



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 8, Issue 1

rcocc.org

January, 2023

OUR NEXT MEETING

THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY

will meet on Tuesday, January 24, 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 Club will provide light refreshments such as veggie trays, snacks, and cookies. The Club will also provide utensils, water, tea, and coffee. Members and guests can bring salads and desserts to share, if desired.

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.



Our guest speaker will be

Alma Perez Jackson

**Chairman of Engagement for the Texas Republican Party and
President of the Juan Seguin Society**

She will speak about why we should support the Republican Party, giving reasons for the claim that we are the better party for Texas and America and how to engage others in the effort to bring them into our party to grow our numbers.

We are the Party of Opportunity for more productive and successful lives for everyone.

Please join us for this timely and informative talk.

For more information on Ms. Jackson, see page 4.



A Message from our Club President

To all, a Happy New Year!!! Welcome back to the Republican Club of Comal County 2023! Let us go forward this year with enthusiasm and vigor to promote the Republican Party agendas and ideals, supporting and electing leaders to enhance the party platform. Our current tyrannical administration must be held accountable for the undoing within our country, i.e., uncontrollable spending, hate, discontent, defunding law and order, high inflation, and open borders. The constitution and our forefathers set the nation up to promote democracy, not tyranny. Your votes can change the uneasy path we are on, with God's help, so let's begin to look ahead to the elections in 2023 and 2024. The changes start with the grassroot efforts!!

We are the grassroots of our country.

The Newsletter and lots of other good Club information can be found at rcocc.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 2023 election strategy. Contact our Membership Chairman, Secretary, Cindi Montgomery, at 214-908-7212, to become a Patron member or for more information. Patrons receive a special personalized Texas flag name tag.

Our Officers for 2023

President	Al Highfield
Vice President	Marty Hiles
Secretary	Kathy Phillips
Treasurer	Patrick Seiler
Past President	Mary Wohl
County Chair	Sue Piner

Committee Chairs

Membership	Cindi Montgomery
Legislative Affairs	Don Johnson
Campaign Activities	Susan Walker
Hospitality	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
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	Cindi Montgomery
Precinct Whip	Joe Carroll
Web Master	Audrey Johnson Scheper
Sergeant-at-Arms	Marty Hiles



Pictured above, our 2023 officers being sworn in by the Honorable Scott Haag, Comal County Commissioner for Precinct 2.
 From left to right, Commissioner Haag, President Albert Highfield, Vice President Marty Hiles, Secretary Kathy Phillips, and Treasurer Patrick Seiler.

Alma Perez Jackson

- ◆ Bexar County Precinct Chairman 1987-2016 (29 years)
- ◆ Election Judge in Bexar County for 10+ years
- ◆ Chairwoman, Bexar County Republican Party Precinct Organization Committee.
- ◆ Tasked with recruiting Bexar County precinct chairmen to fill vacant precinct chair positions, organizing training, and encouraging precinct chairmen to be more active in their precincts.
- ◆ Identify leadership within Precinct Chairmen and getting them together to work to grow our Republican party and to elect more Republicans.
- ◆ Worked with people on the south, east, and west sides of San Antonio to gain the trust of citizens in those areas, encouraging them to vote for Republican candidates and support the Republican Party Platform.
- ◆ Honored with the Republican Party of Texas Volunteer of Year Award for 2013.
- ◆ Taught Naturalization (Civics) classes to legal immigrants (green card required).
- ◆ Stressed during the US political structure portion of the course that their culture and the Republican Party's core principals have strong similarities. Some examples of this are our beliefs in personal responsibility, our belief in God, and our belief that honest hard work are big factors toward being a successful American citizens.
- ◆ Elected Vice Chairman, Texas Republican Party June 2018 – July 2020.
- ◆ Currently serving as Chairman of Engagement for the Texas Republican Party since September, 2018.
- ◆ Currently President of the Juan Seguin Society, an organization created to reach and prepare Hispanics for Civic Engagement, since March 2021.

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.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES FOR 2023

There are two Comal County election cycles in 2023, in May and November.

The May 2023 election includes New Braunfels Mayor, NB City Council District 5, NB City

Council District 6, NBISD Trustees for Districts 2 & 4, and CISD Districts 3 & 4 and at-large.

