



# 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 11, Issue 4

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

April, 2026

### OUR NEXT MEETING

#### THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY

will meet on Tuesday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. (*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 desserts. 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, Leigh Ann Rowlands, at 989-708-6652 or at [LeighAnn.Rowlands@gmail.com](mailto:LeighAnn.Rowlands@gmail.com).



The speaker for our April meeting will be

**Carolyn Besselman,**

the precinct chair for Comal County Precinct 409.

She will talk about bogus sample ballots, three things that Republicans should be doing now, and three things that we should NOT be doing.

Please join us for this timely and informative talk.

See more information about her on page 3.

### A Message From Our President

Dear RCCC Members,

Early voting has begun for the Comal County municipal elections – New Braunfels mayor and city council districts 5 and district 6. Garden Ridge will also be electing city councilmembers for place 1, 4, and 5.

Selma is electing its mayor and councilmembers for places 2 and 3. This is a smaller election, so only three polling places will be available during early voting. The Comal County elections office (396 N. Seguine Ave), the Comal County offices, Church Hill Annex (1345 Church Hill Dr.) and the Garden Ridge City Hall (9400 Municipal Pkwy) will be open April 22-24 from 8am-5pm; on April 25 from 10am-6pm and on April 27-28 from 7am-7pm.

On Saturday, May 2 (“Election Day”) there will be seven locations open: New Braunfels City Hall (550 Landa St), Garden Ridge City Hall (9400 Municipal Pkwy), Westside Public Library (2932 S IH 35), New Braunfels Library (700 E Common St), Eden Hill Town Hall (631 Lakeview Blvd) and Gruene Methodist Church (2629 E. Common Street).

To help get-out-the-vote, the Republican Club of Comal County and the New Braunfels Conservatives co-hosted a debate for the New Braunfels municipal candidates on April 7 at Columbus Hall. It was a huge success, with over 200 residents attending! All candidates participated (mayoral -Neil Lennartz, Angela Allen, and Michael French; city council district 5 – Mary Ann Lebowsky and Chase Taylor; and district 6 – April Ryan, Nikki Shaw and Steven Voges.) Questions ranged from growth/water to budget matters, accountability and transparency.

We hope that you will make sure to go vote – small elections mean that each vote is just that much more impactful. We also look forward to seeing you at our next meeting (Tuesday April 28), which will feature Carolyn Besselman, with a timely message about what we can do to make the November elections a success. We will also have an address by Tom Smith, a candidate for Place 3 on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

**Keep Texas Red!**

President Leigh Ann Rowlands

### OUR PATRON PROGRAM

The Republican Club of Comal County is thankful for those who have contributed to our Club through the Patron Program during 2025.

Patrons donate \$100 per year per person to help us finance our election strategy.

Susan Allick	Steve Gallets	W. Lindy Menefee	Patrick Seiler
Jan Brewer	Lori Granados	Mike Mikell	Joy Streater
John Brewer	Scott Haag	Cindi Montgomery	Christopher Suchil
Hoss Boyd	Albert Highfield	Charlie Motz	Teri Taylor
Geneva Boyd	Vicki Highfield	Jeffrey Narvaiz	Jennifer Tharp
Tracy Byrne	Marty Hiles	Naomi Narvaiz	Patty Kirk-Trimble
Joe Carroll	Pat Hingst	John O’Brien	Anita Valdez
Suzi Casey	Patricia Kettler	Sandy O’Brien	John Walker
Ruth Chambers	Susie LeCanu	Austinn Pruneda	Susan Walker
Bill Cooley	Kerry Ledford	Shane Rapp	John Young
Tom Ferguson	Donna Lee	Leigh Ann Rowlands	Diane Young
Nancy Ferguson	Doug Leacock	Craig Rowlands	Jason Young
Bill Foote	Al Malmsten	Maria Seiler	

Contact our Membership Chairman, Robbie Borchers, at 830-708-0572, to become a Patron member or for more information.

Patrons receive a special personalized Texas flag name tag.

## Carolyn Besselman

Carolyn grew up in Houston. She attended North Texas State and University of Houston. She earned a teaching degree in Speech and Language Therapy and an all-level teaching degree while also working as a studio back-up singer for country artists and doing jingles for a popular radio station in Houston. Since retiring and moving to the Canyon Lake area, she has been involved in nearly every aspect of the community by volunteering at the community food bank, becoming a surrogate parent at New Life Children's Center, and serving as a director for her HOA Board for 4 years. She has always been interested in political endeavors, so she decided to join Canyon Lake Republican Women in 2013. She has served as Recording Secretary, VP of Fundraising, Legislative Chair, Leadership Chair and President. She is a past Election Judge as well as past President of the Greater San Antonio Council of Texas Federation of Republican Women and District Director of Senate District 25.

Carolyn is currently a Deputy Registrar and the Precinct Chair of Precinct 409. She has worked on many campaigns, participated in several block walking events over the years and done phone banking for the Trump campaign.

Carolyn is passionate about keeping Texas a strong, Conservative, Red state and the nation a place where her 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild can grow up thriving and embrace conservative values.

