful and good adults.

And yet, some in Tennessee seem intent on focusing on oftentimes inaccurate stories instead of focusing on kids and the facts. It's disheartening, to say the least.

While I enjoy tough questions and debates — just like I encourage from my students — this type of activism rarely asks about the kids we hope to serve and instead peddles the narratives of those who oppose school choice at any cost, even at the expense of the truth.

They don't ask about my background teaching in inner-city Los Angeles or Cleveland or my experience as a Black educator. Instead of asking about education and what's best for America's leaders of tomorrow, they appear far more interested in telling me, a Black American, how my school allegedly has a racist agenda. These far-fetched and baseless allegations aim to silence those of us working to put the educational needs of kids first.

We aim to prepare students to be effective citizens

Like many parents, I desire schools where we place an emphasis on the study of primary sources so that we can interact with history in the context of its time and openly discuss matters in the classroom. The job of the teacher is to encourage a desire to learn and engage, not to shape opinion.

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Our aim is to prepare students to be participants in their community and nation, not members of one particular political group.

Rich Hagland, American Classical Education legal council, far right, speaks to Tess Stovall, Executive Director of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission, far left, during an appeals hearing concerning the charter school's application at the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System district office in Clarksville, Tenn. on Sep. 16, 2022.

From the hundreds of pages of The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum, they pick out one line they don't like or disagree with and then badger me, suggesting that I, a Black American, seek a return to the days when people who looked like me were slaves and people who looked like them were our masters.

There have been false reports on the proposed racial makeup of our schools, even after we've corrected the record. Several of the schools in our network have student populations that are majority non-white.

As to American Classical Academy's initial applications within three counties in Tennessee, our expectations for those schools is that they would match the demographics of the local community. Madison county, for example, has a student population comprised of close to 60% Black Americans.

The curriculum is misunderstood, but here's what it is

As to misconceptions about our curriculum, there are two main points regarding slavery and Civil Rights in American history that demand repetition.

First, The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum believes that the United States was not founded on racist principles or to defend the heinous institution of slavery.

Second, The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum recognizes that the United States does have a unique and exceptional history — that alongside our failings and the pains of civil strife, war and the nation's ongoing journey to form a more perfect union, there are good things that have come out of the American experiment, and that our children should learn of the founding principles that form the bedrock of this country are brilliant and good.

We teach all of American history — warts and all.

Here is how we teach lessons on slavery

There's a difference between a curriculum that's singularly focused on the issue of race and a curriculum that seeks to understand the whole, complete story of American history, including the evils of slavery and racism.

This curriculum doesn't try to avoid such topics — indeed, it mentions slavery more than 3,300 times across grades K-12. But the topics of slavery and race shouldn't be the fundamental and sole elements guiding the teaching of American history.

We teach that slavery was an evil practice in America and that the Civil War was fought over the issue.

We teach the ensuing civil rights battles that continued long after African Americans were freed from slavery.

Yet we also teach about the founding principles of America's government — that all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights — which provided the critical basis for the abolition of slavery and paved the way for the successes of the civil rights movement. As a Black man and educator, that last point speaks to the heart of the matter. And it's an ultimately uplifting, joyful and wonderful message that I look forward to sharing with the students we intend to serve.

Phillip Schwenk currently serves as a principal for American Classical Education in Tennessee.

## The Campus Diversity Scam

Betsy McCaughey, The Patriot Post, October 26, 2022

"In the eyes of government, we are just one race here. It is American."  
That should be the rule at Harvard and everywhere in this land.

Democratic politicians and their media toadies are warning that the Supreme Court is poised to rule against the use of racial preferences in college admissions, putting diversity on college campuses at risk. Don't buy their alarmist rhetoric. Campus diversity is a scam.

On Oct. 31, the Court will hear oral argument in *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*. That case will show that Harvard and other colleges that discriminate against white and Asian American applicants in favor of less qualified Black and Hispanic applicants — under the pretext of promoting student body diversity — offer Black and Hispanic students segregated college life. They have separate dorms, separate student activities and dining halls, courses of study geared to their own ethnicity and even segregated graduation ceremonies.

Black students who benefit from relaxed admissions standards are virtually guaranteed their contact with students of other races at college will be minimal. There's Harvard and Black Harvard. The same is true at Yale, which provides an entirely parallel campus life for Black students, according to information submitted to the Court.

The harm suffered by highly qualified applicants who are denied admission is the worst because they lack that single all-important feature: darker skin. Affirmative action is not a victimless crime.

The Court will hear about the cruelty and dishonesty of Harvard's admissions process, which is rigged against high-performing Asian American students under the guise of promoting "diversity." What Harvard does to these young kids is "appalling," according to *Students for Fair Admissions*.

Harvard concocted a scheme to downgrade high-performing Asian American applicants by measuring what it vaguely calls "personality." Even when Harvard alumni interview Asian American candidates in person and give them glowing reviews, the admissions office overrides those reviews and substitutes a low personality grade — low enough to knock many candidates out of the running.