CISD may also place a Bond Issue(s) on the Ballot.

The November 2023 election will be for Constitutional Amendments.

MAY 6, 2023, Election Dates

January 1, 2023 - First Day to Request Ballot By Mail (BBM) or FPCA

January 18, 2023 - First Day to File for a Place on the Ballot

February 17, 2023 - Last Day to File

April 6, 2023 - Last Day to Register to Vote in May Election

April 24, 2023 - First Day of Early Voting

April 25, 2023 - Last Day to Receive a Request for BBM

May 2, 2023 - Last Day of Early Voting

May 6, 2023 - Election Day

NOVEMBER 7, 2023, Election Dates

October 10, 2023 - Last Day to Register to Vote in the November Election

October 23, 2023 - First Day of Early Voting

October 27, 2023 - Last Day to Receive a BBM Request

November 3, 2023 - Last Day of Early Voting

November 7, 2023 - Election Day

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.

The Age of the Absurd

Dennis Prager, The Patriot Post, May 3, 2022

Share these 11 absurdities with friends and relatives, especially with those who actually think they make sense.

The West has gone through many eras — the so-called Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the Age of Reason, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Age and the Post-Modern. The present era is the Age of the Absurd.

In terms of the absurdities the cultural elites believe, and have convinced masses of people to believe, there has never been a time like today.

Here is a list of the most ridiculous that immediately come to mind.

No. 1: Men give birth.

Heading the list has to be the radical redefinition — indeed, denial of — sex and gender, leading to such reality-defying statements as "men give birth," "men menstruate," "birthing person" instead of "mother," and to the Disney theme parks no longer greeting visitors as "ladies and gentlemen" or "boys and girls."

No. 2: It is fair to allow biological men to compete in women's sports.

We are supposed to believe that biological men do not have an innate physical advantage in competing against women. This is asserted as truth by every Ivy League university, virtually every other university, most high schools and by virtually all the elite media.

No. 3: Defund police and crime will decrease.

We are supposed to believe that with fewer police we will have less violent crime. Any 10-year-old recognizes the sentiment as absurd.

No. 4: Racial segregation is antiracist. Opposition to racial segregation is racist.

Columbia University and many other universities have all-black dormitories and all-black graduations. They maintain that race-based segregation is not racist. Opposition to it is.

No. 5: "Latinx."

Because human sexuality is "not binary," languages with gendered nouns must be neutered, leading to labeling Latinos "Latinx." That virtually no one from or living in Latin America uses this absurd word does not faze the New York Times or your local university.

No. 6: Your race matters.

One of the least important aspects of human beings is the color of their skin. It is no more important than the color of their shoes.

Its insignificance is easily demonstrated. If you know the color of a person's skin, do you know anything about the person? The answer, of course, is, no. If I know your race, I know nothing else about you. And if I think I can determine anything about you on the basis of your race, I am a racist.

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No. 7: Diversity is strength — and the happiest countries in the world are Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

It is an axiom of the woke, the home of the absurd, that "diversity is our greatest strength." Yet, The New York Times, the leading media voice of the Age of the Absurd, featured an opinion piece about the happiest countries in the world. The second paragraph began, "Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland led the 2018 ranking of the World Happiness Report."

Not once did the Times or the writer note that the four "happiest" countries in the world are not at all diverse. In fact, they are among the least diverse countries in the Western world. They are almost entirely white, almost entirely Protestant Christian (or from a Protestant Christian background) and all their citizens speak the same language. America, on the other hand, is by far the most radical experiment in racial, religious, and ethnic diversity.

No. 8: Free speech does not allow for hate speech.

"I'm for free speech, but not for hate speech" is the view of almost half of America's young people and virtually all its elites. So widespread is belief in the absurd that these people do not understand that the statement is self-contradictory. It renders the words "free speech" meaningless. By definition, free speech allows for hate speech. If it doesn't, "free speech" means nothing more than speech with which one agrees.

No. 9: You're not a human being until you're born.

There is no need to believe in God or in any religion to understand the absurdity of this assertion. If we are not human beings until birth, what are we five minutes — or five months — prior to birth, when we have a heartbeat and brain waves? Nonhuman?

