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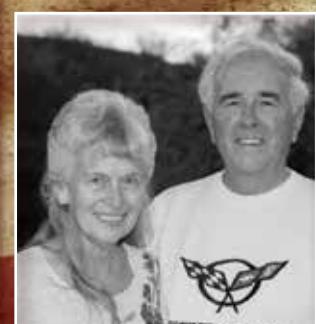
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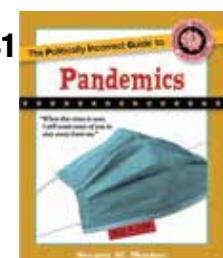
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Saving Our Freedoms With Voter Education

As most of us realize, we are rapidly losing our rights and freedoms due to the increasing disregard for the Constitution by our elected leaders. There is a name for this evil: usurpation, the illegal seizure of powers not granted by the Constitution.

George Washington pointed out in his Farewell Address that usurpation “is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.”

In a September 1820 letter, Founding Father Thomas Jefferson pointed to the best remedy for usurpations:

When the legislative or executive functionaries act unconstitutionally, they are responsible to the people in their elective capacity.... I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society, but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education. This is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power.

That is, Jefferson was pointing out that even when elected officials act unconstitutionally, they are still subject to reelection by the people, and that the only safe depository of this ultimate power of society is the people themselves. His remedy for a situation such as ours, where the voters aren’t enlightened enough to demand adherence to the Constitution by our elected officials, is to “inform their discretion by education.”

For many decades, *The New American* and its parent organization, The John Birch Society, have been fighting usurpations by providing a tool for educating voters, namely “The Freedom Index: A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution.” The Freedom Index is published twice a year. Each issue of the Freedom Index analyzes 10 key votes in the House and 10 key votes in the Senate, and rates each vote based on its constitutionality, yielding a score for all 535 members of Congress based on the constitutionality of their 10 votes. The scores range from 0 (completely unconstitutional) to 100 percent (completely constitutional). The latest edition of the Freedom Index can be

found on page 22 and online at <https://thenewamerican.com/freedom-index/>.

The key House votes included in the latest Freedom Index are U.S. Military in Syria; Abortion Access; Expanding NATO; Semiconductor Incentives; Assault Weapons Ban; Inflation Reduction Act; Electoral Count Procedures; Federal Police Grants; Marriage; and Omnibus 2023 Spending. The key Senate votes are Semiconductor Incentives; Foreign Aid; Declaration of War; Expanding NATO; Targeting Parents as Domestic Terrorists; Inflation Reduction Act; Hydrofluorocarbons Reduction; Terminate Covid-19 National Emergency; Marriage; and Omnibus 2023 Spending.

As you’d expect, the latest Freedom Index scores are low. The average score for the House is 38 percent; the average score for the Senate is 31 percent. House Republicans averaged 71 percent and Democrats averaged seven percent. In the Senate, Republicans averaged 60 percent; Democrats two percent; and Independents 10 percent. Notice that although the Republicans received higher scores than the Democrats on average, the Republicans still have a great deal of room for improvement. The Freedom Index also effectively exposes the “RINOs” (Republicans in Name Only). For example, in the House, Liz Cheney scored 22 percent and in the Senate Mitt Romney scored 30 percent.

A couple years ago we started publishing online the Congressional Scorecard, with six votes for each Scorecard instead of the 10 votes on each Freedom Index. This Scorecard is formatted so that you can print out a four-page Congressional Scorecard for one representative or one senator at a time. You can find these Scorecards at <https://thenewamerican.com/freedom-index/>.

In the past few months we’ve added another exciting voter education tool, the Legislative Scorecard, designed to educate voters about the constitutionality of their state legislators’ votes. Find these Scorecards online at <https://gojt.us/itv3>. As of now, we have Scorecards for 33 states.

We invite you to help save our freedoms by fighting usurpations with our voter education tools!

— Larry Greenley

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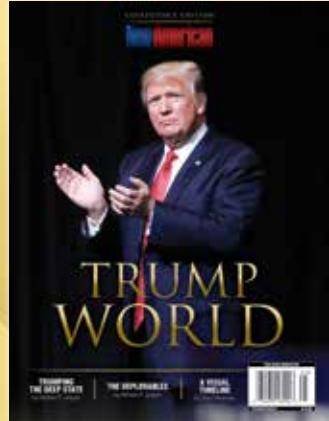


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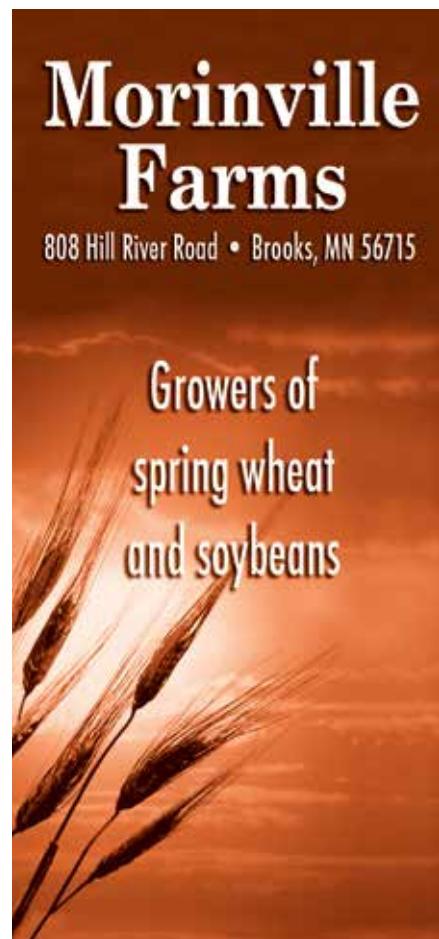
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Congress Redefines Marriage

"Today, we stand up for the values the vast majority of Americans hold dear: a belief in the dignity, beauty and divinity — spark of divinity — in every person, and abiding respect for love so powerful that it binds two people together."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made this statement just prior to the actual House vote to codify on the federal level what is commonly called same-sex marriage. Her inclusion of the term "divinity" in her remarks means she either doesn't know or doesn't care about the biblical boundary that identifies marriage as the bond between one man and one woman. To find out how all members of the House and Senate voted on this legislation, see the Freedom Index, House vote no. 39 and Senate vote no. 39, in this issue.



Nancy Pelosi
AP Images



AP Images

Who Is the World's Most Dangerous Person?

"I get asked 'Who's the most dangerous person in the world? Is it Chairman Kim, is it Xi Jinping?' The most dangerous person in the world is Randi Weingarten. It's not a close call."

Former secretary of state under President Donald Trump and possible 2024 GOP presidential candidate Mike Pompeo made this incredible assertion during an interview by the global news platform known as Semafor. Explaining his rationale, Pompeo added, "If you ask, 'Who's the most likely to take this republic down?' It would be the teachers unions, and the filth that they're teaching our kids, and the fact that they don't know math and reading or writing." Weingarten is president of the American Federation of Teachers.

White House Press Secretary Claims President Biden Has Been to the U.S.-Mexico Border

"White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre insisted that President Biden has been to the U.S.-Mexico border despite no record of him having been there — even as vice president."

As reported by Fox News, when reporter Peter Doocy asked White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre to indicate when the president had actually visited the border, she refused to provide any date and then amazingly insisted that the border was in a shambles because the GOP has refused to work with Biden on fixing the problem.

Prominent Doctor and Former Trump White House Coronavirus Task Force Member Blasts FDA

"In my 30 years as a doctor, the unprecedented approach taken by the FDA where ivermectin was somehow forbidden if you used it for an off-label purpose was a shocking interference of the ability of a doctor to do his job. [In the past] ivermectin was approved by the FDA and found so safe that billions of doses have been given without the need for a doctor's prescription until the FDA prohibited its use to treat Covid-19."

A senior fellow in health care policy at Stanford University, Dr. Scott Atlas has termed the FDA's position on ivermectin eminently deserving of the suit recently filed against the agency by three prominent doctors challenging that position.

White House Press Secretary Dismisses Twitter's Recent Disclosures of Its 2020 Coverup of Hunter Biden's Activities

"[This] is full of old news, if you think about it."