### Our Officers for 2026

President	Leigh Ann Rowlands
Vice President	Donna Lee
Secretary	Cindy Vernon
Treasurer	Bill Foote
Past President	Al Highfield
County Chair	Anita Valdez

### Committee Chairs

Membership	Robbie Borchers
Legislative Affairs	OJ Dona
Campaign Activities	Lori Granados
Hospitality	Kimberly Floyd
Parliamentarian	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Publicity Chair	Audrey Johnson Scheper
Facebook	<i>(Currently vacant)</i>
Newsletter Editor	Kerry Ledford
Special Events	Donna Lee
Special Projects	Ruth Chambers
Web Master	Audrey Johnson Scheper
Sergeant-at-Arms	Marty Hiles

### REPUBLICAN CLUB OF COMAL COUNTY



<p>\$25 - Individual Membership Name Tag \$13</p>
<p>\$35 - Family Membership Name Tag \$13</p>
<p><b>PATRON</b> → \$100 + Individual or Family Dues Name Tag Is Complimentary Patron Dinner</p>

## 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>	<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Name</u>
County Chair	Anita Valdez	301	(vacant)
Vice Chair	Kathy Phillips	302	Jessica Fisher
Secretary	Patty Kirk-Trimble	303	Kenneth Kasper
Treasurer	Vicky Highfield	304	Steve Ceh
Chaplain	Linda Bartle	305	Rory Hoelker
101	Richard Keisheimer	306	Zach Boyer
102	Kaci Sisk	307	(vacant)
103	(vacant)	308	Mary Lou Erben
104	Ingrid Hannah	309	Isabel Ibarra
105	Ernie Lee	401	Robbie Borchers
106	Chris Byrd	402	Nate Smith
107	Anita Valdez	403	Brent Oswald
108	Albert Highfield	404	Andrew Florence
109	Gina Conti	405	Robert Butler
110	Joanne Martin	406	Sue Piner
111	Tracy Byrne	407	Susan Walker
201	Marty Hiles	408	Chrystina Power
202	Kenna Leonie	409	Carolyn Besselman
203	James "Hoss" Boyd	410	Teri Taylor
204	(vacant)		
205	Mary Wohl		
206	Kathy Phillips		
207	John Brewer		
208	Geri Baker		
209	Martin Brown		
210	(vacant)		
211	Doug Welte		

## Iran — A Longer View

We should ignore the periodic 24-hour schizophrenia of the Left and the media,  
and instead examine the reality of the war so far.

Victor Davis Hanson, April 16, 2026, The Patriot Post

The prognosis of the Iran war is now so couched in politics and so warped by the American Left that the public has grown tired and wants it all to go away. But in truth, the situation is so fluid that any accurate prediction is impossible. Yet there is good reason to believe in an eventual outcome quite favorable to the U.S. and one far better than the status quo ante bellum.

### The Strait of Hormuz

Prior to President Donald Trump's most recent announcement that the United States would first blockade and then reopen and control traffic through the Strait, only a few ships were going through, mostly those aligned with Iran, opposed to the U.S., or neutral.

Thus, the Strait was disrupted to a far greater degree than during Iran's earlier efforts at closure during the "Tanker War" phase of the Iran-Iraq War, as well as its chronic harassment of shipping in 2018-19. And now?

If Trump quickly clears and secures control of the Strait, and if allowable traffic reaches, say, 60-70 percent of prewar levels and if the U.S. avoids a full-scale war, instead responding disproportionately to any renewed Iranian attempts to close it — then, within one to two months, oil prices will begin to taper off.

The American challenge with the war is not military but political. This time, the U.S. is not sending Marines to fight house to house in Fallujah or to scour villages on the ground in Helmand Province — losing hundreds in casualties and fighting in circumstances favorable to jihadists and terrorists.

Instead, the administration is restrained in its use of force only by concerns about the war's effects on the U.S. economy, global oil prices, domestic gas prices, the midterm elections, and the political fortunes of vulnerable Republican members of Congress.

Militarily, the U.S. has choices. The Navy can continue demining the Strait, rotate patrols of U.S. and allied warships through it, allow allied and neutral shipping to pass while blocking Iranian-bound ships, and periodically strike Iran whenever it attempts to disrupt shipping — including clearing its coasts of missiles and drones.

In other words, Trump can flip the Iranian strategy of selective entrance to the Strait, with the key difference that he has the wherewithal to carry out such a calibrated blockade, and Iran does not. World opinion will be with him, for economic reasons and, should Iran seek to stop him, for its breaking the ceasefire and thus justifying the rain of retaliatory bombs that will descend upon it.

Or if Iran restarts missile and drone attacks on U.S. military and allies in the region, the administration can warn Iran that it will lose its oil facilities on Kharg Island as well as dual-use generation plants — until it relents.

But in the long term, no one will forget Iran's third — and most egregious — effort to hijack the Strait, despite its failure to do so completely and for any sustained period.

The Gulf exporters will double down on their Red Sea and Gulf of Oman pipelines, which bypass the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi Arabia and others will explore more routes, perhaps even through Jordan to Israel and Haifa on the Mediterranean.

In the end, Iran will be left with an inert asset — if not a liability — since the U.S. can ensure that no oil flows from Kharg Island through the patrolled Strait, which the West may ultimately render irrelevant anyway. Importers will quietly begin shifting toward increased output from Venezuela, the U.S., and perhaps a soon-to-be unsanctioned Russia. Iran's attacks on 11 Muslim nations in the Middle East will not be lost on the people of the region. Many of the sheikdoms will continue to press Israel and the U.S. to ensure Iran does not rearm. A sane Gulf would not give any more money to Hamas, given its hostile and hated lunatic patron.

### Regime change

Iran lost most of its 47-year-old, multibillion-dollar investment in weapons as well as its military-industrial complex.