No. 10: Capitalism is evil.

Abject poverty has been the norm for nearly all people throughout history. Yet, in the last century alone, billions of people have been lifted out of poverty. And there is only one reason: capitalism.

No. 11: America is systemically racist.

The manifest absurdity of this claim is easily demonstrated. In the past decades, more than three million black people have immigrated to America from Africa and the Caribbean. And probably tens of millions more would like to. Are all these people fools — choosing to move to a systemically racist country? Are they ignorant — unaware that America is systemically racist?

The non-absurd know the answers: all these blacks are neither fools nor ignorant. They know how lucky they are to move to America — because this country is so tolerant and so overwhelmingly non-racist. People don't move to countries that hate them. No Jews moved to Germany in the 1930s.

We live in the Age of the Absurd. The only question is, why? I think I know the answer and will discuss it in a future column. In the meantime, share these 11 absurdities with friends and relatives, especially with those who actually think they make sense.

'Same-Sex Marriage' Is Not Marriage

Matt D'Antuono, National Catholic Register, December 21, 2022

Confusion of language is confusion of thought. We cannot take two different things and call them both 'marriage.'

There are a few famous paradoxes from the pre-Socratic philosopher Zeno of Elea which try to prove that motion is not possible. He was a disciple of Parmenides, who taught that all change is an illusion and that true reality is the unchanging One.

One of the paradoxes begins with the statement that it is impossible to complete infinity. This seems to be true. If a road is infinitely long, one can never reach the end of it. The next premise states that there is an infinite number of points between any two locations. In other words, if you try to walk from your chair to the door, you must pass through an infinite number of points. The conclusion: it is impossible to move between any two points because that would be to complete the infinity of points between those two locations.

When I explain this paradox to my students, I conclude that, as a result, they will never be able to leave the classroom because there is an infinite number of points between them and the door.

Confused looks pervade most of the room, but a few of them grow an expression of fear and dismay.

I then try it out. I stand in the middle of the room and walk, slowly and dramatically, to the door. I made it!

According to Zeno and Parmenides, though, it was only an illusion. This is not very satisfying to the students. Something must be wrong with the argument, but what?

Aristotle comes to the rescue (as he so often does in Ancient Greek philosophy). The solution is simple: there are two different senses of the word infinity: infinity of extent and infinity of division. There is the kind of infinity that goes on forever, and there is the kind of infinity where a finite thing can be divided up forever. It is only the first kind which cannot be completed.

Zeno's argument commits the fallacy of equivocation, a fallacy which takes advantage of two different senses of the same word.

Peter Kreeft gives the following example by combining two famous quotes in his book *Socratic Logic*:

Knowledge is power (Francis Bacon).

Power tends to corrupt (Lord Acton).

Therefore, knowledge tends to corrupt.

The word power has more than one sense. Bacon is talking about technological and scientific knowledge. Lord Acton is talking about political power. Equivocation creates confusion.

Language is how we manifest our thoughts to ourselves and each other. Concepts are communicated via words. Our thoughts and communication can only be as clear as our definitions and our words. Confusion of language is confusion of thought. Equivocation, purposeful or not, creates confusion.

When there are two distinct things, there should be a difference of terms or at least a recognition that there are two senses to the word. Each sense refers to a different thing, as in the case of infinity and power.

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A marriage between a man and a woman has a kind of potentiality, by its nature, that a union between two men or two women does not. When a man and woman join in sexual union, the nature of things is such that new life is produced. It is not in the nature of a union between two people of the same sex to create new life. There may be some common characteristics, but that does not mean that those two unions are the same thing. There is a kind of power that one union has that the other does not. By their very natures, they are not the same.

Therefore, it is unjust for a government to purposefully and artificially manipulate language by taking two different things and calling them both by the same name: marriage.

In the novel 1984 by George Orwell, language is controlled by the government to control the thoughts of its citizens. A new dictionary is created so that it will become impossible even to think what is contrary to policy. Big Brother is watching.

In our own day, Big Tech is watching, too.

We can see the tyranny in 1984 because we are not in the novel. Orwell is showing us what tyranny looks like, and he wants us to see it. And here is one aspect: thought control through language. As we read the novel, the injustice is clear, and that novel should help us to see it clearly now.