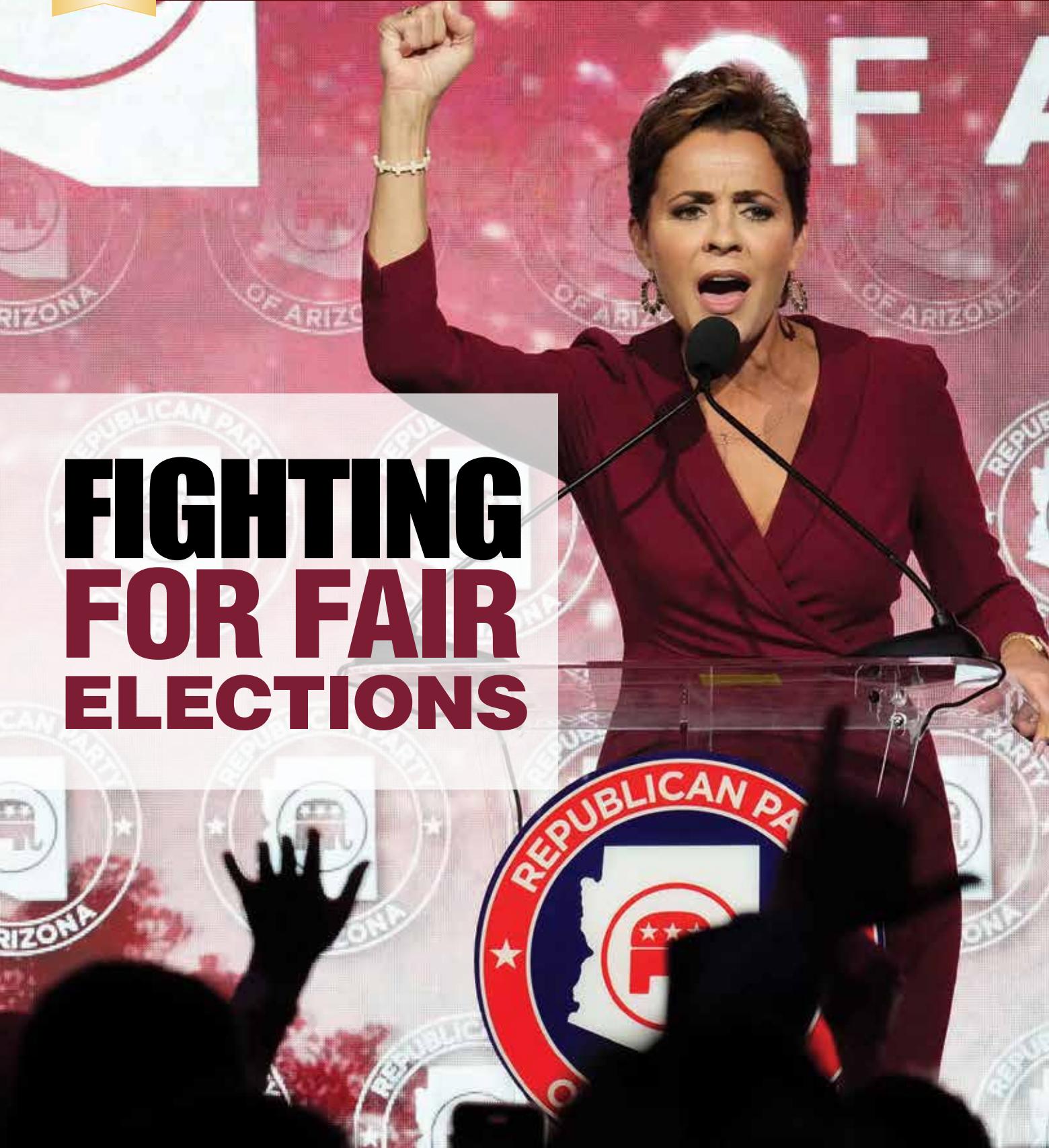
The damaging information on Hunter Biden's laptop was not big news during the 2020 presidential campaign because the story was either ignored or dismissed as Russian disinformation when it was reported. But now that it is uncontested that the laptop story is legitimate, and Twitter under new CEO Elon Musk has begun providing details about the coverup in a series of releases, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre cavalierly refused to comment when a reporter asked if the censorship was appropriate, dismissing the story as "old news." ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McMANUS



Karine Jean-Pierre
AP Images

FIGHTING FOR FAIR ELECTIONS



Irregularities in the 2022 midterm elections show that much work still needs to be done to restore honest elections and public confidence in the system.

by Annalisa Pesek

“Election deniers,” “baseless claims,” “conspiracy theorists”: These buzz words peddled by the mainstream media have been slapped on anyone who has ever questioned why America has such messy elections. Rife with errors, the November 8 midterms, particularly in Maricopa County, Arizona, felt eerily reminiscent of the irregularities of the 2020 presidential election, on which *The New American* has reported extensively.

In Maricopa County, official reports now claim some 300,000 mail-in ballot signatures could not be verified — but were counted. Add to that the hours-long wait times owing to malfunctioning voting machines on Election Day that posed the risk of disenfranchising tens of thousands of Arizonans.

“While Maricopa County’s printer issue in 2022 impacted more Vote Centers than normal, every voter was afforded the ability to legally and securely cast their ballot,” argued Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Gates after the election.

Yet a stunning 59 percent of the 223 voting centers had printer issues.

Kari Lake Sues Arizona

After waiting more than two weeks to get a final vote tally in multiple races, it was another five days after Secretary of State Katie Hobbs had officially certified all but two contests in the Arizona midterms — including her own race for the governor’s seat — when former Fox News anchor and GOP gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake filed her second lawsuit against Hobbs and Maricopa County officials, claiming that thousands of illegal votes cast had “far exceed[ed]” the 17,117-vote margin of victory for Hobbs.

“It exposes the dark underbelly of rigged elections,” said Lake of her recent 70-page filing, which boasts 278 additional pages of exhibits, as well as sworn testimonies from whistleblowers at Runbeck Election Services, the company that prints the ballots for Maricopa County and other counties across the country.

Annalisa Pesek is a writer, editor, and librarian. She joins *The New American* after spending nearly a decade in New York publishing.

Through mail-only elections, this country runs the very tangible risk of those in power rigging elections to stay in power or gain more power, thwarting the will of the people via highly sophisticated means of manipulating the vote to favor one candidate over another.



Election chaos: At least 59 percent of the 223 voting centers in Maricopa County had printer issues on Election Day. Whistleblowers also claim ballots with unverifiable signatures were being completely tossed out, then got looped back into the system and counted as if they were fine.

“Maricopa County election officials engaged in numerous breaches of Arizona election law in their handling and custody of ballots, making it impossible to conclude that the vote tallies reported by Maricopa County accurately reflect the votes cast by Arizona voters,” continues Lake’s suit challenging the results of the governorship and requesting a judge nullify the current election and order a redo.

It’s no secret that Arizona deals with high volumes of mail-in ballots, explained Lake in an interview on December 12 with radio-show host Charlie Kirk. The process contains really only one key security feature — the signature on the back of the ballot envelope — beginning the ballot’s chain of custody, which is extremely important for keeping close track of the ballots.

Through mail-only elections, this country runs the very tangible risk of those in power rigging elections to stay in power or gain more power, thwarting the will of the people via highly sophisticated means of manipulating the vote to favor one candidate over another.

Currently, seven states have signed into law the nefarious practice of universal mail-in ballots. Most recently joining Washington, Oregon, Utah, Hawaii, Nevada, and Colorado is the state of California, where Governor Gavin Newsom has said he signed the law “because we believe in making voting EASIER and for every voice to be heard.”

Expect more Democratic states to expand this list, as they have seen how effectively elections can be won using this process.

In her lawsuit, Lake outlined the dangers inherent in mail-in ballots, specific to her election, arguing that there were “complete abject failures, proven by expert witnesses who gave sworn testimony” in the areas of signature verification and chain of custody of mail-in ballots.

Furthermore, subject experts investigating claims of voting machines both in Maricopa County and throughout the state not being certified — the basis of Lake’s first lawsuit — despite the county arguing the opposite have concluded that the malfunctioning of numerous machines simultaneously could not have been done without “intentional misconduct.”

One Phoenix-based expert named Michael Schafer spoke on record with *The New American* about the dismissal of Lake’s first lawsuit, noting that “the [justice] system is not working as it should,” confirming that new litigation on the authenticity of the vote-machine certification was underway and would be announced after this article goes to print.

With so much trust in American elections waning, transparency in the election

process has never been more important. If the process is not fixed now, it risks being broken forever. And many Americans are asking: How do we fix it?

As *The New American*’s Kurt Hyde wrote in his 2021 article “Restoring Election Integrity,” “Traditional American elections — those from the mid-1800s until the mid-1900s — were among the most trusted in the world.... At that time, every aspect of American elections, except the marking of the voters’ secret ballots, was open to the public.” Thus, to return to that transparency that was once in place, every part of the election process should be open to public observation. Yet this is not the case today.

“Safe, Accurate, and Secure”

Not only were recent elections not open to the general public, but also many poll watchers were prevented from observing the process. Indeed, the future looks grim in light of the past, with the power of rigged elections on the Democrats’ side. Plus, those who dare to speak out are soundly silenced, as America seems to be

on an unstoppable train toward a Venezuela-style situation of corruption, poverty, and darkness. And running roughshod over the people are none other than both Republican and Democratic election officials, who seem to be blasting their way down the corruption track.

When Maricopa County Supervisors Chair Gates, a Republican, followed through with canvassing the densely populated county’s vote totals, he fulfilled a “statutory responsibility” despite a “plethora of reports from election workers, poll watchers, and voters, including the county’s admission of widespread printer problems.”

“Secure and accurate” was the mainstream media’s description of the election, though even Gates acknowledged “this was not a perfect election. There were issues,” adding, “but we were transparent about that.”

As of this writing, the county still has not provided reasonable explanations of the problems that marred Election Day, when Lake supporters were expected in a surge of in-person voting. The malfunctioning of vote-machine tabulators that were unable to read ballots affected some 71 vote centers, which represents 31 percent of the 223 centers that were open on November 8.