To rearm will cost the regime dearly — and that vast expense will be unpopular with a restive populace short of food and fuel.

It will be hard for whoever is running the country to reestablish its military arsenals and multibillion-dollar subsidies to Arab terrorists. Indeed, Iran's subsidized proxies — Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis — may be left orphaned, despised by the Iranian people, and perhaps even more hated by some of their former Gulf co-sponsors.

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The odd myth of Iranian military invulnerability is shattered. And that loss of face, too, will have consequences soon at home and abroad. The Iranian people will further grow angry that the one nationalist argument made by the Iranian mullahs — that at least its half-century, half-trillion-dollar military buildup sent shivers throughout the Middle East, terrified the West, and gave global cred to Iran — has now also imploded.

It is one thing for the people to be ruled by globally feared autocrats armed to the teeth, but quite another to be governed by humiliated, now-impotent incompetents and buffoons.

Once the Berlin Wall fell, it took weeks and sometimes months for Eastern Europeans to overthrow their communist oppressors. And it required more than two years after the wall went down for its full effects to ripple out and dissolve the Soviet Union. On that basis, then, no one should expect regime change merely days after the cessation of the war.

The West has little real idea who is currently running Iran or who or even what they represent.

All that is known is that second- or third-tier theocrats, military officers, politicians, and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps thugs are vying for power. Each cadre has likely become terrified that it will either be seen as too accommodating and attacked by the hard-liners — or that rivals will defect and cut a deal with the Iranian people to serve as transitional figures, thereby avoiding the noose. The worst of the worst know that if they are not killed by drones or missiles in any renewed hostilities, they may instead be killed by the Iranian people if and when the regime collapses.

#### Winners and losers

The eventual beneficiaries and casualties of the war will become clear over the next three or four weeks, hinging on whether the U.S. concludes that those in charge are worthless negotiators who, if Iran persists in attacks, will have to be persuaded by further force.

But on the larger map, the once anti-Western bloc — Russia's Assad regime in Syria, China's Iran satellite, and Iran's own proxies, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis — is either gone, tottering, humiliated, or increasingly isolated.

Russia's brief advantage from higher oil prices will end soon. It will remain stuck in a Somme-like quagmire in Ukraine, and its weapons corridor to and from Iran will be hard to restore to prewar levels. If Russian leader Vladimir Putin were smart, he would cut a deal with Ukraine, seek relief from sanctions on Russian oil, and then pump like crazy.

China has lost its exclusive oil concessions with Venezuela and may have forfeited a similar sweetheart deal with Iran, now or in the near future. If the regime falls, Beijing will likely be hated by any subsequent transitional government. It may instead seek to come to some arrangement with the U.S. to send its tankers through the Strait — if Iran does not provoke the U.S. and lose Kharg Island.

The display of American air power and the evolving nature of 21st-century tactics and munitions will also likely give China pause regarding Taiwan. The specter of a sea of smart mines, surface and submarine drones, and showers of airborne drones and missiles from Taiwan — combined with an allied fleet similarly equipped — cannot be reassuring to the Chinese.

China would likely face a bloodbath transporting hundreds of thousands of soldiers across 110 miles of open and contested sea. At the acme of French power in 1804-5, Napoleon was still wise enough not to press his luck transporting soldiers across the 26-mile English Channel. Hitler sat atop what is now the entire European Union by late summer 1940, but was also savvy enough not to contest the Royal Navy in the channel.

In sum, Beijing watches the once-feared Russian army mired in death and incompetence in Ukraine. In contrast, the U.S. and Israel, in a matter of days, wiped out the Iranian navy, air force, and most of its missiles and drones. The obvious conclusion is that China will be less likely to press its luck invading Taiwan.

Western Europe is a big loser. Almost all of our old Western European allies embarrassed themselves. For weeks, the U.K. lacked a single ship seaworthy enough to reach its base at Akrotiri, Cyprus, which had been targeted by the Iranians.

Had the U.S. once treated Margaret Thatcher's 1982 unilateral expeditionary flotilla to the Falklands the way Keir Starmer did the U.S. effort to disarm Iran and prevent its acquisition of long-range nuclear-tipped missiles, the Falklands would still be Argentinian. (One wonders today whether Argentina or Britain is the more open society, the more pro-U.S., and the more stable nation. And who knows whether a single British destroyer could even make it all the way to the islands today?)

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France talked tough — but has little intention of sending ships to the Strait or aiding postcolonial Lebanon to free itself from even a weakened Hezbollah. Instead, France only seems energized enough to deny the U.S. access to French airspace.

Spain was even worse. It seemed at times pro-Iranian — downgrading its Israeli embassy while reopening its Iranian one. It sent a message to the U.S. that the shared NATO bases in Spain and its airspace were worthless as far as the U.S. operations were concerned. If this is indeed true, then Spain is insignificant as an ally and has now chosen the status of a hostile neutral.

NATO may remain in name, but at least for the near future, the U.S. will likely ostracize the Spanish, be cooler toward Meloni's Italy, which refused landing rights in Sicily, be curt with Germany, which talked out of both sides of its mouth, and may more or less consider NATO de facto a largely Eastern European bilateral alliance with the U.S.

At any rate, the next time France wishes logistical and intelligence support for its doomed adventures in postcolonial Africa, or a NATO “coalition of the willing” begs the U.S. to lead a “moral” crusade to bomb the ports and communications of Libya or blow up the bridges and power grid of Belgrade, it will be politically impossible in the U.S. to assent. As for the U.K., let us hope it has no need for anything like another Falklands adventure, because next time the U.S. will likely smile and echo Prime Minister Starmer: “This is not our war... we're not going to get dragged into it!”