I want to close with a note. I once had a conversation with a group of friends where I explained the argument used here about the nature of things and the careful use of language to conclude that we should not use the same word for unions between a man and a woman and unions of the same sex. Almost immediately, I was accused of assuming the truth of my religion and arguing from a standpoint of bigotry. I asked when, in my reasoning, I had appealed to God or religion, and they could not answer. They were employing the red herring of my religious convictions against a conclusion for which I had not even mentioned or implied religion. Only common sense is needed: language matters, and language should reflect the reality of things.

Ron DeSantis and the New Republican Party
Rich Lowry, The Patriot Post, March 18, 2022

What feels new is the zest for combat on cultural issues, as well as a willingness to bring to bear public power to the fight where possible.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had another moment that lit up the right, this time pushing back against Disney's critique of the so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill.

In his statement, DeSantis was absolutely stalwart, saying that the chances are "zero" that he's going to back away from his support for the law. And he didn't hesitate to go on offense against Disney. He said it had made a fortune off being family-friendly so should understand that families don't want inappropriate material injected into the curriculum at schools and smacked the company for making money in China without denouncing the brutal practices of the Chinese Communist Party.

DeSantis had been equally forthright a few days earlier, contesting the dishonest "Don't Say Gay" characterization by a reporter at a news conference. "It's why people don't trust people like you," the governor said, "because you peddle fake narratives, and so we disabuse you of those narratives."

This is the voice of the new Republican Party.

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Which is not to say that the party wasn't socially conservative before (George W. Bush ran against gay marriage in 2004), or that it didn't criticize the media (one of George H.W. Bush's best moments in 1988 was slamming Dan Rather during a live interview). But there's a new combativeness that is clearly a reflection of how Trump underlined the power of cultural issues and changed the rules around how you deal with controversy — by doubling down and hitting back harder.

Perhaps DeSantis would be just as inclined to rumble if Donald Trump had never emerged — Chris Christie, for instance, had considerable success with a "bring it on" attitude toward criticisms during his governorship.

What feels new, though, is the zest for combat on cultural issues, as well as a willingness to bring to bear public power to the fight where possible (government has every right to control what is and isn't taught in government schools).

There's also a complete intolerance for playing along with false media narratives.

And, lastly, there's zero hesitation to stand up to corporations siding with the left in policy disputes. It seemed several years ago in the debates over religious-freedom restoration acts at the state level that corporations held the whip hand over state officials. Not anymore. Not after Republicans have learned that the appropriate response to such pressure is, "No. Hell, no."

If this new approach draws on Trump, it should vitiate one of the arguments long made for Trump: "At least he fights." Now, the party is full of people who want to fight in a broadly similar fashion — however, with important differences from Trump.

In the "Don't Say Gay" controversy, DeSantis isn't relitigating what happened in the last election; he is freshly litigating a defense against a cutting-edge progressive cause.

He isn't defending the indefensible; he's defending the eminently defensible, in fact the unfairly maligned.

He isn't dragging anyone through a fight occasioned by his personal failings or dubious practices; he's standing up for a well-considered conservative initiative.

And he isn't jousting with reporters who know more about the contested topic than he does; no, on this and pretty much everything else, he knows more than any of his antagonists.

So, DeSantis opens up a vista offering an important element of Trumpism without the baggage or selfishness of Trump.

The same can be said of Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton. He gave a speech the other day at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library that thoughtfully integrated Trumpian populist themes with traditional GOP thinking.

Here is another vista, of a policy vision with a strong element of Trumpism that might have broad appeal to GOP voters of all stripes without the distracting obsessions of the former president.

This gets at what could be one of the most persuasive arguments to Republican voters for Trump not running again — not that he needs to go away so the old party can be restored, but that he's unnecessary because a new party has emerged.

Biden's Rainbow Moment

Nate Jackson, The Patriot Post, December 14, 2022

While proclaiming "unity" and a victory for "love" against "hate," the president sided with the most hateful people in America.

"I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide, but to unify," Joe Biden said in his "unifying" inaugural address. He even pointed to Scripture in a nod to his supposed Catholic faith: "The Bible tells us that to everything there is a season — a time to build, a time to reap, a time to sow, and a time to heal. This is the time to heal in America."