They're rated as dull, uninteresting — ugly, negative stereotypes.

Many other universities now mimic Harvard's system of demoting Asian American applicants. The Princeton Review cautions college applicants not to include a picture if they look Asian, and to avoid discussing their immigrant heritage. If this were happening to a more favored minority, the nation would be in a moral uproar.

The discrimination young Asian Americans face fills them with "despair" and feelings of "racial inferiority," according to statements submitted to the court. In high school, many "undertake overwhelming study loads, literally working themselves into ill health" to compensate for the tougher odds of getting into college. "They suffer high rates of anxiety and depression" and are "1.6 times more likely than others to make a serious suicide attempt."

If this were happening to Black high school students, there would be calls for congressional hearings and marches.

Meanwhile, the Left is slamming the Court, warning that it is about to overturn precedent. In 2003, the Court ruled in *Grutter v. Bollinger* that the University of Michigan could consider race in undergraduate admissions to secure "the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body."

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Now it's obvious that the higher education establishment's declared commitment to diversity is a ruse. As two members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Gail Heriot and Peter N. Kirsanow, explain to the Court, "if the purpose of racial preferences is to create an environment where students are exposed to classmates of different races and backgrounds, establishing separate racial enclaves is a strange way to go about it."

Yet 15 Democratic senators and 65 House Democrats signed statements urging the justices to protect racial preferences because "diverse campuses" provide "all students with a quality, well-rounded education," wrote House Education and Labor Committee Chair Bobby Scott.

If they actually believed that, Democrats in Congress would recommend denying federal funds to colleges and universities that segregate students. These pols are merely kowtowing to Black voters, the only voters, according to a recent poll, who still support racial preferences.

Most Americans want all college applicants, regardless of skin color, to be treated fairly. The late Justice Antonin Scalia explained how it should be: "In the eyes of government, we are just one race here. It is American."

That should be the rule at Harvard and everywhere in this land.

## **Why the Red Wave Petered Out**

Nate Jackson, Patriot Post, November 9, 2022

Voting isn't taken seriously enough by citizens misled by a dishonest and partisan media.

America's Founding Fathers held voting in far higher esteem than present day Americans. It's true that voting eligibility was more limited then, though judging that through modern sensibilities should be done carefully. But the point is our Founders treated voting as a responsibility, not something that should be cavalierly made ridiculously easy and expanded from Election Day to Election Season. When such things happen, combined with a grossly biased media, red waves turn to red trickles.

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual — or at least that he ought not so to do," wrote Samuel Adams in 1781. Instead, "he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country." How many of our fellow citizens treat voting that way?

"Progressives" are never done. Thus, they took good things — extending voting to women and minorities, for example — and expanded them into voting a month early or by mail for any reason, in some states without even having to bother with requesting a ballot. All the while "progressives" dumbed down education and journalism to the point that many citizens couldn't even tell you who the vice president is, much less have any carefully considered thoughts about how our Constitutional Republic ought to be run.

Democrats used the pandemic in 2020 as an excuse to expand access to voting, as already mentioned. This expansion has been going on for years, of course, and the result is that it's easier than ever to cast a ballot. Thanks to bulk-mail ballots, millions of Americans don't even have to leave their house to do so, much less truly authenticate who they are.

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Unfortunately, that's how you end up with millions of poorly informed people voting, largely for Democrats. If citizens took their responsibility seriously, if they were knowledgeable beyond the misinformation and disinformation blaring through mainstream media outlets, they would vote for candidates who treasure our Constitution. Instead, we get Democrats, in large part because what uninformed voters do hear is that Republicans "don't want you to vote." That's not true, but lies are powerful.

Meanwhile, the Democrat strategy of running against Donald Trump apparently worked to firm up their base, as did Joe Biden's two big speeches about "protecting democracy." Yes, most voters care a lot about how inflation is torching their household budgets and how criminals are literally stealing their wallets, but Democrats and their media super PAC were able to paint key Republicans as "election deniers" and stooges of the Bad Orange Man, which equaled "scary extremist" to the voter who listens to NPR or only occasionally tunes in to mainstream news.

Republicans knew that was all a grotesque lie and yet they didn't spend enough time rebutting it with anything other than yeah, well Democrats deny elections too. Sure they do — all the time — but Democrats didn't storm the Capitol, either. For the low-information voter, that was all they needed to know. Apparently, Democrat pollsters knew exactly what fear buttons to push to keep their voters on the plantation.

Conversely, the Republican strategy of running against Biden wasn't a winning one. They hardly mentioned inflation, crime, or immigration without (justifiably) tying it to Biden, but it wasn't enough.

More importantly, never underestimate the power of the Leftmedia. If you're reading this, congratulations — you're one of the millions of Americans who are literate enough in civics and other issues to care and to find solid sources for your news. Millions more, however, get their information from the mainstream media, which as we said is a super PAC for Democrats. A point we've made before is that Fox News may lead the ratings, but it doesn't outperform the collective voice of other leftist outlets, and even Fox ran the mindless "Democracy 2022" slogan for the election.