The Democrat-media nexus, far more so than was true of the Iraq War, was not so much hysterical as nuts. On Monday following Easter, they damned Trump as a warmongering Nazi criminal; by the next night, he was an appeasing naif, a resurrected Neville Chamberlain for 2026.

The Party's base was openly rooting for Trump and — by poorly disguised association — the U.S. to fail. As for the midterms, they traditionally hinge on the economy. While it is likely the war has impaired it for months, no one knows what its status in November will be. If there is resolution within two or three weeks, ending with an open Strait, lower oil prices, and an Iran neutered for years, then the public may feel that better times are coming at home and abroad.

Most European and Asian democracies for a half-century have had an unspoken, implicit understanding that they would not overtly alienate Iran or condemn it for its Middle East terrorism, in exchange for free passage through the Strait and exemptions from Iranian terrorist proxies. The residual policy remains. So, despite their greater dependency on Middle East oil than is true of the U.S., they until recently felt they could continue their silent understanding and finesse free passage — rather than assemble an armada of warships, help to blast through the straits, and to clean the northern shore of missiles and drones.

The U.S. can open the Strait rather easily, either by direct means, sending tactical aircraft and drones to patrol the coast, providing air cover for the fleet, demining the waters, and escorting ships through, with the proviso that if Iran attacks, it will take out Kharg Island facilities and then resume the air campaign.

Trump is not yet at that point. Given the hysteria of his political enemies, who smell a takeover of Congress in November, impeachment for Trump, trials for his family members, and the end of the Trump counterrevolution, the stakes are high. To avoid all that, he needs a booming economy based on a steady stock market, lower interest rates, and a return to historically low oil prices — but in the next seven months.

The American people also expect a “win” in Iran, defined now by the inability of Iran to close the straits, to launch missiles at U.S. and allied targets, and the surrender of fissionable nuclear material. Iran feels they can delay, harangue, barter, and passively-aggressively stall until the midterms. So the window on the military solution is closing fast.

Trump might point out that the long-term outlook is not good for Iran. Saudi Arabia will expand its pipeline capacities to the Red Sea. The UAE will do the same and expand its existing pipeline to the Gulf of Oman. There is even some talk of Saudi Arabia building a new massive line across Jordan to the Israeli Mediterranean port of Haifa. These Gulf agendas will eventually make the Strait irrelevant to oil exporters like Iran and flip its advantage to the disadvantage of Iran's vulnerable dependency on the Strait.

In sum, we should ignore the periodic 24-hour schizophrenia of the Left and the media, and instead examine the reality of the war so far, and what will be its likely long-term effects.

## Evidence Shows the Indisputable Harm of Transgenderism

The more the research settles the science, the more inescapable it becomes that “gender-affirming care” is medical malpractice falsely wrapped in “compassion.”

Samantha Koch, April 14, 2026, The Patriot Post

For years, the transgender debate has been framed as a simple matter of compassion — just let people live as their true selves, and everything else will fall into place. That was the pitch. Firm, emotional, and nearly impossible to challenge without being called names and silenced. For years, trans ideology spread without guardrails — drawing in countless kids and teens with the promise of a personal utopia, shutting parents out of critical conversations and treatments, and elevating “research” and “science” as if they were beyond question.

It’s been terrifying to watch, knowing the risk of regret was high and that many “experts” were driven more by politics and agenda than a genuine effort to help those who don’t fit traditional gender norms — making it feel like there was no end in sight.

Thankfully, the conversation is shifting. As more data, money trails, and real-world outcomes have come to light, the reality and harm of these past narratives are impossible — and even irresponsible — to ignore. When you step back and look at all the moving parts — financial incentives, shifting medical guidance, and worsening mental health outcomes — it starts to look less like a system of compassion, and more like something far more complicated, and even sinister.

One of the most overlooked aspects of this issue has been the sheer amount of money tied to it. A recent report pulls back the curtain on what it describes as a vast network of hospitals, clinics, pharmaceutical companies, and advocacy groups that all stand to benefit financially. “For decades,” says the report, the Human Rights Campaign’s (HRC) Corporate Equality Index (CEI) “has pressured companies into funding practices that are ultimately harmful to children. All while assuring companies and customers that they’re advancing ‘equality.’”

It’s a system where medical interventions are more revenue stream than treatment. When procedures, lifelong hormone therapies, and follow-up care become part of a growing industry, it confirms that those still pushing for these treatments are far more motivated by money than by patient well-being. The question is, was this ever really about helping people? The corporate financial gain makes the operation that much more disturbing, especially knowing that the prime targets of transgenderism have been minors.

Then there’s the issue of outcomes — arguably the most important aspect. The promise was clear: Transitioning, especially at a younger age, would lead to better mental health, greater happiness, and a sense of peace in one’s body. But recent studies are telling a different story. A comprehensive study out of Finland of adolescent outcomes found that gender reassignment is not all it’s cracked up to be: “Severe psychiatric morbidity is common among gender-referred adolescents and appears to be more prevalent in those referred after the recent surge in referrals. Psychiatric needs do not subside after medical gender reassignment.”