Well, on Tuesday, he trashed both the Bible and unity by signing the (Dis)Respect for Marriage Act and then lighting up the White House in rainbow colors. The God Biden claims to believe in established marriage when He created Adam and Eve. (He also created the rainbow for an entirely different purpose, but that's another story.) Yet just like Biden disregards the sanctity of life, he couldn't care less about the Creator's definition of marriage, or about the religious liberty of those who object to being forced to affirm its redefinition. Some Catholic.

Politically, Biden has done nothing but violate his pledge to unify Americans. In fact, his record of division is appalling. He added to that disgraceful pattern yesterday by celebrating the signing of this law while surrounding himself with hundreds of Rainbow Mafia activists, including drag queens. Those individuals have nothing to do with marriage but are there to generate enthusiasm on his side and to provoke the other side to anger.

Marti G. Cummings, one of Biden's invited drag queens, has an incredibly sordid history, including grooming young children. Cummings is a metaphor for the entire movement of gender-confused people, who desperately hope to fill the nagging hole in their own souls by recruiting others to join their cause.

The president defended the groomers. We don't just need this marriage law, he insisted, "We need to challenge the hundreds of callous and cynical laws introduced in the states targeting transgender children, terrifying families, and criminalizing doctors who give children the care they need." Just who is "targeting" children with this stuff? Could it be the people immensely profiting from a whole new industry of "sex change" therapy and surgery?

Generally speaking, Biden couldn't have been more oblivious. "Today is a good day," he said. "A day America takes a vital step toward equality, for liberty and justice, not just for some, but for everyone. Toward creating a nation where decency, dignity, and love are recognized, honored, and protected."

Ahem, decency? Dignity? Did he take a look at those drag queens?

On that subject, it's worth noting that Biden's flamboyant cross-dressing nonbinary nuclear official was just fired for repeated incidents of theft. Maybe diversity hires aren't always the best idea.

To be sure, we're now in a minority. A number of Republicans voted for the new marriage law because public opinion on the issue has completely flipped over the last decade or so. That's because Democrats shifted their branding from only civil rights and equality, which gave a whiff of stealing valor, as it were, from blacks who fought for civil rights based on their actual identity and not their behavior. Additionally and primarily, Democrats adopted the "love wins" canard, as if anytime two people love each other, they ought to be able to slap a marriage label on it. They claimed discrimination whenever people didn't agree.

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By the way, we suspect Clarence Thomas's marriage to Ginni, who is white, is what led to an extra tweak in this legislation — protecting interracial marriage. Democrats cast as wide a net as they could.

In some ways, we suppose we should commend Congress for actually passing legislation on something rather than leaving it to the courts or the president. Too bad it's this issue. Marriage became critical for Democrats when Clarence Thomas, in helping to overturn Roe, indicated that the Court also "should reconsider" Obergefell, which legalized same-sex marriage federally.

It is true that if overturning Obergefell meant some number of marriages were no longer legal, it would lead to serious chaos and civil upheaval. In any case, the marriage horse is now out of the barn, but that doesn't mean we can't lament the fact or that Congress put religious objectors in legal jeopardy.

Leftists have long relied on the courts to enact things they couldn't pass legislatively, unconstitutionally passing the buck to the wrong branch of government. Barack Obama and Joe Biden — and, to be fair, Donald Trump — greatly expanded that practice to executive orders.

Congress is the preeminent branch of government and should not be abdicating its authority and power to the other branches. So, an unenthusiastic half-cheer for at least getting that part right.

Finally, back to the subject of love and hate, Biden asserted, "This law and the love it defends strike a blow against hate in all its forms." The truth is the most hateful people in this country right now are the Rainbow Mafia thugs who silence anyone who holds a millennia-old biblically based view of marriage and sexuality. That more people don't see that clearly is one of the great deceptions of our time.



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How Do We Get Our Nation Back on Track?

Star Parker, The Patriot Post, December 21, 2022

"It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring to popular government."

Some thoughts about our country as Christmas and the new year approach.

In his Farewell Address to the nation in 1796, America's departing first president, George Washington, observed: "It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring to popular government."

And what is the basis upon which we define morality?