Imagine what the political landscape would look like if the media was fair. Heck, if it was just 60-40 Democrat instead of 90-10.

Republicans, not Democrats, are the ones who will have to do a lot of soul-searching after last night. Democrats know that lousy candidates — even ones disabled by a stroke — can still win if all of the above holds true. Moderate voters simply want stability and competence, and if the media can successfully portray Republican candidates as crazy or immoral or as hand-picked Trumpists, moderate and low-information voters will steer clear of the GOP. Donald Trump looms even larger over the next election than he did over this one, when he was a kingmaker in the primaries who then didn't spend much to help his picks win. If you love Trump or are even simply grateful for his incredible legacy as we are, his presence or candidacy is more of a drag than a boon for the rest of the GOP in most areas of the country.

Finally, there is hope. If Republicans do indeed take the House, that means significant oversight over a lawless Biden administration. Even if the Senate remains 50-50 or worse, Republicans have a much more favorable landscape in 2024, defending only 10 seats compared to 21 Democrats and two Democrat "independents." Joe Biden won't be on the ballot in two years, and if Trump also isn't — if it's Ron DeSantis against Gavin Newsom, for example — Republicans have a solid opportunity to retake the White House.

## Protests in Iran: The Silence of the 'Feminists' and 'Progressives'

Larry Elder, The Patriot Post, October 13, 2022

All the elements to make this an Iranian George Floyd moment are present. But the relative silence by The Squad has been deafening.

Where are the American feminists and "progressives" when we need them? You know, the men-versus-women, pro-abortion types who say things like the reversal of Roe v. Wade represents "men wanting to tell women what to do with their bodies"?

Last month, on Sept. 16, Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman living in Iran, died in a hospital three days after being arrested in Tehran by the state's morality police known as "Guidance Patrols." Her "crime"? She showed too much hair underneath her hijab, or headscarf.

The New York Times reported: "The police did not offer an explanation for why Ms. Amini was detained, other than that it involved the hijab rule. Her mother said in an interview with Iranian news media that her daughter was observing the rules and wearing a long, loose robe. She said Ms. Amini was arrested as she exited the subway with her brother, and that his pleas that they were visitors to the city were ignored."

According to the BBC: "Eyewitnesses said Mahsa Amini was beaten while inside a police van when she was picked up in Tehran on Tuesday. Police have denied the allegations, saying Ms Amini had 'suddenly suffered a heart problem.'" However, at least one Iranian judicial official, according to state media, said the woman suffered "multiple fractures ... in the pelvis, head, upper and lower limbs, arms and legs, which indicate that the person was thrown from a height."

In protest, women in Iran are cutting their hair, with some taking to social media and burning their hijabs. Two weeks ago, CNN reported: "Protests have swept through more than 40 Iranian cities, including the capital Tehran. Iranian security forces have been cracking down on protesters, with hundreds arrested and at least 41 killed, according to state media. Some human rights organizations say the death toll is as high as 76." As for Iran, Human Right Watch states: "Since March 21, 2022, at the beginning of Iranian New Year, Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has documented 306 executions, 130 of them for drug-related charges and 151 of them based on the Islamic principle of qisas, or 'retribution in kind' punishments. Between May 21 and June 21 alone, the group documented 99 executions."

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., tweeted: "Solidarity with the courageous women and allies in Iran protesting for their freedom. Mahsa Amini was senselessly murdered by the same patriarchal and autocratic forces repressing women the world over. The right to choose belongs to us all, from hijabs to reproductive care." And Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., put out a statement: "Those responsible for her death should be held accountable and the world should be united in fighting against the policing of what women wear and how they show up in society. Banning the hijab is not much different than forcing one on women. Religious beliefs are personal and should never be imposed on anyone. (May God have mercy upon her soul)."

Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., who once said about President Donald Trump, "We're going to impeach this mother-f—er," and after the reversal of Roe v. Wade, tweeted, "Reproductive rights are human rights that remain under threat across the country," tweeted mildly, "I stand in solidarity with the Iran protests as they fight for a woman's right to bodily autonomy and against police brutality in the wake of the horrifying murder of Mahsa Amini."

As for the rest of The Squad, silence.

No call by American feminists and progressives for the collapse of the totalitarian government of Iran. No wholesale condemnation of this police state's mandate that women wear the hijab and face imprisonment for failing to do so, or for failing to wear it "correctly." No plea that the Biden administration, at the very least, publicly support the Iranian protesters demonstrating the same kind of courage as have the Ukrainians following the Russian invasion.

Talk about "men telling women what to do with their bodies"! All the elements to make this an Iranian George Floyd moment are present. But the relative silence by The Squad has been deafening.

## The Menace of 'Misinformation'

Politics, Douglas Andrews, October 13, 2022

When the facts don't comport with their narrative, the Democrats turn the truth on its head.