Even the timeline has shifted. For years, the messaging was that early intervention was critical — that delaying treatment could cause irreversible harm. Parents were told that acting quickly could save their child’s life. But now, even major medical organizations are signaling a more cautious approach. The American Medical Association has acknowledged the need to reconsider aspects of “gender-affirming care” for minors, with growing emphasis on waiting until adulthood for irreversible procedures. That’s not a small adjustment — it’s a complete reversal of the urgency that defined the earlier narrative.

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Perhaps most telling is how public opinion has evolved. What was once treated as a sharply divided political issue is increasingly becoming an area of agreement. Across the political spectrum, there's growing recognition that children simply are not equipped to make permanent, life-altering medical decisions. That's not a radical stance — it's a basic acknowledgment of how development works.

All of this leads to a difficult but necessary conclusion. If the financial incentives are significant, the medical outcomes are worsening, the recommended timelines are shifting, and even public opinion is converging on caution, then it's worth asking what exactly drove the original narrative — and with such urgency. Because it's becoming increasingly clear that the reality doesn't match what people were promised.

In the middle of all of this are the kids. For years, raising questions about any of this came with immediate consequences like being labeled “transphobic,” deplatformed, or shut down entirely. Debate was discouraged, skepticism was punished, and caution was treated as harm. But it's increasingly hard to ignore the possibility that many of these children were, in effect, part of a real-time experiment — one where the long-term outcomes were not fully understood, but the interventions moved forward anyway.

Even today, there are reports of classrooms where large numbers of students identify as trans, showing how much of this is about social influence rather than decisions being made by the individual. When entire peer groups shift in the same direction, it shreds the idea that this is about innate identity and proves that the natural desire to fit in with your peers and gain approval from those in positions of authority is more likely the cause.

It is time for the discussion around “gender-affirming care” to move past slogans and into reality. Compassion isn't about affirming feelings in the moment — it's about ensuring long-term well-being. And if the evidence shows that these interventions are not delivering on their promises, then ignoring it amounts to blatant negligence.

The hardest part of this shift is coming to terms with what it means. Because if the current trajectory continues to be questioned — and increasingly it is — then we must also reckon with the number of young people who underwent irreversible changes for all the wrong reasons, based on promises that are impossible to deliver. That's not an easy reality to face, but it's a necessary one.

At the end of the day, this isn't about politics or winning an argument. It's about making sure that we don't repeat the same mistakes. Children are not equipped to make permanent medical decisions, and no amount of social pressure or ideological framing can change that. The conversation is changing, and more people are jumping on board. The word “transphobic” has lost all of its power, and people are determined to lead with the truth, especially where kids are concerned.

It's our job to follow the facts and the evidence wherever they lead — and make sure that, moving forward, we protect kids instead of experimenting on them.

## American Values

We are in our 250th year of American independence, and the pertinent question has to be, what are American values?

Allen West, April 21, 2026, Patriot Post

“We are either a united people, or we are not. If the former, let us, in all matters of general concern act as a Nation, which have national objects to promote, and a national character to support. If we are not, let us no longer act as a farce by pretending to it.” — George Washington, 30 November 1785, Letter to James Madison

Last week, I had the distinct pleasure of visiting the “Home of Heroes,” Pueblo, Colorado. The city earned that title by having a record number, four, Medal of Honor recipients: William J. Crawford (Army, WW II), Carl L. Sitter (Marines, Korea), Raymond G. “Jerry” Murphy (Marines, Korea), and Drew D. Dix (Army, Vietnam). MOH recipient Major Drew Dix (USA, Ret) is a dear friend and invited me to speak at the Center for American Values in his hometown of Pueblo. It is a phenomenal facility that is the only location outside of the Pentagon where one can find a breathtaking portrait gallery of American Medal of Honor recipients. The three core values of the Center for American Values, which they promote to our future generations, are Honor, Integrity, and Patriotism.

As I think of Drew Dix’s center, I harkened back to the words of George Washington that he wrote to James Madison. We are in our 250th year of American independence, and the pertinent question has to be, what are American values?

I would ask each of you reading this missive to think back to our 200th celebration of independence, the Bicentennial of 1976. I was just a young fella of 15 years of age. It was the year that my Dad would challenge me to be the first military officer in our family. Yes, the ole Army World War II Corporal would seek to inspire his second son to carry on the legacy of honor and patriotism that he had begun. I look at our America fifty years later, in our 250th year of independence, and I see things that disturb me, and should disturb you, as they are not consistent with our American values.

When the new NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani asserts that “we will replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism,” there is no greater betrayal of American values. America was founded on the principle of individual sovereignty, because our unalienable rights are endowed to us by the sovereign Judeo-Christian faith heritage God, Creator. It is an affirmation of John Locke’s Natural Rights Theory, which Jefferson invokes in our Declaration of Independence, “the laws of Nature and Nature’s God.” Here in America, we do not elevate the collective, nor do we welcome the over-arching and oftentimes tyrannical government. As a matter of fact, it was Thomas Paine who wrote, “the duty of a true Patriot is to protect his Country from its government.”

Now, of course, today’s Marxist leftists, who embrace the power of government over the individual, would call such words extremist. It was just last fall that Virginia Senator Tim Kaine stated, in a Senate hearing, that our rights do not come from God, but rather from government. He went so far as to compare such a belief as on par with the totalitarian theocracy of Iran.

Marxist leftists do not see us as individuals and reject our ability to work, attain, and have our property, the last unalienable right of natural rights theory. They prefer to embrace the Marxist ideology of eliminating private property ownership, one of the planks in Marx’s Communist Manifesto. I mean, seriously, when did owning your own home become a tool of white supremacy? Who would have ever thought that in these United States we would have such an absurd thing as “property taxes,” meaning that in America, does one truly ever own their home? Or how about estate taxes, which are levied against that which we seek to pass on to future generations as our legacy.