In the aftermath, Gates promised, “we will do everything we can to make sure this does not happen in future elections.” Yet the supervisor and many of his Republican — and Democratic — colleagues took no steps to address the egregious flaws of the compromised election.

Conflicts of Interest

During a heated public-comments hearing at a Maricopa County Board meeting following the election, angry citizens pointed out the errors of the election process and the conflicts of interest within the group of people running the elections. Many voters were demanding a redo. A conflict of interest repeatedly pointed out by voters was that Hobbs, the acting secretary of state — who oversees elections — refused to recuse herself from the process, despite running as the Democratic gubernatorial candidate. Then there is Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Gallardo, who served as co-chair of the Latinos for Katie Hobbs Coalition, now a member of Hobbs’ transition team.



AP Images

“Not a perfect election”: Maricopa County Supervisor Bill Gates admitted to more printer issues than usual impacting the 2022 election, yet still claimed that “every voter was afforded the ability to legally and securely cast their ballot.”

"Honored to be part of Governor-Elect Hobbs transition team. I look forward to working with such a diverse group of Arizona leaders. #MovingArizonaForward," tweeted Gallardo on November 22.

As The Gateway Pundit exposed in its coverage, the conflict-of-interest list runs long. In addition to the above,

- Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer, who oversaw early voting, founded and operated the Pro-Democracy Republicans PAC, a dark-money PAC aimed at eliminating candidates with a MAGA agenda.

- Maricopa County Chairman Bill Gates, who oversaw the election on Election Day, openly rooted against Trump-Endorsed candidates, calling their win in the primaries a "catastrophe" and saying, "I think they are electable, which is frightening."

- Katie Hobbs threatened to sue any county that did not certify this election and hand her the Governorship.

Hobbs moved forward with a lawsuit and threats of felony charges against Cochise County officials for delaying certification.

"No Choice" but to Certify

Maricopa County, along with Arizona's 14 other counties, had a deadline of November 28 to collect their final votes totals and report the results to Secretary of State Hobbs' office, which threatened lawsuits and felony charges should any county refuse to certify.

By the deadline, two counties — Mohave and Cochise — had delayed certification in protest of the widespread issues in Maricopa County. Cochise County had also demanded documentation of the certification of its voter machines, which the state election office reportedly provided, but, according to experts appealing the county's response, was not legal.

In the end, Mohave County's Board of Supervisors, in a vote of 4-0, chose to sign off on the election, with two supervisors telling the press that they felt pressured to certify, that they had "no choice" but to vote "yes" or face a felony charge from Secretary Hobbs.

Mohave County Supervisor Hildy Angius and Chairman Ron Gould were among the bullied. Angius reportedly spent part of the Monday ahead of the vote to certify

AP Images



A candidate the Left cannot allow to win: Refusing to overlook the voting issues on Election Day, Republican Kari Lake filed a lawsuit against her Democratic opponent, Katie Hobbs, and the Maricopa County Supervisors, seeking to expose "the dark underbelly of rigged elections."

talking with her constituents and Republican Congressman Paul Gosar. Ultimately, Angius felt that between the choice to certify the election or "essentially void the county's votes in the state canvass," the latter would "certainly disenfranchise" voters.

"I vote aye under duress," Gould said at the meeting. "I found out today that I have no choice but to vote aye or I'll be arrested and charged with a felony. I don't think that's what our founders had in mind when they used the democratic process to elect our leaders, our form of self-governance. I find that very disheartening."

Cochise County's Board of Supervisors was less cowardly and thus was slapped with two lawsuits, one by the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, which demanded a canvass be completed by December 1, and another by Secretary Hobbs, who said the three-member board could be charged with serious crimes for violating Arizona's election laws.

In a letter dated November 21 to the Cochise County board from State Elections Director Kori Lorick, Lorick stated that Hobbs was legally bound to approve the statewide canvass by December 5,

and that Cochise County's votes would be void if they were not reported in time. Moreover, if those votes were not counted, two close races, one a U.S. House seat and another for state schools chief, could potentially flip from Republican to Democratic. By the end of the day on December 1, Cochise had certified.

Proving the Fraud

"The only way to stop the [MAGA] movement is to stop Election Day," declared Lake on the Charlie Kirk Show on December 12. "Mixed in ballots were also a huge problem," she continued. "Ballots cast in at least 16 voting centers had uncounted votes mixed in with the counted votes. The Board of Supervisors report is downplaying the level of ineptitude and incompetence and malfeasance on Election Day."

Maricopa County officials reported that roughly "one percent of total ballots cast ultimately couldn't be counted at polling sites by those [faulty] machines but were later tallied at the county's elections center."

It took all day to resolve the issue with the printers, from 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. There is no question that many voters

chose not to wait in the long lines, or that many people who were told to vote at a second polling center didn't make it to that center to vote.

Yet on December 5, Secretary Hobbs sat alongside Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, Attorney General Mark Brnovich, and state Supreme Court Justice Robert Brutinel to certify some 2.5 million votes cast in the Copper State on November 8, with Hobbs emphasizing the high voter turnout of more than 60 percent participation across the state.

"Preparing for an election is an immense undertaking," opined Hobbs. "And while this one was not without challenges, we saw extremely high participation for a midterm election."

The challenges were indeed manifold and widespread. Voting issues occurred throughout Election Day, from morning to evening, resulting in the potential disenfranchisement of thousands of Arizonans, many of whom aired their grievances before the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors during a four-hour "election review" meeting in late November. Despite the protests, the board unanimously voted to certify the results.

Attorney General Mark Brnovich demanded the county explain its actions, but was met with a county defendant in defending its actions, even as it acknowledged there were significant errors.

"This election was safe, secure, and accurate. That's the bottom line," said County Supervisor Steve Gallardo from District 5. "The rhetoric suggesting otherwise is the true threat to our democracy, and a disservice to the hard-working election employees and officials who ensured voters had the ability to cast their vote," he continued. "We will push past the noise, focus on what matters, and continue to follow the law. That's what we're doing today with this canvass, moving Arizona forward and respecting the will of 1.56 million Maricopa County voters."

Without strong GOP backing, Lake has also moved forward, vowing to stand with the people of Arizona, many of whom are on her side. In addition to outlining the "bad facts" of the "botched" election, Lake's lawsuit blasted Hobbs' performance as secretary of state, and asserts that gross federal violations were committed by her office and the Maricopa County Recorder and Elections Department.

"This case is about restoring trust in the election process — a trust that Maricopa County election officials and Hobbs have shattered. The judicial system is now the only vehicle by which that trust can be restored," reads the lawsuit.

Court documents released on December 5 further accuse Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer and Secretary Hobbs of participating in an act of "unconstitutional government censorship" in which the federal government also played a key role, partnering with social-media companies such as Twitter and Facebook to "remove speech they didn't like from public view."

The lawsuit is currently being reviewed by the secretary of state's office, according to spokeswoman Sophia Solis.

Maricopa County officials offered no comment to Lake's request for an overturning of the current election results and a re-vote, but Jason Berry, a Maricopa County spokesperson, did state that the county "respects the election contest process and looks forward to sharing facts about the administration of the 2022 general election and our work to ensure every legal voter had an opportunity to cast their ballot."

In a response posted on her Twitter account, Hobbs called the lawsuit "Kari Lake's latest desperate attempt to undermine our democracy and throw out the will of the voters." A statement from Hobbs' campaign called the lawsuit a "sham," and reminded Arizonans that Hobbs remained "laser-focused" on "getting ready to hit the ground running on Day One of Katie Hobbs' administration."

Calls for a Redo

Many believe that what happened in Maricopa County was an across-the-board sabotage of an election, and all Americans should be deeply concerned. "The lawsuit is full of judgment issues," said Lake in an interview. "Stephen Richer and Bill Gates had a singular mission: to defeat me!"