It's a powerful weapon, misinformation. Properly executed, it's a one-two punch that forces an opponent onto the defensive while deceptively redirecting the people's attention. And the Left is infinitely better at deploying it than the Dudley Do-Rights on the Right.

One of its most recent and obvious manifestations has been Joe Biden's shameful charge that supporters of Donald Trump are "semi-fascists." This is also known as the Big Lie, and it's the reverse of the truth. It's an attempt by Biden's handlers to convince his gullible base that their political opponents are guilty of the bad behavior that they themselves are guilty of. The truth is that the Republican Party, whether being led by Donald Trump or someone else, has always been the party of liberty, lower taxes, smaller government, economic freedom, and individual accountability.

As for the Democrats and their leftist brethren, what could be more fascist than the government's corporatist weaponization of Big Tech and Big Media in collusion with the Department of Justice and against their political opponents on the Right?

Here, blogger Glenn Greenwald offers a sobering assessment: "Stop being shocked when mainstream liberals express their desire to see their political adversaries not only censored by a union of state and corporate power but also imprisoned. The crux of American liberalism is authoritarianism."

Think about how this cabal worked in concert to perpetuate the biggest of the Big Lies: that Donald Trump had colluded with the Russians to steal the 2016 election from Hillary Clinton. It was, for all intents and purposes, a quiet coup.

And think about how, four years later, it rigged the 2020 election by shamelessly working the other end of the misinformation angle: by telling us that all the very real and damning materials found on Hunter Biden's abandoned laptop were actually Russian disinformation. Indeed, they co-opted more than 50 "former senior intelligence officials" to co-sign and publish a letter saying as much. The laptop "has all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation," said high-level Trump-hating liars such as James Clapper and John Brennan and Mike Hayden.

But as columnist Aaron Kliegman points out, the laptop misinformation ruse is merely the most consequential of numerous versions of the same ploy. Indeed, Kliegman lists six other recent examples of the misinformation device being used by the Left against the Right. Among them:

The origins of COVID-19, whereby those who proposed that the virus had leaked from of virology lab in Wuhan, China, were labeled bigots and conspiracy theorists

The vaccine as panacea, whereby questions about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine were shut down as disinformation

The January 6 narrative, whereby suggestions that Nancy Pelosi knew in advance about the threats of a violent storming of the Capitol were dismissed but later revealed to be true.

The integrity of the 2020 election, whereby claims of fraud and other irregularities were deemed false, misleading, or unsubstantiated.

In all of these cases and others — such as the mistreatment of J6 defendants and the insistence that critical race theory wasn't being taught in our schools — the truth eventually rolled out of bed and put its pants on ... but not before the "misinformation" lie had traveled halfway around the globe. And that's the sad reality of our discourse today: When the truth is harmful to the Democrats' agenda, they'll do everything they can to hide it.

## Democracy Dies in Climate Panic

Tim Graham, MRC, November 11, 2022

The United Nations is one of the most sacred political cows in the liberal media. This is especially true when they convene the global elites on the perils of "climate change." The latest confab in Sharm-al-Sheikh, Egypt began with the usual appeal to fear and panic from U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, formerly known as the Socialist Party prime minister of Portugal.

"Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible," Guterres warned. "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator." If that AC/DC song echo wasn't strong enough, he added, "We can sign a climate solidarity pact, or a collective suicide pact."

Journalists consider anyone who questions this my-way-or-Hell viewpoint as not only a "denier" of science, but an enemy of the people. Their standard practice is to sound like U.N. publicists.

NPR's comically titled newscast All Things Considered ran a U.N.-boosting story on November 7 that they headlined "U.N. climate conference opens with alarming warnings about the global climate." There was no dissent allowed from the "highway to climate hell" talk.

Anchor Elissa Nadworny helpfully asked reporter Ruth Sherlock what the U.N. hoped to accomplish. Sherlock touted "developing" countries demanding "loss and damage" money, insisting "wealthier countries that are responsible for most of the carbon dioxide emissions should pay reparations to emerging economies."

Conservatives are calling this the "Sharm-al-Sheikh-down."

The only dissenting note on NPR, naturally, was from the left of the UN establishment, from Greta Thunberg-style extremists who want to ban capitalism. Nadworny asked about Egypt hosting this conference, since they do not typically tolerate much dissent.

NPR was proud to push the U.N. leader's warnings, but they didn't quote from this protester sign photographed in Egypt: "Climate change denial deserves the death penalty."

Let's hope that's just one doomsday crank. But the authoritarians at the UN clearly need the doomsday sound, because they want a climate crackdown more severe than the COVID shutdowns.

In 2021, the U.N. Environment Programme complained "Overall emissions reductions in 2020 likely reduced the annual increase of the atmospheric concentrations of long-lived greenhouse gases, but this effect was too small to be distinguished from natural variability." Now they demand we reduce emissions by 45 percent by 2030. So imagine an ongoing crackdown worse than COVID shutdowns.