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And all this ranting about “tax the rich.” Well, when did it become a sin to work hard and acquire wealth? Oh yeah, Karl Marx said it was, and another of his planks in the Communist Manifesto is a progressive income tax, first introduced in the first progressive American presidency, that of Woodrow Wilson.

The first tenet of a socialist economic system is wealth redistribution, which is what French economist Frederic Bastiat, in his essay *The Law*, referred to as government legal plunder. Let us never forget the infamous words of one Marxist-Islamist, Barack Obama, when he quipped in Roanoke, Virginia, in 2012, that “if you own a business, you didn’t build that.” What could be more disingenuous and disrespectful to that foundational American value of individual entrepreneurship? Then again, Marx advanced the idea of government control of the means of production, which is also a tenet of a socialist economic model.

See, last week, as I stood there before the gathered audience, I told them about this kid who was born in a Black-only hospital in 1961. I had a Dad who served in combat in a segregated Army. Somehow, I grew up in this exceptional Nation to also serve in combat, and as a Lieutenant Colonel, commanding an Artillery battalion. I represented a congressional district in Congress that included areas that I could not have gone to when I was born. That is all because the greatest American value that we have is the equality of opportunity. Instead, the Marxist left wants us to surrender to “equity,” which is the equality of outcomes, their collective determination of where and what we can become. In essence, a return to the divine rights theory, which John Locke refuted.

Let’s endeavor in 2026, the 250th anniversary of American independence, and the 190th anniversary of Texas independence, to reconnect our Constitutional Republic to its fundamental principles and values. It is not just about fireworks, hot dogs, and parades. It is truly about honoring what we have been endowed with, and to protect it, just the same as all those distinguished Medal of Honor recipients have done.

And let us remember these words, a quote that is 250 years old this year.

“These are the times which try Men’s souls: the summer Soldier and the sunshine Patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his Country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

Marxism and Islamism are indeed tyranny, and it is like hell but, united as Americans, armed with our Faith and our values, it can be conquered, and the triumph will be glorious!

Steadfast and Loyal.

## Thomas Tackles Progressivism

Justice Clarence Thomas urged Americans to “find in ourselves that same level of courage that the signers of the Declaration had.”

Gary Bauer, April 20, 2026, Patriot Post

My good friend Justice Clarence Thomas delivered an extraordinary and groundbreaking speech at the University of Texas last week. His remarks appropriately focused on the importance of the Declaration of Independence and its relevance to our nation 250 years later.

What made Thomas’s speech so important was his stark warning about the threat of progressivism and today’s political Left. He spoke the truth, as he so often does from the bench. His remarks generated some controversy because I don’t think the Left really wants to have this debate.

Justice Thomas bluntly stated that progressivism is incompatible with our Declaration of Independence. The two cannot coexist. Only one can prevail. Thomas explained: “Progressivism seeks to replace the basic premises of the Declaration of Independence and, hence, our form of government. It holds that our rights and our dignities come not from God, but from the government. It requires of the people a subservience and weakness incompatible with a constitution premised on the transcendent origin of our rights.”

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence contains America’s core founding principle. It reads: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

In other words, our rights come from God, and government exists to secure those rights. That foundational idea of America is incompatible with progressivism because to progressives government is god. Progressives believe that government knows best how to run your life—you just have to give them the power to do it.

But, as Justice Thomas noted, historically the progressive movements of Europe led to the rise of fascism and Nazism, which literally means “national socialism.” Karl Marx was a “progressive.” His ideas led to the creation of communism.

These “progressive” governments murdered millions of people in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union and Communist China because they had no respect for the rights of individuals and the God-given dignity and worth of every person.

Justice Thomas understands that this is existential moment. We had such a moment before American Revolution, when our Founding Fathers decided that our new nation should be built on the idea of God-given rights. This is a moment like the Civil War, when we decided whether we would include all men, as the Declaration of Independence said, in the promise of American freedom.

Throughout my entire career, including my presidential campaign, I have repeatedly pointed out that the founding principles of the Declaration’s second paragraph are not taught in our public schools because progressive teachers and their unions simply don’t believe them.

Progressives do not believe there is such a thing as “truth.” They do not believe in our Creator, the God of the Bible. They do not believe in the right to life. And their idea of “liberty” and “happiness” is licentiousness and decadence.

Only one side will prevail in this great battle for America. The outcome is in doubt. Justice Thomas urged Americans to “find in ourselves that same level of courage that the signers of the Declaration had” to defend our freedom and not become slaves of the neo-Marxism sweeping the nation.

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### Not Ready

Virtually every day there is evidence that the Trump administration is to get America ready to fight and win another world war. President Trump is trying to make up for all the sleepwalking presidents we have had in recent decades. I hope and pray there is time.

When the war in Ukraine began, we were told by the entire media complex, Democrats and the war-wing of the Republican Party that Russia would quickly run out of ammunition. They have not. In fact, Russia was able to jump-start its manufacturing base with record speed.

Ironically, we are the ones running short of supplies, ammunition, missiles, etc. The Wall Street Journal reports that the Pentagon is now in talks with major U.S. automakers urging them to use their factories and assembly lines to manufacture weapons.

It turns out that in spite of all the hyperventilating about a “military industrial complex,” we really don’t have one. And we’re also dealing with allies who can’t deploy a single division.