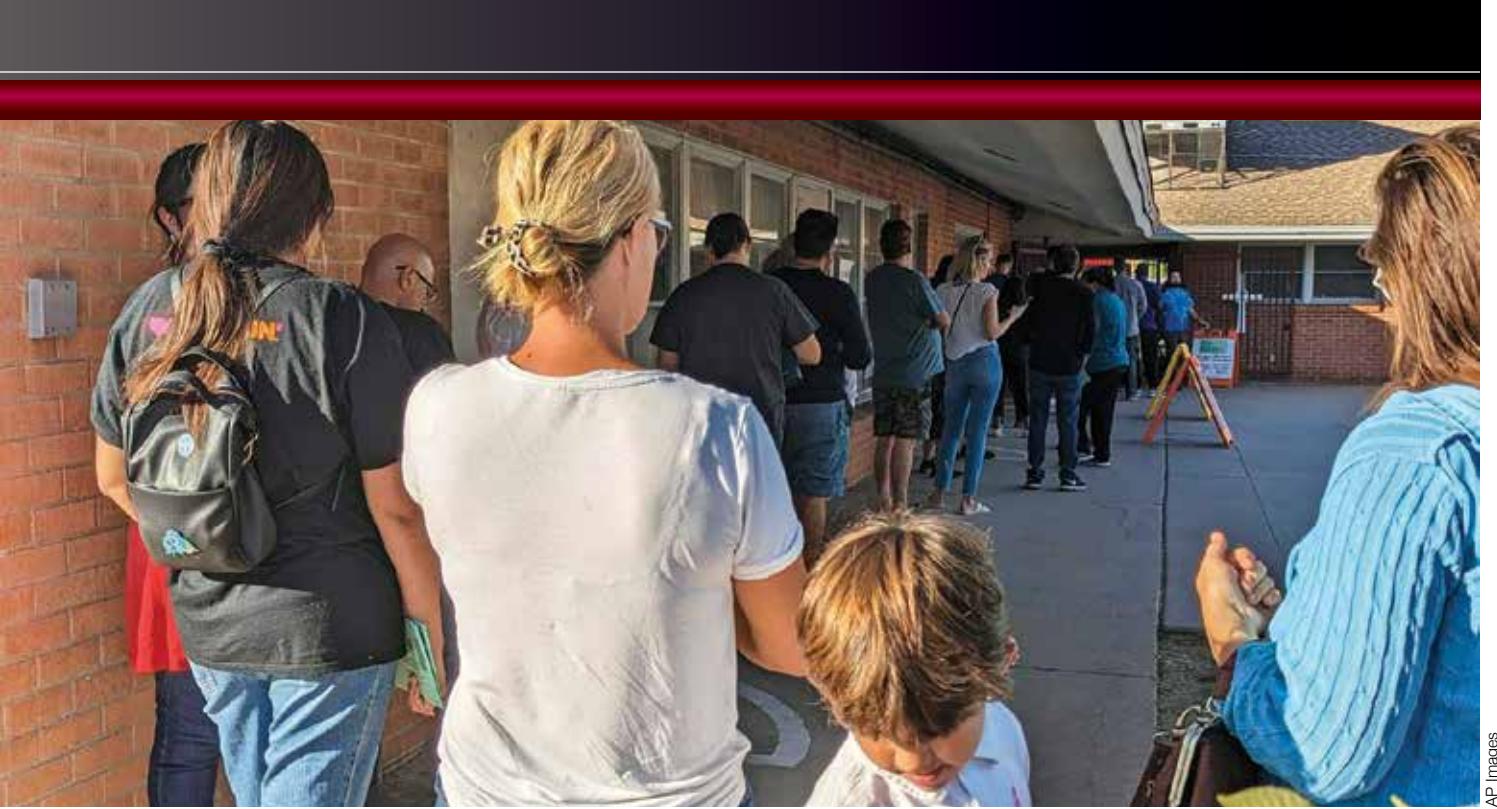
Lake estimates that 30,000-50,000 people were denied a vote on November 8, proclaiming, "If we don't stand up, we're not going to have a future!"

For Lake, the path forward was getting a judge to allow for an inspection of the ballots from the election, including signature envelopes and corresponding signatures on file. Her request would be granted later. "As we extrapolated the data we have,



AP Images

Threats and intimidation: Katie Hobbs not only refused to recuse herself from the elections process as secretary of state, but her office threatened counties refusing to certify the election with felony charges and penalty fines.



AP Images

when we look at signatures, up to 175,000 signature ballots do not have the signature there. That is the danger of mail-in ballots, which is the norm in Arizona,” she said.

Certainly, as mail-in voting becomes ubiquitous, the integrity of free and fair elections becomes more and more severely compromised. Mail-in ballots are but one seed of the “poisonous fruit of election fraud” corrupting our political system, to borrow from author and elections scholar Peter Navarro. Mail-in ballots can be counted for the deceased, as duplicate votes, for people who have voted in multiple counties and states, for noncitizens — the list goes on.

Several whistleblowers in Maricopa County conducting the signature-verification process have offered sworn testimony of how they were shocked at the number of mail-in ballots that came in with failed signatures. Supposedly 20-45 percent of these ballots were being denied, as signatures were not matching.

Lake asserts that the process of curing ballots — in which ballots are sent back to the voter and “cured” of errors such as unmatched signatures — was not taking place, and people were not getting their ballots. In the days after the election, roughly 25,000 more ballots were counted. “We want a judge to give us access to those ballots,” said Lake. “We want to

look at all of them.... We need to have a better handle on our elections!”

The remedy, for Lake, is a new election. “We believe there may be upward of 100,000 bad ballots because of no signature verification. Some curing was done at an offsite curing center. We want to make sure that if the election is redone that Hobbs, Richer, and Gates have nothing to do with it! We need an independent, offsite source to conduct the election for us.”

“Pray for a courageous judge in Judge Peter Thompson [who is overseeing the case], we hope he has an open heart and mind,” Lake said.

Not Giving Up

Many Americans have not been silent in decrying the outrage of the irregularities in both the 2022 midterms and the 2020 presidential election. We must remain diligent in pursuing honest elections and not give up.

Lake, an outspoken supporter of election reform, has called for a return to paper ballots and same-day voting and has vowed to continue to fight “sham elections.”

Her message is a plea to Americans to

Fighting for Arizonans: Election Day in Arizona was a mess, with mass disruptions. Many came forward to tell the truth about what happened. We have to trust this is about the law and protecting the integrity of the vote and transparency in our elections.

stand up, to speak out, and to demand accountability and election reform. “When we didn’t deal with what happened in 2020, and deal with it honestly, because people were being censored because they were afraid to speak out about it, this is what you get.... The people are losing faith in the system of our elections, and we’re going to have a situation where nobody feels like their vote counts,” she exclaimed.

“You simply can’t make this stuff up,” she continued, explaining that any ethical person would move to investigate and correct the issues. “We the People will not forget. God will not forget. And I will not quit.”

Without the sacred right to vote, and without honest and transparent elections, there is no America. ■



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ARIZONA ELECTION ON TRIAL

Though a judge dismissed Kari Lake's lawsuit on Christmas Eve, Lake has appealed the decision, vowing to take the fight all the way to the Arizona Supreme Court.



AP Images

Wrong-size ballots: A troubling discovery during the Arizona election was the shrunken ballot images printed on ballots rejected at several vote centers, raising questions as to whether the ballots were counted.

by Annalisa Peseck

While Secretary of State Katie Hobbs believed that Kari Lake's lawsuit would be quickly tossed out before it went to any type of trial, the judge overseeing the case saw Lake's challenge to the election as a genuine "case for the court."

In mid-December, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Peter Thompson granted a two-day evidentiary trial to hear two of the 10 counts brought forth by Lake. The two claims cited "intentional misconduct" by county election officials in regard to malfunctioning voting tabulators and rejections that occurred on November 8, as well as chain-of-custody issues that

resulted in "mass chaos" and impacted the outcome of the midterm election.

Despite Hobbs herself not being forced to testify, and her lawyers filing motions to block expert witness plaintiff testimony, Judge Thompson permitted them into the record, stating they could have a "foundation," "relevance," and "expertise" he would allow to be heard.

Thompson also acknowledged the "many, many affidavits" in the case, and that he had read them and had "no reason to believe there is any unreliable information in the affidavits."

Lake's lawyers presented hundreds of sworn affidavits testifying to the chaos that ensued on Election Day as a result of the printer/tabulator issues, which lasted

from morning to evening in some polling centers. These bewildering events created extraordinarily long lines and frustration among thousands of voters. The Maricopa County Elections Office tweeted that more than 51,000 calls from Arizonans were received on Election Day by voters trying to navigate the system.

Attorneys for Lake also provided damning reports from whistleblowers who witnessed chain-of-custody violations at Runbeck Election Services, the third-party company hired by Maricopa County to handle the counting of Election Day ballots. For its part, the defense team, led by a team of lawyers at the Elias Law Group, a firm funded by Democratic lawyer Marc Elias, sought to destroy Lake's case by accusing witnesses of pure "speculation and conjecture" that voters had been disenfranchised.

Day 1 of the trial — Wednesday, December 22 — included testimony from Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer, who oversees the county's voting operations, voter registrations, and early voting. When asked about his duties, including ballot chain of custody, Richer responded vaguely that his work had mostly to do with "real estate documents, such as titles and deeds."

Asked about the legality of chain of custody, Richer acknowledged that chain-of-custody verification is a part of Arizona election law and under his jurisdiction when it comes to early voting. His office was not responsible for election-day voting operations, emergency voting, or voting tabulations. Those responsibilities lie with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors office.

Asked how ballot chain of custody was protected when ballots were transported from the Maricopa County Elections Department to Runbeck, he claimed ballots never leave the county's chain of custody and are "with county personal at all times." Yet he could not account for who stayed with the ballots in transport or deny the claims of Runbeck whistleblowers who said ballot seals were broken and that a count of the ballots was not completed before transport to Runbeck, thus the count was insecure.

On Day 2, the court heard compelling testimony from Rich Baris, director of Big Poll Data, who testified that after more than six years of conducting exit voting

polls, he had seen things in Arizona he had never seen before.

"Pre-election day polling is very different from Election Day polling. Election Day voters they go back to their polling stations. What we saw this time was such a disparity between early voting and election day voters. There was no good reason why voters who had been voting for decades did not complete the exit poll," he testified. "The lines were too long," he continued. "Many said they would return but many did not. These thousands of people did not get to vote based on the issues that arose in Maricopa County. The tabulator and printer issues and long lines."