You can't even debate the timing of their panic. The UN summit has a Climate Clock warning we only have 6 years and 255 days to avert certain doom.

Democrats in the midterms slammed Republicans who question the climate doom as "extremists." The liberal media never question whether the international climate consensus is extreme. They define that as the sensible governing center, with Greta Thunberg – Time's 2019 "Person of the Year" – goading for more. Authoritarian extremism is painted as idealism.

Every democratic nation on Earth has to attempt to translate these demands into policy that doesn't cause a voter revolt. The result is a whole lot of verbal deference to globalist demands, followed by policies that "fall short." The media yelled at Team Trump for pulling out of the Paris accords. What they wanted was an insincere endorsement of environmental extremism, and then a policy that was far less severe than what the U.N. wants.

For decades now, our so-called democracy-defending media has clamped down on any dissent from the climate cops. There can be no two sides – or it's stacked as reason versus unreason, science versus quackdom, and humanity versus inhumanity.

When they complain the "Biden agenda" will be stopped, this is one crucial part of it. Democracy and climate are at odds.

## **The Decline of Christianity in the U.S.**

Thomas Gallatin, Faith, September 19, 2022  
Pew Research shows that Christians will be in the minority  
in the not-so-distant future.

A recent Pew Research Center study estimates based on various scenarios that Christians in America will become a minority in the next two to five decades. Since the 1990s, the study notes, the number of Americans leaving Christianity has been accelerating, as the number of those identifying as nonreligious or "nones" has ballooned over the last couple decades.

Pew reports, "The projections show Christians of all ages shrinking from 64% to between a little more than half (54%) and just above one-third (35%) of all Americans by 2070." Furthermore, "Over that same period, 'nones' would rise from the current 30% to somewhere between 34% and 52% of the U.S. population."

Evaluating a different scenario, Pew notes, "If the pace of switching before the age of 30 were to speed up throughout the projection period without any brakes, Christians would no longer be a majority by 2045."

Of course, Pew is quick to point out that these projections are based upon current trends that could change. That said, the news is disconcerting for Christians, but even more so for our nation.

As all genuine Bible-believing Christians understand, their ultimate home and eternal destination of Heaven is secure, thanks entirely to the work of Jesus — His death and resurrection on their behalf. Yet while the future on this side of Heaven is difficult, a Christian's hope never rests in this world.

The deeper question the Pew research raises may be less obvious, though it should seem quite apparent. If the number of people leaving the faith has been increasing steadily for the past three decades, then the number of genuine Christians must have fallen off long before.

In other words, how many of these "Christians" were nominally so because of their cultural upbringing? If they grew into early adulthood and left the faith, did they ever really believe in the first place? Are we simply witnessing the ripples of a rock that sank long ago?

That said, America, by God's grace, has known times of spiritual revival. And rather than fearing a potential loss of cultural influence, Christians should remind themselves of the Lord's sovereign rule over all of history. This presents an opportunity to shine brightly the good news of the Gospel before a darkening world. Jesus did warn His followers of the opposition and trouble they will face: "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

News like this should encourage all Christians to pray for God's mercy on our nation — that He would send another revival and that He would embolden Christians to speak the truth and share the Gospel of salvation. For the power for anyone to change, repent, and believe ultimately comes from God.

## Leftists Need Racism, Even in Sports

Thomas Gallatin, The Patriot Post, October 24, 2022

A black NFL coach stiff-arms the race-baiting and race-obsessed media

America is awash in "systemic racism," the woke Left asserts. Following the death of George Floyd under the knee of a police officer who happened to be white, the radical Left's woke narrative of systemic racism went mainstream. There was seemingly a white racist around every corner and behind every door. Furthermore, white liberals seeking to "prove" they are committed to fighting this systemic racism bogeyman went out of their way to virtue-signal their allegiance to blacks.

On Facebook, these folks replaced their identity images with black boxes. At home, people began placing "Black Lives Matter" placards in their yards or bumper stickers on their cars. "We care about black people" was their self-righteous claim, as if those who did not engage in such showy, shallow displays didn't. Indeed, when anyone who responded to the slogan "Black Lives Matter" by asserting that "all lives matter," they were branded as racists and part of the problem.

Recognizing the universal dignity of all mankind no matter their race, the very ideal that civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. were fighting for, is now labeled "racist" by the radical leftist wokesolds.

Indeed, the once-popular goal of a colorblind society has been derided as denialism of systemic racism, as well as an attempt to "whitewash" minority cultures. Anything that doesn't conform to the woke "anti-racism" narrative is smeared as racist by much of the mainstream media.

This reality was exposed last week when ESPN reporter Jenna Laine, likely unwittingly, sought to further the woke racism narrative in her question to Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles. She asked him about being one of four black head coaches in the NFL going up against one of the other black coaches — Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Laine was clearly surprised by Bowles's ultimate response. He first tried to avoid it by noting that he and Tomlin have a good relationship. However, when he was pressed about his thoughts on Steve Wilks, a black coach, taking over the interim head coaching position for the Carolina Panthers, he answered, "We don't look at what color we are when we coach against each other; we just know each other." He added: "I have a lot of very good white friends that coach in this league as well, and I don't think it's a big deal as far as us coaching against each other. I think it's normal. Wilks got an opportunity to do a good job. Hopefully he does it. And we coach ball, we don't look at color."