I don’t know how anybody can sleep easily at night knowing that this is the position America’s entire globalist elite structure has put us in.

### Democrats Dump Israel

The anti-Israel influence of Hasan Piker, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib on the Democrat Party was on full display last week. Sen. Bernie Sanders forced votes on two amendments prohibiting the sale of bulldozers and bombs to Israel. Thankfully, both votes failed.

But 85% of Senate Democrats—40 out of 47 senators—voted for at least one of Sanders’ amendments. Pro-Israel advocates are shocked by this sudden Democrat abandonment of our ally Israel. Abe Foxman, the former head of the Anti-Defamation League, said, “This is a calamity for the Democrat Party.”

One former Biden official said, “Democrats think it’s politically advantageous to take these votes that would have been completely out-of-bounds just two-and-a-half years ago... It’s deeply concerning if you care about the security of [Israel].”

Why would more and more Democrats think it is “politically advantageous” to vote against Israel? Because of the growing influence of anti-Israel Islamists like pro-Hamas Piker and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

Meanwhile, the leading candidate in the Maine Senate Democrat primary praised a Hamas raid that killed at least five Israeli soldiers. Maybe that explains his Nazi tattoo. Sen. Elizabeth Warren was campaigning for him Friday.

## How to Reverse Societal Decline

It requires rejecting the worldview causing the rot

Victor Joecks, April 13, 2026, Patriot Post

Retail stores locking up items is the symptom of a much larger problem.

I recently went to Walmart and had ibuprofen on my shopping list. I went to the medicine section and — groan — saw this \$5 item locked behind glass. There were a couple of other people already waiting, so I looked around for a call button. That's when one of the people waiting said an employee was already helping them, but needed to get more boxes.

I was utterly confused.

One of the waiting customers remarked that he was from Florida and that stores there didn't have items behind locked glass. What a difference having Ron DeSantis as governor makes. I generously spared him a full rundown of how Democrats passed a soft-on-crime bill in 2019. Not punishing criminals led to a dramatic increase in retail theft. Stores are taking steps to stop theft — and I soon learned how inconvenient those measures are for everyone else.

Eventually, a Walmart employee returned carrying clear plastic boxes with locking tops. She removed each customer's desired item from behind the glass and put it in the locking box. At checkout, another employee unlocked my box so I could pay for my item.

This is ridiculous.

I don't blame Walmart. I wouldn't want criminals stealing from me either.

But there's plenty of blame to go around. Criminals are responsible for their own actions. The bill that Democrats passed in 2019, gutting criminal penalties, is part of the problem. In 2020, the Nevada Supreme Court significantly weakened bail in Nevada. That's played a role. Legislative Democrats have largely resisted Gov. Joe Lombardo's attempts to put teeth back into Nevada's crime laws.

The left's soft-on-crime policies stem from its worldview. A worldview is someone's underlying beliefs that they use to interpret and make sense of what's going on. Everyone has a worldview, even if most people don't think about it consciously. When people talk past each other in a policy discussion, it's often because their worldviews conflict. You have to dig underneath the surface to expose the root of the disagreement.

The left has embraced critical theory, which divides people into binary groups based on finances, race or other characteristics. This split produces some groups that are more successful than others. Intersectionality is the left's way of combining and ranking these groups.

Critical theorists believe that the successful group obtained their elevated status by victimizing those in the other group. These supposed oppressors created systems and institutions to entrench their dominance of the victim group.

How a group can get rich robbing poor people is never quite explained.

But you can see the implications. Individual responsibility is thrown out the window since success or failure is a function of group membership, not personal choices. Stealing is proof the system has failed. As such, the government shouldn't punish a thief for something that's beyond his control. Government policy should overtly favor oppressed groups, not set an objective standard for individuals to follow.

Further, those objective standards, like "don't steal", aren't neutral principles. They're tools the powerful use to cement their privilege. One of the deepest roots of this poisonous philosophical plant is a rejection of absolute truth.

Most Democrats won't fully articulate this. For one, many people haven't fully thought through their worldview. Outside of a college campus, it also sounds like a conspiracy theory — because it is one.

Critical theory is bogus. For one, you can't logically reject absolute truth while claiming that your belief system is true. It's also morally wrong to judge people based on their skin color instead of their character.

Finally, this worldview fails in practice. Going easy on criminals has led to ibuprofen in Southern Nevada being behind lock and key — twice. That's not a success story. In other cities, like San Francisco and Portland, stores have shut down entirely over crime.

It is possible to reverse this societal decline — but it requires rejecting the worldview causing the rot.

## Can We Be a Moral People?

No one is perfect, but we should all demand that we expect virtue from those who would sit in positions of elected authority.

Allen West, April 17, 2026, Patriot Post

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” — Founding Father, Second American President John Adams, 1798

There are two major stories happening in America at this time. We have the current conflagration against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been 47 years in the making. The other story is about two U.S. Members of Congress, House of Representatives specifically, Tony Gonzales and Eric Swalwell. The latter story is quite easy for the American people to ingest because there is a sense of the sensational. But, it is very interesting that you do have these two Members of Congress who have chosen to resign, and also end their political campaigns, due to moral indiscretions. It was not too long ago that a sitting U.S. President was involved in a similar episode and lied under oath about the matter. However, we all remember the famous line, “it’s the economy, stupid,” and the American people brushed the issue aside.