According to Baris' research, more than 16 percent of voters, possibly as high as 20 percent, did not cast their ballots on Election Day because of the confusion. "I err on the side of believing the American voter when I hear from so many. Tens of thousands of voters were disenfranchised," he said.

The defense team's expert witness, University of Wisconsin Political Science Professor Kenneth Mayer, called Baris' research pure speculation that lacked statistical support. Yet, as Baris repeated, "a range of issues occurred on Election Day, and that is enough to have changed the outcome of the election."

Another startling discovery was the shrunken ballot images that were printed on too-small pieces of paper without explanation, though lawyers for the county argued that while these ballots were rejected at vote centers they were counted later. Lake's lawyers argued this was intentional and that ballots with the 19-inch images on 20-inch paper were found in all six voting centers randomly selected.

Maricopa County Elections Co-director Scott Jarrett admitted on the stand that it could happen that a 19-inch image could be printed on a 20-inch paper, and that his office found out about this shortly after the election. Scott also said the shrink-to-fit issue arose in three prior elections.

Lake's attorney Kurt Olsen blasted the admission, stating if the issue had arisen in prior elections it made no sense to be analyzing it now. "Why are we doing a root cause analysis now if the modification had arisen in three prior elections? It doesn't make sense," said Olsen. "The other thing that doesn't make sense, on this shrink to fit argument, are random techs doing things on their own."

Surprise! Judge Finds No "Evidence" of Misconduct

On Christmas Eve, Judge Thompson ruled against the claims of Lake's lawsuit, finding no "clear and convincing" evidence

that printer and tabulator malfunctions or ballot chain-of-custody violations contributed to misconduct impacting the result of the election. He further ordered the "timely" confirmation of Hobbs as Arizona governor on January 2.

In a statement following the trial, Lake said "we proved without a shadow of a doubt that there was malicious intent that caused disruption so great it changed the result of the election.... Our elections in this country are a mess, and I am glad to stand up and say no longer will we put up with this. We demand fair, honest, transparent elections and we will get them."

Shortly after the release of Thompson's verdict, Lake announced on Twitter that she would appeal the decision, writing, "My Election Case provided the world with evidence that proves our elections are run outside of the law. This Judge did not rule in our favor. However, for the sake of restoring faith and honesty in our elections, I will appeal his ruling."

Lake has said she will take the fight all the way to the Arizona Supreme Court.

Yet by Monday, December 26, Hobbs requested that Thompson sanction Lake over "unfounded attacks" against election officials. Maricopa County officials and Hobbs cited a tweet by Lake suggesting the judge's ruling was "ghostwritten" and that "top left-wing attorneys like Marc Elias emailed him what to say."

Lake deleted the tweet and faces potential sanctions of half a million dollars in payment to Hobbs and Maricopa County. But Hobbs took her accusations even further, claiming Lake raised funds off her efforts to overturn the election and used the justice system to "harass political opponents and sow completely unfounded doubts about the integrity of elections."

As Lake faces orders to compensate the legal fees of Hobbs's defense team, the GOP firebrand has refused to concede the race and has filed an appeal to Judge Thompson's decision, as well as requesting her case to be heard by the Arizona Supreme Court. As of this writing, Lake's appeal was denied by the Supreme Court, but will be heard by an Appeals Court on January 24. *The New American* will be following the story and will provide updates as events develop. ■



Defending "broken" elections: Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer, who oversees voting operations, vehemently denied the election in his county went anything but "smoothly."

AP Images

THE DANGERS OF SOCIALIZED MEDICINE

Putting healthcare decisions in the hands of a nanny state destroys medical freedom and threatens the foundations of our Republic.



Medical freedom fighter: Dr. Katarina Lindley operates a direct primary care practice in Brock, Texas, which provides routine healthcare without the interference of Big Brother, Big Pharma, or Big Insurers.

by Dr. Kat Lindley

Dr. Katarina Lindley has been an outspoken advocate for medical freedom throughout the Covid debacle. She promotes patient-physician decision making in treatment of all illnesses, and is affiliated with groups such as the Alliance for Natural Health International and the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, which oppose Covid-19 vaccine mandates due to alarming safety signals seen in pharmacovigilance reports across the world.

Born in Croatia when it was still part of communist Yugoslavia, Lindley is a board-certified family physician who practices in Texas and professes a deep love for the United States, her adopted country. Her passion for defending Americans' God-given rights from governmental overreach can be seen in her work on the board of directors for DPC Action (Direct Primary Care), a nonprofit that works to get Uncle Sam out of the way and restore true privacy to the patient-physician relationship.

Dr. Lindley points out that the federal government's response to Covid provides a microcosm of what various proposals for socialized medicine hold in store for the United States. She also offers an insightful review of the foundational principles to which our country must adhere if we hope to remain a free nation. — The editors

My story is unique only to those who were born into freedom and have never known true tyranny. I grew up under communist rule. At age 18, I left Yugoslavia and experienced freedom for the first time.

I am now a huge fan of my adopted country. Americans are some of the most amazing people I have ever met. They are, however, a little naïve because they have never had to truly defend their freedom. Certainly, the United States has been attacked, such as the Japanese bombardment of Pearl Harbor that marked this country's entry into World War II. Even then, the actual war was mainly fought in Europe.

Today, we are fighting an assault against our Republic on our own soil.

During the past two-plus years of government lockdowns and vaccine mandates, we have learned the dangers of bureaucratic agencies and federal dictates that demand we get experimental injections to be able to keep our jobs, attend school, etc. This "mandate experiment" has grossly failed, as people demanded their essential right to "freedom of choice." Our constitutional Republic largely stood strong against most of these mandates through legal wins and strong pushback from patriotic Americans.

But the battle is far from over, for the bureaucracy never sleeps!

For decades there has been an ongoing movement to socialize healthcare in the United States. Our politicians have many names for it, from President Truman's proposal for a national healthcare system in 1947 and President Johnson's institution of

Medicare and Medicaid in the 1960s, to the more recent fiasco of ObamaCare and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) dystopian dream of comprehensive "Medicare for All."

Medical Freedom

My reasons for opposing government-controlled universal healthcare are simple. By socializing medicine, we allow bureaucrats to take over a very important industry and dictate how, when, where, to whom, and by whom healthcare is administered. Doing so would essentially take over the lives of a nation and potentially decide the longevity of its people.

It is neither paranoid nor cynical to mistrust a government that seeks to seize people's power to make their own decisions about healthcare. The outcome of such a scheme is not difficult to imagine, considering the track record of other public initiatives. For instance, minimum-wage laws purport to provide well-paying jobs but only usher in rising unemployment. Housing projects are synonymous with dilapidated buildings and conditions that foster poverty and crime. Students educated in American public schools are subjected to critical race theory and pushed to practice all forms of perversity.

The historical record proves that federal interference in most areas is a certain kiss of death. This is precisely why people such as me want to escape communist dictatorships. It is also the reason that America's Founding Fathers shackled governmental powers within clearly defined limits of law. In other words, they instituted a constitutional republic.

Under such a system, citizens elect representatives to temporarily serve in public office, while all are bound to follow constitutional law. The Founding Fathers knew from history the importance of doing so. As recorded in Will and Ariel Durant's *The Story of Civilization*, it was Solon of Athens who first established "government by written and permanent law" rather than "by incalculable and changeable decrees," a contrast that brilliantly describes the difference between republics and democracies.

Later, the Roman statesman Cicero, who watched his beloved republic die at the hands of unscrupulous politicians, ob-

served that democracy invariably devolves into mob rule, chaos, and dictatorship. In other words, democracy is inherently unstable and always results in a totalitarian government.

Totalitarianism is an umbrella term for any system of government that is centralized and dictatorial. The most common forms of totalitarianism are socialism and communism, which are little more than two sides of the same coin.

As explained by John F. McManus in the foreword to the 2008 edition of *The Blue Book of the John Birch Society*, socialism is the economic form of totalitarianism, and communism is its political/military manifestation. Socialism has "always been the goal of every communist," and socialists "can be expected to resort to terror and brutality" (i.e. communism) "in order to maintain control." Regardless of the label, he wrote, tyranny of any type is a deadly enemy of freedom and "worthy of total opposition."

That opposition must be absolute; there can be no compromise when it comes to the right to life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness.

Needs vs. Rights

There are those who insist that healthcare is also a right. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948, lists "medical care" as a basic human right. That was also the belligerent mantra of Senator Bernie Sanders while he was stumping for the U.S. presidency in 2020.

Those who join his chorus fail to realize the vital difference between a need and a right. It is an important distinction because everyone should be free to *pursue* basic needs, but a right is something everyone can *demand* equally and freely without imposing obligations on anyone else "other than the duty of noninterference."

That is how the late economist Walter Williams explained these concepts in his March 2020 commentary "Believing in a 'Right' to Healthcare Means Believing in Theft." He pointed out that our other rights — such as freedom to practice religion, or to exercise free speech, or to own property — do not compel anyone else to provide anything for you. For example, the Bill of Rights protects your right to peaceably assemble, but the government is not bound to rent meeting space for you. Nor does



Promoting indentured servitude? Proponents of Medicare for All, such as Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), claim healthcare is a right, but that erroneous argument presumes someone else is responsible for providing your healthcare.



strict dictates of the National Institutes of Health. Those decrees include high-death-rate ventilators and toxic drug regimens while banning effective treatments such as ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine.