Obviously not satisfied with his answer, Laine pressed again for an acknowledgment of the importance of the woke "diversity" and "equity" agenda, asking him how important it was for representation of minorities in coaching for NFL coaches who "look like them" and possibly "grew up like them." Bowles refused to accept the narrative. "Well, when you say, 'They see you guys' and 'look like them and grew up like them,' it means that we're oddballs to begin with," he responded. "I think the minute you guys stop making a big deal about it, everybody else will as well."

Bowles's answer is reminiscent of what actor Morgan Freeman said back in 2005 when he challenged CBS's Mike Wallace over Black History Month, contending that he didn't want it. Freeman's argument was that black history was American history. When Wallace pressed regarding how to improve race relations, Freeman answered flatly, "Stop talking about it."

Clearly, white woke leftists haven't gotten the message. That's ironic given the fact that they continually assert that white Americans need to listen to blacks and other minorities. Why, then, has the Left not listened to a growing number of black Americans who reject the woke racist narrative?

According to another black American, sports and cultural commentator Jason Whitlock, it's because the radical Left's agenda is fundamentally anti-American. Whitlock observes: "America was founded on biblical principles. [Leftists are] hostile to God. They want to end this biblical experiment called America and they're using race to do it." When the first thing one notices about another person is his race rather than their shared humanity, divisions grow.

Racism is not America's biggest problem, nor has it been for half a century. We need to follow the advice of both Bowles and Freeman and stop talking about it. In turn, we need to remind ourselves what it means to be Americans, which is not the woke credo "diversity, inclusion, and equity," but rather "e pluribus unum" — "out of many, one." Then, individual Americans will be better able to claim the other great founding principles found in the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## Americans Agree: MSM a 'Major Threat' to Democracy

Emma Griffin, The Patriot Post, October 21, 2022

This rare bipartisan agreement holds hope for Americans being able to talk to one another again.

In an interesting poll put out by The New York Times/Siena, the respondents were asked if they thought democracy was under threat and, if so, what was the biggest threat. Ironically enough, right, left, and center all agree that the mainstream media is the biggest threat to democracy.

Fifty-nine percent of respondents believe that the mainstream media is a major threat and 25% think it's a minor threat. This is not hard to imagine. If you're a conservative, your distrust of the mainstream media is grounded in its decades-long descent into lying and colluding with Democrat politicians. Then there's Crossfire Hurricane and the Steele dossier that no one in the mainstream media even questioned but rather peddled as incontrovertible truth, solely to gain ratings by damaging Donald Trump.

Another perfect example of the media feeding the country a narrative instead of the unvarnished truth would be the George Floyd riots, also known as the Summer of Rage. Candace Owens, in her documentary "The Greatest Lie Ever Sold," calls out the media for feeding the lie that allowed Black Lives Matter to extort "dollars from white America" by "using black emotion and black pain." No help was offered. No truth was told. Instead, blacks were exploited for media gain.

Leftists like those at The Washington Post believe that Republicans are distrustful of the media because "the media's insistence on the reality of what happened in 2020 is at odds with what Republicans want to believe, which then increases skepticism about the media." In other words, the Post blames former President Trump and January 6 in an argument akin to saying a rape victim had it coming because of her clothing.

As far as election integrity and the mainstream media, Trump — whose trademark is hyperbole — is perhaps overstating that the election was stolen. However, there is a healthy skepticism among Republicans who are concerned that the election rules being unilaterally changed for COVID, including increased bulk-mail balloting, affected the election results. After all, some of the critical swing states were won by Joe Biden by very slim margins — about 43,000 votes across three states decided the victor. The mainstream media has done its darnedest to distract from these concerns by pointing to J6 as the trump card.

The interesting point that this poll clearly demonstrates is that the country is tired of being fed narratives instead of being told the news in an unbiased way. The poll also asked respondents how they would solve the problem of threatened democracy. The majority, 84%, said we can fix our democracy through our laws and institutions, and 41% wanted to solve it democratically by improving laws, processes, and general systems.

As political pundit Ben Shapiro writes: "Why precisely are so many Americans worried about the state of democracy? They're worried that their political opponents will threaten the institutions they cherish. Forty-seven percent of voters declare former President Donald Trump a 'major threat to democracy,' and 39% declare President Joe Biden to be the same. But shockingly, the institution they blame most for threatening democracy is the mainstream media... Perhaps that's the biggest takeaway from all this data: that Americans don't hate each other, but they're being polarized by a media determined to divide them from one another, whipping up madness where mere concern would suffice. And what's more, Americans can feel it. All of which means that sanity may reign once again, so long as Americans reconnect with each other rather than believing everything they see on the news."