One of our Founding Fathers, the second U.S. President, John Adams, gave us a very poignant quote that referenced our Constitution, our rule of law. I also like Franklin’s response to Mrs. Powell in Philadelphia when our Constitution was signed. When she asked if we had a Monarchy or a Republic, Franklin asserted, “A Republic, if you can keep it.” But what does it take to keep this, the longest-running Constitutional Republic that the world has ever known?

In essence, that is upon which Adams’ quote elaborates.

America, as we celebrate our 250 years of independence, is a grand experiment in self-governance...as Abraham Lincoln would say at Gettysburg, “the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” In order for that to happen, there has to be a level of virtue among the citizenry, as well as those the citizens elect. Perhaps, maybe, we are seeing a desire among the American people, by way of the Gonzales and Swalwell cases, to restore a sense of responsibility, accountability, and virtue among those we refer to as elected officials.

No, I am not espousing naivete, because I also am quite aware of the machinations of the political machine. Those who are skipping about acting as if these actions were some sort of revelation that they were unaware of, well, I find that insidious posturing. However, from the days of one President Bill Clinton to now, maybe, just maybe, we are awakening to demand more from those serving, notice that word, in elected positions.

Do I believe that we can legislate morality? To a point, yes. Matter of fact, our laws are based upon some simple maxims that we call the Ten Commandments. I do find it quite unconscionable that we have some who would deny the public display of that which forms the basis of law in western civilization...along with the Golden Rule, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” We must come to recognize and understand that individual rights, freedoms, and liberties that we enjoy, as prescribed in the U.S. Constitution, requires a level of mature responsibility, and yes, morality and faith. I do not like the word “religion” because religion is man made doctrine, dogma. If I could recommend a different verbiage to President John Adams, it would be “Judeo-Christian faith heritage.”

Isaiah 5:20 provides us a clear warning, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good, evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter” (NIV). The Declaration of Independence, which we will celebrate 250 years of existence this July, and I pray the entire year, is critical to understand the formulation of our Constitution. The Declaration is the only document establishing a Nation that elevates the individual to a position of sovereignty, because the individual is endowed with unalienable rights, life, liberty, and property (pursuit of happiness) from the Judeo-Christian faith heritage Creator God. That is the virtue that we must pursue in our lives, the level of morality and faith that is necessary to keep this Republic. When we place our trust and faith in men, meaning mankind, and the institution of government, with the little “g”, we will always be disappointed.

No one is perfect; we all know that, but we should all demand that we expect virtue from those who would sit in positions of elected authority. And yes, I mean everyone, that is truly a bipartisan issue.

Maybe, just maybe, as we go to the polls this year, we will consider morals, honor, integrity, virtue, character, and yes, faith.

Steadfast and Loyal.



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DEMOCRATS ARE CALLING PRESIDENT TRUMP A DICTATOR, BUT THE LAST TIME THEY WERE IN POWER THEY:

- Flooded our country with 20+ million criminal aliens
- Forced experimental vaccines and harmful masks on everyone and kicked service members out of the military for refusing to be vaccinated
- Shut down our businesses, our schools and our churches — while they allowed violent BLM & ANTIFA thugs to riot in the streets and destroy cities throughout the country
- Censored our speech and stripped away our liberties
- Forced transgenderism on kids in public schools and drug concerned parents out of school board meetings if they voiced concerns about their children being SEXUALIZED and exposed to GAY PORNOGRAPHY — then those parents were targeted by the FBI and federal prosecutors and labeled domestic terrorists
- Unleashed record inflation, historically high gas prices and violent crime throughout our country
- Extorted hundreds of billions from taxpayers for an unwinnable proxy war with a corrupt country that isn't our NATO ally — and a lot of that money got laundered back into democrat leaders own bank accounts

**The Constitution does NOT give you rights. You already have them.**

**The Constitution simply tells the government that it cannot take those rights away.**

**I wish more people understood this.**

# TWO DIFFERENT VISIONS FOR AMERICA

**THE LEFT VS THE RIGHT**

Abortion	VS	Protecting Life
Defund the Police	VS	Support Law Enforcement
Gun Control	VS	Second Amendment Rights
Open Borders	VS	Secure Borders
Illegal Immigration	VS	Legal Immigration
Higher Taxes	VS	Keep More of What You Earn
Weak Military	VS	Strong Military
Heavy Government Control	VS	Limited Government
Anyone Can Vote	VS	Voter ID
Welfare Dependency	VS	Opportunity Economy
Lockdowns & Mandates	VS	Freedom to Work
Big Government	VS	Individual Liberty
Socialism	VS	Capitalism
Political Correctness	VS	Free Speech
Riots & Chaos	VS	Constitutional Freedom

America is at a crossroads.  
**Freedom or Control.**  
**Make Your Choice.**

**Don't lecture me about losing a few planes or cost of a mission when your President left \$85 Billion in equipment in Afghanistan with the most disastrous withdrawal in U.S. military history...**



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### **A BREAK DOWN IN HOW THE DEMOCRAT PARTY DIED**

The US has the 3rd highest murder rate in the world. If you remove:

- 1. Chicago
- 2. Detroit
- 3. Washington DC
- 4. St. Louis
- 5. Philadelphia

The US is then 189th out of 193 countries in the world. All five cities have strict gun control laws and are controlled by Democrats. Fact-check it.

"I need a VP dumber than me."



"I need a VP dumber than me."



"I need a VP dumber than me."



"Boys need tampons"



Kerry J. Ledford, Ph.D.



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