Washington answers, "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Per our first president, for a democracy to function properly, it must be guided by moral principles. And the guidelines and rules by which we define what is moral are framed by principles of the Bible.

This is not exactly what we have going on today.

Rather than our democracy following prior moral principles, our moral principles now are defined by our democracy. What we deem to be moral — good and evil, right and wrong — now arrives to us not from heaven but from Hollywood.

Consider how, over the last 20 years, our idea of what is morally acceptable has changed.

Twenty-two years ago, in 2001, per Gallup polling, the following percentages of Americans viewed these activities as "morally acceptable": gay/lesbian relations: 40%; birth to unwed mother: 45%; polygamy: 7%; suicide: 13%; pornography: 30%.

In the latest survey in 2022, following are the percentages calling these same activities "morally acceptable": gay/lesbian relations: 71%; birth to unwed mother: 70%; polygamy: 23%; suicide: 22%; pornography: 41%.

What exactly happened over 22 years that, on average, the percentage saying each morally sensitive area is morally acceptable has more than doubled?

One thing that has happened is that the percentage of Americans that think the Bible is relevant to their life has dramatically dropped.

Per Gallup, the percentage saying that religion is "very important" in their life has dropped from 70% in 1965 to 49% in 2021.

The percentage saying they attended church in the last seven days has dropped from 49% in 1960 to 29% in 2021.

Certainly contributing to this is a long series of court decisions in which interpretations of the First Amendment have been more about purging religion from our public spaces than about protecting religious liberty.

The 1962 decision banning prayer in public schools was just the opening salvo producing our reality today in which traditional values and morality are gone from the instruction our children receive in public schools. Those values have been replaced by the secular humanism of the far left.

It is very popular to think about public policy in terms of the social agenda and the economic agenda, as if these are two separate worlds. But they're not. As religion declines, government grows.

Perhaps George Washington's point that a moral and virtuous culture enables popular government can be best understood in that a free society cannot function when individuals cannot govern themselves through personal responsibility.

Tens of trillions have been spent on anti-poverty programs with practically zero impact. Substantial research shows that what really combats recurring poverty is the so-called "success sequence." Those who finish high school, do not have children before marriage, and work, overwhelmingly move out of poverty.

Government and politics have become our new religion, despite their dismal track record of success in improving the human condition.

The Penn Wharton Budget model, an economic research group at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, projects now that by 2050, our national debt will be 225% of our GDP.

A national culture increasingly rooted in falsehoods is spending itself into oblivion and bankruptcy.

How about we Americans who still pray direct our prayers that in the upcoming year we see a revival of truth in our nation? Let's pray that all our citizens see that the only path to freedom is each embracing eternal truths that enable all of us to successfully govern our own lives.

Who's REALLY Behind the Border Crisis?

Lewis Morris, The Patriot Post, December 16, 2022

A Heritage Foundation investigation reveals a stunning degree of U.S. governmental coordination in transporting illegal immigrants to all parts of the country.

As we noted Wednesday in our report on the Tillis-Sinema immigration bill, President Joe Biden and the Left are deliberately deconstructing America's borders to flood the country with illegal immigrants. This massive influx of people gives Democrats a reason to call for an expansion of entitlement services to support the new arrivals, thus growing the size and power of the federal government. These new arrivals can then be converted to loyal Democrat voters who will support even bigger government.

And, of course, it also gives the Left a fresh crop of folks to brainwash into supporting its anti-American agenda.

Biden, from his first day in office, has systematically rolled back funding for border security, reduced the number of agents on the ground, canceled building the border wall, and sought to strike down the rules put in place to protect our borders and the American people.

With the release of a report by The Heritage Foundation's Oversight Project, new evidence has emerged to prove the complicity of non-governmental organizations in the facilitation of Biden's border crisis. The report reveals data tracking the movements of massive numbers of illegal immigrants to NGO facilities along the border and subsequently into the interior of the United States.

This information was obtained through an investigation that tracked approximately 30,000 unique and anonymous mobile devices that were geofenced to 20 NGO locations along the border. (Geofencing is the use of a GPS or radio frequency ID to define a virtual geographic perimeter and trigger an alert when a mobile device enters or leaves that perimeter.) The locations were chosen based on human source information indicating that they may be involved in helping illegal immigrants travel from the border to the various points inside the country.