No wonder Trump rightly called the Leftmedia "the true enemy of the people."

Americans have the hope of a future with a thriving democratic republic, if only we can learn how to talk to one another and tune out the noise that is the mainstream media.

## Democrats must stop dividing our country

Star Parker, Nov 5, 2022, Bismarck Tribune

As Democrats see the likelihood of the House and the Senate shifting to Republican control, they have rolled out their biggest gun to try to minimize the damage.

Former President Barack Obama, the most popular Democrat in the country, has hit the campaign trail to try to salvage victories in close and critical races.

Obama's headline message has been about the importance of voting. Meaning, turnout is critical for Democrats, and, in particular, high turnout among Black voters.

Certainly, in Georgia, where the Senate race between incumbent Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican challenger Herschel Walker rides on a razor's edge, the Black vote is critical.

Unfortunately, despite the charisma and charm of the former president, the message he is delivering is destructive for his party and for the country.

He is pitting Americans against Americans. Blacks against whites. The wealthy against the poor.

"In your gut, you should have a sense: Who cares about you?" asks Obama.

Obama emerged onto the national scene as a young Illinois state assemblyman when he addressed the Democratic National Convention in 2004. In that speech, he captured hearts and minds by reminding the nation that we are "E Pluribus Unum. Out of Many, One ... There's not a liberal America and a conservative America ... a Black America and a White America ... There's the United States of America."

The message of that young idealist, looking to pave a path for his own political ambition, has totally disappeared now that those ambitions have been achieved.

We would like to believe the battle between the two parties is about which carries the best message for all Americans.

But this is not what the Democratic Party is marketing to voters.

Their message is that the two parties represent different groups of Americans. The question is which interest group will prevail at the expense of the other.

Democrats pitch that they represent the interests of low-income, working-class, non-white Americans and Republicans represent rich, white Americans.

Let's hope it does not resonate because it is for sure not true.

The Republican message is that limited government, respect for sanctity of life and Christian values that preserve the traditional family are beneficial for every single American of every economic and ethnic background.

But voters are hearing from our former president that these values, which capture the essence of freedom, undermine freedom.

"Who will fight for your freedom?" he asks. "Is it a bunch of Republican politicians and judges who think they should ... decide when you start a family or how many children you have, who you marry or who you love."

In 2019, 38% of all abortions were Black babies. In Georgia, it was 65%.

How much longer will Black Americans buy these horrible lies that are destroying their own lives and legacies?

Freedom is about parents controlling where their children go to school and what they learn. This Democrats oppose.

Freedom is about limiting government so the economy grows at a healthy pace, inflation-free. This Democrats oppose.

And freedom is about citizens getting accurate information from their leaders.

Obama attacked Wisconsin Senate incumbent Republican Ron Johnson for telling the truth that Social Security, which affects practically every working American, is broken.

This year, the trustees of Social Security reported that by 2034, just 12 years from now, there will only be sufficient funds to pay 77% of benefits. This is called bankruptcy.

The Congressional Budget Office now forecasts that by 2052, national debt will equal 185% of our GDP.

Debt, bankruptcy and lies do not hold a promising future for any American.

Let's hope that Black Americans do turn out in record numbers and support Republicans in their efforts to deliver the united, free country that we all desperately need.

In the words of our first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln, we pray for a "new birth of freedom."

## Why the legacy media is so panicked about Elon Musk's Twitter takeover

Ben Shapiro, November 2, 2022, Bizpac Review

It has now been a week since Elon Musk took over Twitter, and the wailing and gnashing of teeth is still audible across the legacy media landscape. In one sense, that's rather shocking: Why, precisely, should members of the media be so apoplectic about a billionaire taking over a social media company from other millionaires, pledging to loosen restrictions on dissemination of speech? In another sense, the outrage is perfectly predictable: The legacy media oligopoly is now under threat.

To understand the angst of the legacy media and the Democratic Party over Musk's takeover of Twitter, it's important to understand the oligopolistic history of legacy media dominance. Until the 1990s, virtually all Americans had to rely on just a few major legacy media sources: the three networks, The New York Times, WaPo and the like. A huge number of Americans relied on local newspapers, but these newspapers in turn relied on wire services like the Associated Press, AFP, Reuters or McClatchy.

This oligopoly meant both market share and control of the narrative.

The rise of the internet changed everything.

After Drudge Report broke former President Bill Clinton's Monica Lewinsky scandal, the nature of the media changed entirely. There had been hints of a brewing dissent in the works — talk radio, the rise of Fox News. But the internet shattered legacy media dominance entirely. People began diversifying their news diets en masse. The legacy media were suddenly being called out and fact-checked by outlets that people actually read.

In the early stages of the new media, people accessed their favorite websites directly. They bookmarked these sites, and they clicked on them each morning.

Then came major social media. Social media re-centralized the mechanisms of distribution for news. Instead of bookmarking 10 websites, for example, people followed 10 accounts on Twitter, or added them to their Facebook newsfeeds. This was highly convenient — and it was good for a lot of nonmainstream news outlets, who suddenly had access to billions of eyeballs. A thousand flowers bloomed.