The Last and Best Hope

A truly free people would not submit to the medical tyranny imposed over the last two-plus years. Our forefathers chose freedom over tyranny and left us tools to stand strong and defend it. It takes each one of us to preserve our liberties, so why don't we?

Having grown up in a communist country, I know that the United States is seen by other nations as a true beacon of hope amid worldwide tyrannies. "Every freedom-loving man has two fatherlands; his own and America," wrote Richard Wurmbrand in 1967. Wurmbrand was a Lutheran minister tortured and imprisoned in Communist Romania for 14 years because of his Christian faith. "America is the hope of every enslaved man, because it is the last bastion of freedom in the world. Only America has the power and spiritual resources to stand as a barrier between militant Communism and the people of the world," Wurmbrand continued.

As quoted in *America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations* by William Federer, Wurmbrand went on to write that America

Covid vaccines for children as young as six months of age and paving the way for vaccine mandates.

Medicare and Medicaid provide further striking examples. During the 1960s these programs suddenly launched millions of medically high-risk Americans onto the government dole in one of the largest wealth transfers in our nation's history. They insert bureaucratic middlemen into the doctor-patient relationship, and those agents get to dictate what and how much care the patient receives. Recall ObamaCare's Independent Payment Advisory Board, a 15-member Medicare-rationing team that pundits dubbed "Obama's death panel" for threatening seniors' access to necessary medical care.

Fortunately, Congress overturned that barbarity in 2018, but now we face something even worse. The 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the "New COVID-19 Treatments Add-On Payment" system of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are programs that give financial bonuses to hospitals on the condition that their Covid-related treatments follow

Last bastion of freedom: Americans have stood firm against Deep State medical tyranny imposed during the past two years. We must continue strong, because there is no recourse if America falls.

it provide the printing materials for your local paper to exercise the right to free press. We certainly do not get a subsidy to keep and bear arms.

Likewise, why should government provide healthcare? As Williams pointed out, "Sanders' claim that health care is a right does impose obligations upon others. We see that by recognizing that there is no Santa Claus or tooth fairy who gives resources to the government to pay for medical services." The people who pay for government-funded healthcare are taxpayers. It is a modern-day version of "involuntary servitude," or of "one American living at the expense of another."

Healthcare or Death Insurance?

Therefore, the proper role of government regarding healthcare is to protect your access to it from unlawful interference, not to provide it. We already know the disastrous results of federal controls. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been the exclusive drug gatekeeper in this country since the 1950s and is riddled with conflicts of interest with Big Pharma, to the point of approving experimental

is the last "dike" holding back the rampaging floodwaters of militant Communism. If it crumples, there is no other dike, no other dam, no other line of defense to fall back upon. America is the last hope of millions of enslaved peoples. They look to it as their second fatherland. In it lies their hopes and prayers. I have seen fellow-prisoners in Communist prisons beaten, tortured, with 50 pounds of chains on their legs — praying for America ... that the dike will not crumble; that it will remain free.

How much longer will Wurmbrand's assessment hold true? The answer to that question rests entirely on our shoulders. It is up to us to defend our Republic, or we will lose it. ■



Faith FAMILY **FREEDOM**

TOM RENZ: DEFENDER OF MEDICAL FREEDOM

by **Rebecca Terrell**

Since the advent of the Covid-19 debacle, he has become one of the most renowned legal voices in the medical freedom movement. Yet he's only been practicing law for four years.

Little did Ohio attorney Tom Renz know when he first hung out his shingle in the town of Fremont that he would soon be catapulted into the national spotlight via a series of lawsuits against the federal government and several states over unconstitutional Covid policies. From challenging crippling lockdowns and unhealthy mask dictates, to confronting vaccine mandates and disastrous hospital protocols, Renz has become a courtroom hero for freedom-loving Americans.

"God has a funny way of doing things," is Renz' explanation. He had been working in the legal field, but says he did not originally plan to practice law. "When I finally decided to open my law office, I simply wanted to have a nice quiet little place to fight for local justice."

Then 2020 happened.

"When Covid hit, I knew in my heart it was a fraud," Renz told *The New American*. But battling it was never part of his original plan. "By no means was I the tool that anyone would have chosen to wage this war" against Covid tyranny. "It's not like I was the best or the brightest or the most qualified," says Renz. "I was just the only one willing to fight."

He sees himself placed in this role by God — a type of David to the Covid Goliath — not only because of the uncanny timing of his law practice opening but also because he was simultaneously pursuing a master's degree in health science. In January 2020, "when everyone began talking about Covid, I started doing what a lawyer does and digging deep." He focused on epidemiology and biostats of the virus and disease and wrote extensively about it in his coursework.

"I'd find a paper from the government that said, 'Covid's killing everybody**'. What exactly do those asterisks mean? They would lead me to other documents that said,

'Here's why we think Covid is killing everybody**'. You get about ten documents deep, and what you find they're actually saying is, 'We don't really have any idea what's going on here. It doesn't really look like it's killing many people, but it might at some point.' However, the truth never gets reported, and headlines tell you it's the end of the world."

By the time governments started imposing lockdowns, Renz says, his eyes were wide open. "I started investigating everything — from masks to treatments to vaccines — and everything they were saying was a lie."

He filed one of his first Covid-related lawsuits against Republican Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, seeking to reverse lockdown measures and mask mandates. Among the eight plaintiffs in that case was his brother, who — because of the state's draconian dictates — was forced to permanently close the family's bowling alley, where Tom had worked in his youth.

Freedom fighter: Ohio attorney Tom Renz has dedicated his career to righting Covid wrongs and exposing election fraud. He says that the mission of The John Birch Society "is a natural alliance for me."



Courtesy of Tom Renz

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of *The New American*.

Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

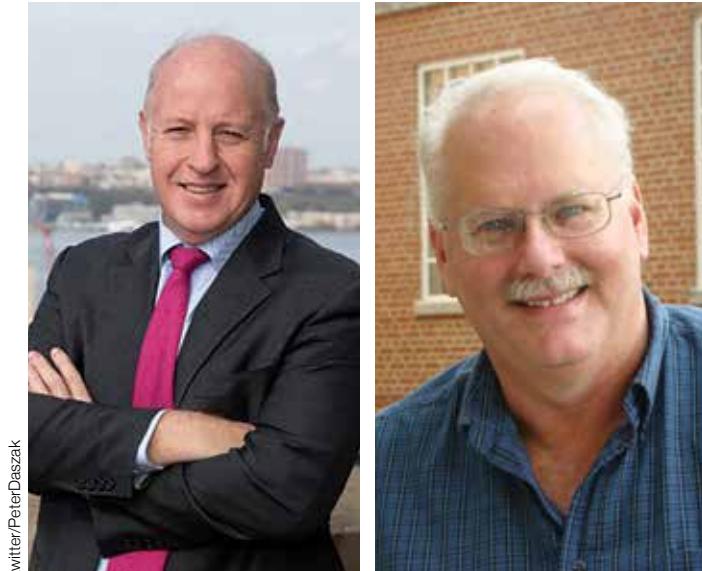
Other suits followed, in Ohio as well as New Mexico, Maine, Kentucky, Michigan, and Alabama. In May 2021 Renz sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), seeking a temporary restraining order against emergency use authorization (EUA) of Covid vaccines in children under age 16. Two months later he filed for a preliminary injunction against the jab until HHS could provide voluntary, informed consent to patients. And in September 2021, he sued the federal government for covering up the true number of deaths from Covid vaccines.

But it was in January of 2022 that Renz made national headlines with a case involving three U.S. military doctors. They had discovered frightening spikes in the Defense Medical Epidemiology Database (DMED), which tracks servicemen's health statistics. Later analysis revealed that they had made a simple counting mistake — tallying every office visit rather than every diagnosis. But that was after the Department of Defense had blamed a computer glitch and manipulated historical data to remove the spikes.

Naturally, such exposure and defense of truth — and much success he has achieved along the way — has sparked the ire of self-styled debunkers who routinely castigate and defame Renz. Their tactics do nothing to deter him, however, and he recently filed his largest suit to date: a \$1 billion case in New York's Supreme Court. It accuses the parties that he believes are responsible for orchestrating the so-called pandemic.

Some named in the lawsuit are familiar to the medical freedom movement: EcoHealth Alliance and its head, Peter Daszak, along with Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The case cites \$17 million in taxpayer-funded grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health that Renz says the defendants unlawfully concealed and funneled to China's Wuhan Institute of Virology for coronavirus gain-of-function research, which is the alteration of an organism's function by experimental genetic modifications that, in viruses, can involve changes in transmissibility, replication, virulence, host range, and more.

"It's very much a traditional tort lawsuit," explains Renz. "The best analogy to help people understand it is this: If I build a dynamite factory in town, that's a dangerous thing to do. Should it blow up, killing people and damaging property, I'm going to get sued."



Covid culprits? EcoHealth Alliance head Peter Daszak (left) and Ralph Baric of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill are among defendants in a \$1 billion lawsuit accusing them of creating the virus that causes Covid.