During this past January, the investigation tracked 22,000 unique mobile devices at these NGO locations. These devices were later traced nationwide to 431 of the nation's 435 congressional districts.

In a separate phase of the investigation, another 13 NGO facilities near the border were geofenced. More than 5,000 unique mobile devices were identified as being at these facilities and were later traced to 434 congressional districts.

The Heritage investigation revealed that several NGOs are accepting overflow from Customs and Border Protection stations and assisting illegals in traveling to various far-flung parts of the country. This mass resettlement not only makes a mockery of our nation's immigration laws but it also aids and abets human trafficking, sharply increases the amount of deadly fentanyl coming across the border, and allows untold numbers of terrorists, criminals, and foreign agents to infiltrate the entire U.S.

It's time to make the public more aware of this intentional invasion and put an end to Joe Biden's willful border catastrophe.

Biden Apologizes to Slave Sellers

Nate Jackson, The Patriot Post, December 16, 2022

America's "original sin," the president told African heads of state, was slavery. He didn't mention who rounded up those slaves.

Slavery is an abomination that has existed for basically all of human history. It was not unique to America by any stretch of the imagination, though our nation is still dealing with the ramifications of the racial basis for it. That now includes Joe "Unity" Biden apologizing to African leaders for American slavery.

"We remember the stolen men and women and children were brought to our shores in chains," Biden said in his White House summit with African leaders this week. "My nation's original sin was that period." He's so sorry for the "unimaginable cruelty," in fact, that he's promising \$55 billion in taxpayer money for the African continent's fight against climate change. He also pledged to visit sub-Saharan Africa next year.

Clearly, Biden has been reading too much of the 1619 Project. Since Biden is logically begging the question, we'll ask a few questions.

How can slavery be America's "original sin" if we weren't the first people to engage in it?

Does Biden's apology cover only white Americans, or also the Indigenous People Democrats love to celebrate instead of Christopher Columbus?

Why didn't Biden's apology mention that his party bears a lot of blame for slavery? Why didn't he thank Republicans for being the original party of abolition?

Who stole the African men and women and children who were sold to European slave traders? Oh, that's right — the Africans to whom Biden is offering an apology. In fact, Africans made a great deal of money by attacking other African tribes, enslaving the conquered, and selling them to Europeans.

Closer to home for Biden, the ancestors of Kamala Harris were profiteering slave traders. Maybe Biden should apologize for choosing her as his vice president.

Not long ago, CNN's Don Lemon tried to push for reparations, and British royal commentator Hilary Fordwich smacked him down: "Where was the beginning of the [slave] supply chain? That was in Africa," she said. "Which was the first nation in the world that abolished slavery? ... The British. If reparations need to be paid, we need to go right back to the beginning of that supply chain and say, 'Who was rounding up their own people and having them handcuffed in cages?'"

Reparations and apologies alike run into this fundamental problem.

Biden isn't the first president to trod this ground. In 2013, Barack Obama began a trip to Africa with a stop at a slave port. Given his personal African roots, we don't take issue with the fact of the trip. We have a problem with the way he and other Democrats constantly run down America as uniquely awful for its history of slavery and racism. Indeed, Obama used that trip to play up his racial connection with slaves rather than enslavers.

Such pandering for votes is why Democrats donned African Kente cloth while they kneeled in protest of George Floyd's death. Unfortunately for them, it was the garb of the Ashanti tribe — a tribe that was known for owning and trading slaves. Even the Leftmedia "fact-checkers" confirmed that insensitive faux pas. Oops!

That brings us to the continuing modern-day African slave trade. Not only did Biden nonsensically apologize to the descendants of slave traders, he groveled before a continent that still enslaves more than nine million people.

American history is full of regrettable and awful things, slavery prominent among them. For the last half century at least, however, we can add the more than 60 million lives snuffed out in the womb, and that's something Biden and his party continue to zealously advocate. That they have the anti-American nerve to run around still apologizing for something Americans ended 157 years ago — and to do so to countries where that thing is still happening today — is disgraceful.

Is it too much to ask that we have a president who actually loves America?

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- Bill Maher

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