And, for a time, there was stasis: Because Democrats maintained political control, these social media sites were praised for their free speech principles, and clever use of these services — a la the Obama campaign in 2012 — was considered good and worthy.

When former President Donald Trump was elected in 2016, however, legacy media outlets and the Democratic Party panicked. They thought they had forged an unbeatable electoral coalition; there was simply no way Hillary could have lost legitimately. Someone had to be blamed. The answer was obvious: right-wing "misinformation" and "disinformation," spread by social media, was the culprit.

The legacy media and their Democratic friends now began to blame Facebook and Twitter. Pressure was put on the social media sites to stop acting as free platforms for dissemination of a broad variety of views; instead, the social media platforms — which had monopolized news traffic — could be used to reestablish Left-wing legacy media oligopoly. Pressure even came from the Department of Homeland Security, as The Intercept reported this week: DHS engaged in "an expansive effort... to influence tech platforms."

"Misinformation" would be fought by shutting off the traffic spigots on non-legacy media; legacy media would be promoted and elevated. And because virtually all news traffic to sites now came through these social media sites, the oligopoly could once more take hold.

People were banned for saying the obvious: men were not women; mass masking was not an effective solution to COVID-19 transmission; vaccine mandates were ineffective because vaccines did not stop transmission; black Americans were not being systemically targeted by law enforcement based on race. By simply claiming victimhood, the Left leveraged social media into restricting the flow of information.

This is why Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter presents such a threat.

Musk will presumably again allow a thousand flowers to bloom. And the oligopoly can't handle that, which is why they have declared all-out war on Musk.

But it won't work. Because all he has to do is say no. We can only hope that other social media bosses follow Musk's lead and find again the mission that led them to found their companies, rather than cowering in the corner at the behest of the Democratic-legacy media complex.

## A 'sure thing' election that wasn't

Cal Thomas, Nov. 19, 2022, Tampa Bay Times

When all votes are counted and if Republicans win a slim House majority (whether they win the Senate or not), they can still thwart much of the Biden administration's agenda.

If Republicans could not score their "red wave" victories predicted by many pundits — and even some Democrats — in these midterm elections, what's next for them? All the issues were on their side — inflation, high gas and food prices, an open border, underperforming schools. If they couldn't win with this gale wind at their backs, on what issues can they prevail?

Voters in Pennsylvania elected John Fetterman, a hard-core leftist who believes, in the middle of a crime wave, that a lot of violent criminals should be released from prison, or not be incarcerated at all. They apparently didn't care about his inability to speak clearly due to a stroke.

One bright spot for Republicans came in Florida. Gov. Ron DeSantis and Sen. Marco Rubio had impressive nights. Both beat their opponents by nearly 20 points. DeSantis likely boosted his presidential prospects for 2024, despite what former President Donald Trump decides (Trump is likely to announce next week that he's running again).

Credit for such powerful victories goes mainly to the massive migration of voters from other states to Florida, and its exploding Hispanic communities. Democrats had erroneously hoped that Hispanics might vote for their candidates. It was the opposite. Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, which had been reliably Democratic for decades, flipped. DeSantis is the first Republican to win Miami-Dade in 20 years.

In his victory speech Tuesday night, DeSantis electrified the crowd at his headquarters when he declared "Florida is where the woke agenda goes to die." He blamed that agenda for people leaving liberal states and coming to what he called "the promised land."

He said he kept his promises to voters when it came to COVID-19 and reopening schools and businesses. "Freedom's here to stay," he shouted to wild applause.

It could have been a speech launching a presidential campaign, which is likely to come later, depending on whether Trump's legal troubles affect his presidential prospects. DeSantis slammed "failed leadership in Washington."

Florida also demonstrated how to run an election. Florida has a "find my ballot" app that allows voters to track their ballots, like one can track a letter or package or a checked bag on an airline. The software tells voters when their ballot arrives at the counting station, when it is opened and when it is counted. This process greatly enhances election integrity and faith that the outcome is legitimate, protecting against conspiracy theories. Florida should be the model for the nation. They've come a long way from "hanging chads" in the 2000 presidential election.

When all votes are counted and if Republicans win a slim House majority (whether they win the Senate or not), they can still thwart much of the Biden administration's agenda. Will Democrats track toward the middle and embrace moderation, instead of wokeness? Will the left allow them?

The media, which is always there to support Democrats in defeat and cheer them in victory, is unlikely to change. Failure to lock up violent criminals is also likely to continue. That's because politicians whose policies have contributed to crime — such as winning Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York — are unlikely to do much to contain it since she is in denial about the problem.

People who are happy or breathing easier because of the outcome of this election now own its consequences. Inflation, high gas and food prices, and an open border are likely to continue. Republicans have a lot of work to do to change voter attitudes. Maybe another two years of suffering will do it, assuming the country survives.

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