"In the same way, we've alleged that EcoHealth Alliance worked with coronaviruses, which are federally registered as dangerous substances," he notes. "They tinkered with them, the coronaviruses got out, and they killed a bunch of people. So anyone who got Covid-19 probably has a lawsuit against these people."

Among his evidence, Renz cites the testimony of Dr. Andrew Huff, former EcoHealth Alliance vice president and senior scientist, who recently authored the book *The Truth about Wuhan: How I Uncovered the Biggest Lie in History*.

"We've got some other massive whistleblowers coming up, but right now the amount of evidence is insurmountable," asserts Renz. "I could be litigating for the rest of my life and not use it all."

That's exactly what it looks like he will be doing, as he is also planning action to demand a full and transparent investigation of the elections in Arizona. "We're branching out. We're going to keep after Covid until everyone responsible is held accountable," Renz vows of his legal team. "But my fight is for freedom, and we're going to raise every issue related to freedom that we can."

It is that dedication to the freedom movement that led him to The John Birch Society (JBS), in which he plans to help lead a newly formed business and professional chapter in Columbus, Ohio. JBS is "an amazing resource of information and knowledge," says Renz. "We're all about God and protecting our country."

JBS is an educational organization with a mission to bring about "less government, more responsibility, and — with God's help — a better world." Local, grassroots chapters form the backbone of the organization, and members work at the local level to implement a national agenda intended to restore, protect, and defend our constitutional Republic.

"The mission is a natural alliance for me. Of course I support the organization. How would I not? It's about God and freedom and family!"

He hopes others will join the important work of defending our great nation. "I'm just one guy from a little town. I'm not special, or a genius, or even good looking," Renz says. "I simply trust God, and I fight. That's all you've got to do. And if you fight for the right reasons, and unrelentingly, you will have an impact." ■

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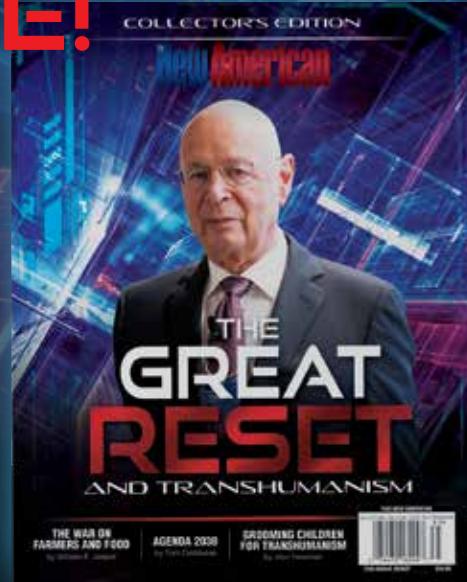
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Fighting for Fair Elections

Irregularities in the 2022 midterm elections show that much work still needs to be done to restore honest elections and public confidence in the system.

(January 30, 2023) TNA230130



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The UN's New World Religion

The UN's climate agenda threatens not only nationhood and freedom but also religion. The latter, on full display at the climate conference in Egypt, should alarm all people of faith. (January 16, 2023) TNA230116

Enduring Faith

Believers who despair that Christendom is now in its death throes should look at the ebbs and flows of history and take heart in the fact that faith has always emerged triumphant. (December 26, 2022) TNA221226

What Happened to the Red Wave?

According to both liberal Democrats and neoconservative Republicans, MAGA is to blame for the disappointing midterm election results. But the truth is very different. (December 12, 2022) TNA221212

Vax Propaganda Plan Exposed

The multi-faceted Covid Vaccination propaganda juggernaut that hit the American people from all angles was a coordinated White House effort. (November 28, 2022) TNA221128

Article V Convention: Will It Work?

America has not had a Constitutional Convention since 1787. The result then was a blessing. But holding a new convention today could end up being disastrous for the nation. (July 11, 2022) TNA220711



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The Freedom Index

A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution

Our fourth (and final) look at the 117th Congress shows how every member of the House and Senate voted on key issues such as an assault weapons ban (House only), marriage, and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

House Vote Descriptions

31 U.S. Military in Syria. During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) offered an amendment to prohibit deploying U.S. military forces in Syria.

The House rejected Bowman's amendment on July 14, 2022 by a vote of 155 to 273 (Roll Call 335). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because according to the U.S. Constitution, only Congress has the authority to declare war. It is long past time to bring the troops home from Syria, especially considering that Congress never issued a declaration of war in relation to the country.

32 Abortion Access. H.R. 8296, also known as the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022, would establish that healthcare providers have a statutory right to provide abortion services, and that



AP Images

Middle East deployment: Decades of U.S. military interventionism in the Middle East, without any declarations of war by Congress, have cost America heavily in terms of lives and money. This photo shows U.S. soldiers in Syria.

women have a corresponding right to obtain abortions.

The House passed H.R. 8296 on July 15, 2022 by a vote of 219 to 210 (Roll Call 360). We have assigned pluses to the

nays because the right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

About This Index

“The Freedom Index: A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution” rates congressmen based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. To learn how any representative or senator voted on the key measures described herein, look him or her up in the vote charts.

The scores are derived by dividing a congressman's constitutional votes (pluses) by the total number he cast (pluses and minuses) and multiplying by 100. The average House score for this index is 38 percent (71 percent for the Republicans and seven percent for the Democrats), and the average Senate score is 31 percent (60 percent for the Republicans and two percent for the Democrats). Eleven rep-

resentatives and one senator earned 100 percent. We encourage readers to examine how their own congressmen voted on each of the 10 key measures. We also encourage readers to commend legislators for their constitutional votes, and to urge improvement where needed.

This is our fourth (and final) index for the 117th Congress, which served during 2021-22. Our first index for the 117th Congress (votes 1-10) appeared in our August 9, 2021 issue, our second index (votes 11-20) in our January 31, 2022 issue, and our third index in our August 29, 2022 issue. An online version of the “Freedom Index” is also available (click on “Freedom Index” at TheNewAmerican.com), as are Congressional Scorecards on individual members of the House and Senate and Legislative Scorecards on state legislators (see ad on page 32). ■

House Vote Scores ✓

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
ALABAMA												
1 Carl (R)	67%	-	+	-	+	+	?	+	-	+	+	74%
2 Moore (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
3 Rogers (R)	67%	-	+	-	+	+	?	+	-	+	+	76%
4 Aderholt (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	80%
5 Brooks (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88%
6 Palmer (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	79%
7 Sewell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
ALASKA												
AL Peltola (D)	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	
ARIZONA												
1 O'Halleran (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
2 Kirkpatrick (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
3 Grijalva (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 Gosar (R)	90%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	98%
5 Biggs (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
6 Schweikert (R)	90%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
7 Gallego (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
8 Lesko (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	84%
9 Stanton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
ARKANSAS												
1 Crawford (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
2 Hill (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
3 Womack (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	68%
4 Westerman (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
CALIFORNIA												
1 LaMalfa (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
2 Huffman (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
3 Garamendi (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 McClintock (R)	90%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	87%
5 Thompson (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 Matsui (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
7 Bera (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
8 Obernolte (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%
9 McNearney (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
10 Harder (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
11 DeSaulnier (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
12 Pelosi (D)	0%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
13 Lee (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
14 Speier (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
15 Swalwell (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
16 Costa (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
17 Khanna (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
18 Eshoo (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
19 Lofgren (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
20 Panetta (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
21 Valadao (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	63%
22 Conway (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
23 McCarthy (R)	78%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	74%
24 Carbajal (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
25 Garcia (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%
26 Brownley (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
27 Chu (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
28 Schiff (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
29 Cárdenas (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
30 Sherman (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
31 Aguilar (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
32 Napolitano (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
33 Lieu (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
34 Gomez (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	10%
35 Torres (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	3%
36 Ruiz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
37 Bass (D)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
38 Sánchez (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
39 Kim (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	68%
40 Roybal-Allard (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
41 Takano (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
42 Calvert (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	68%
43 Waters (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	5%
44 Barragán (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
45 Porter (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
46 Correa (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
47 Lowenthal (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
48 Steel (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	73%
49 Levin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
50 Issa (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	74%
51 Vargas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	3%
52 Peters (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
53 Jacobs (D)	11%	+	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
COLORADO												
1 DeGette (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 Neguse (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
3 Boebert (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	95%
4 Buck (R)	89%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92%
5 Lamborn (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
6 Crow (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
7 Perlmutter (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
CONNECTICUT												
1 Larson (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 Courtney (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
3 DeLauro (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 Himes (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
5 Hayes (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
DELAWARE												
AL Blunt Rochester (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
FLORIDA												
1 Gaetz (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	97%
2 Dunn (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	74%
3 Cammack (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	90%
4 Rutherford (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	69%
5 Lawson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
6 Waltz (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	70%
7 Murphy (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
8 Posey (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88%
9 Soto (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
10 Demings (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
11 Webster (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
12 Bilirakis (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
13 Crist (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	?	?	3%
14 Castor (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
15 Franklin (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
16 Buchanan (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
17 Steube (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	85%
18 Mast (R)	89%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	84%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 22, 24, and 26.

33 Expanding NATO. H.R. 1130 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the applications Finland and Sweden submitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for joining the military alliance, and “calls on the member states of NATO to formally support the accession of Finland and Sweden into NATO,” increasing the number of NATO members from 30 to 32.

The House passed H.R. 1130 on July 18, 2022 by a vote of 394 to 18 (Roll Call 364). We have assigned pluses to the nays because NATO is based on the principle of collective security, as opposed to each country acting in its own best interests. Under the North Atlantic Treaty that established NATO in 1949, “The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them ... shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them ... will assist the Party or Parties so attacked.” The expansion of this entangling military alliance, which was comprised of just 12 members at the time of its founding, increases the likelihood of the United States being drawn into a military conflict.

34 Semiconductor Incentives. H.R. 4346 would appropriate \$54.2 billion over five years, including \$52.7 billion for semiconductor research and manufacturing and \$1.5 billion for 5G development and implementation, and authorizes a 25-percent tax credit for spending on semiconductor manufacturing facilities. Additionally, H.R. 4346 authorizes, over five years, \$81 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), \$67 billion for the Energy Department, \$11 billion for the Commerce Department, and \$9.7 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Among other actions, the bill authorizes new and existing NASA programs, requires the NSF to support research in new fields including climate change, and authorizes programs to improve underrepresented groups’ participation in STEM fields.

The House passed H.R. 4346 on July 28, 2022 by a vote of 243 to 187 (Roll Call 404). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Constitution does not authorize Congress to fund research and development programs for the private

sector. The free market, not government, is the key to technological and economic progress.

35 Assault Weapons Ban. H.R. 1808 would make it illegal to own, sell, or knowingly possess a semiautomatic “assault” weapon or “large capacity” ammunition feeding devices. It would also allow law-enforcement grants to be used for state and tribal buy-back programs for guns banned by this bill.

The House passed H.R. 1808 on July 29, 2022 by a vote of 217 to 213 (Roll Call 410). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill is a gross violation of the U.S. Constitution, especially the Second Amendment, which recognizes that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” This is one step closer to a disarmed America — with the assistance of taxpayer dollars.

36 Inflation Reduction Act. H.R. 5376 would spend at least \$512 billion on federal programs, subsidies, and tax credits. This includes \$369 billion for various climate-change initiatives with the goal of lowering carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030, including \$270 bil-

lion in tax credits, \$27 billion in grants to state and local governments and nongovernmental organizations to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and \$9.7 billion to support zero-emission or carbon-capture technology in rural areas; \$64 billion to extend expanded ObamaCare subsidies for three years; and \$79.3 billion in expanded IRS funding (including to hire up to 87,000 new agents). Among other programs, the bill imposes a 15-percent minimum tax — based on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD’s) global minimum tax proposal — on corporations with at least \$1 million in annual income, enacts drug-pricing changes for Medicare, and raises fee rates on energy production on public lands.

The House passed H.R. 5376 on August 12, 2022 by a vote of 220 to 207 (Roll Call 420). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Congress is failing to address its fiscally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that yielded a federal deficit of \$1.38 trillion in fiscal 2022. Moreover, the bill advances a radical environmentalist agenda, and virtually all of its provisions fall outside the Constitution’s specified powers.



Under assault: The Second Amendment was recently targeted in the House under the guise of banning “assault” weapons.

fotosearch/GettyimagesPlus

117th CONGRESS, Votes 31-40

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
19 Donalds (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
20 Cherflus-McCormick (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
21 Frankel (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
22 Deutch (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	3%
23 Wasserman Schultz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
24 Wilson (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
25 Diaz-Balart (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	68%
26 Gimenez (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	63%
27 Salazar (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	60%
GEORGIA												
1 Carter (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	79%
2 Bishop (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
3 Ferguson (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
4 Johnson (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
5 Williams (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 McBath (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
7 Bourdeaux (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
8 Scott (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
9 Clyde (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
10 Hice (R)	89%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
11 Loudermilk (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
12 Allen (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	82%
13 Scott (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
14 Greene (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	98%
HAWAII												
1 Case (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 Kahale (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
IDAHO												
1 Fulcher (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86%
2 Simpson (R)	67%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	67%
ILLINOIS												
1 Rush (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 Kelly (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
3 Newman (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 Garcia (D)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	8%
5 Quigley (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 Casten (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
7 Davis (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
8 Krishnamoorthi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
9 Schakowsky (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
10 Schneider (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
11 Foster (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
12 Bost (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	71%
13 Davis (R)	44%	-	+	?	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	64%
14 Underwood (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
15 Miller (R)	90%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92%
16 Kinzinger (R)	38%	-	+	?	-	+	+	-	-	?	-	38%
17 Bustos (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
18 LaHood (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
INDIANA												
1 Mrvan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
2 Yakym (R)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	
3 Banks (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	82%
4 Baird (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	67%
5 Spartz (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
6 Pence (R)	67%	-	+	-	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	76%
7 Carson (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
8 Bucshon (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
9 Hollingsworth (R)	63%	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	?	?	74%
IOWA												
1 Hinson (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%
2 Miller-Meeks (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	68%

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
3 Axne (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
4 Feenstra (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
KANSAS												
1 Mann (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	85%
2 LaTurner (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
3 Davids (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
4 Estes (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	84%
KENTUCKY												
1 Comer (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	82%
2 Guthrie (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
3 Yarmuth (D)	0%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
4 Massie (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
5 Rogers (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
6 Barr (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
LOUISIANA												
1 Scalise (R)	78%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	79%
2 Carter (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
3 Higgins (R)	89%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
4 Johnson (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	82%
5 Letlow (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	69%
6 Graves (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	77%
MAINE												
1 Pingree (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 Golden (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20%
MARYLAND												
1 Harris (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	79%
2 Ruppersberger (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
3 Sarbanes (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 Brown (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
5 Hoyer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
6 Trone (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
7 Mfume (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
8 Raskin (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
MASSACHUSETTS												
1 Neal (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 McGovern (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
3 Trahan (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 Auchincloss (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
5 Clark (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 Moulton (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
7 Pressley (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	13%
8 Lynch (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
9 Keating (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
MICHIGAN												
1 Bergman (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	74%
2 Huizenga (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	80%
3 Meijer (R)	40%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	55%
4 Moolenaar (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	78%
5 Kildee (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 Upton (R)	30%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	48%
7 Walberg (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	83%
8 Slotkin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
9 Levin (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	8%
10 McClain (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
11 Stevens (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
12 Dingell (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
13 Tlaib (D)	22%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	16%
14 Lawrence (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
MINNESOTA												
1 Finstad (R)	80%	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	-	+	80%
2 Craig (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 22, 24, and 26.

37 Electoral Count Procedures.

H.R. 8873, the “Presidential Election Reform Act,” would change the procedures for how presidential electoral votes are cast and counted to “prevent other future unlawful efforts to overturn Presidential elections and to ensure future peaceful transfers of Presidential power,” according to the bill. The bill would require the governor of each state to certify the state’s electors. It would also make the role of the presiding officer of the joint session count on January 6th (i.e., the vice president or, in absence thereof, the president pro tempore) simply a “ministerial” position having no discretionary power to “determine or otherwise resolve disputes concerning the proper list of electors for a State, the validity of electors for a State, or the votes of electors of a State.” Additionally, the bill raises the threshold for raising any objections to “at least one third of each House of Congress.” In a statement after voting against the bill, Representative Burgess Owens (R-Utah) said, “The Presidential Election Reform Act … tramples the constitutional duty of states to oversee elections, and continues the partisan charge to centralize power in Washington.”

The House passed H.R. 8873 on September 21, 2022 by a vote of 229 to 203 (Roll Call 449). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill undermines election integrity, infringes upon state sovereignty, and makes changes that are inconsistent with Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

38 Federal Police Grants.

H.R. 6448, the “Invest to Protect Act of 2022,” would direct the Department of Justice’s office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to award grants to county, municipal, town, village, and tribal governments that employ “fewer than 125 law enforcement officers.” The grants are intended to fund “de-escalation training for law enforcement officers” to “minimize the need for the use of force,” overtime costs, and signing and retention bonuses, among other activities. The bill would appropriate \$60,000,000 for each year from 2023 through 2027.

The House passed H.R. 6448 on September 22, 2022 by a vote of 360 to 64

lisafx/Getty Images Plus



Redefining marriage: Congress recently codified what is commonly referred to as same-sex marriage on the federal level.

(Roll Call 451). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill undermines the local control and independence of police. The strings that come attached to such grants move the United States closer to nationalizing police — making police subordinate to federal stipulations, guidelines, and control — rather than preserving local police that are independent of the federal government. Furthermore, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution makes no provision for federal grants, training, or guidelines for local law enforcement.

39 Marriage.

H.R. 8404 would codify the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation or race. It prohibits the states from denying marriage between two individuals on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin. This bill also repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as “only a legal union between one man and one woman.”

The House passed H.R. 8404 on December 8, 2022 by a vote of 258 to 169 (Roll Call 513). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this Marxist-inspired bill violates state sovereignty. Additionally, it embraces “woke” culture and undermines the traditional nuclear family. Rights come from God, not government.

40 Omnibus 2023 Spending.

H.R. 2617 would authorize \$1.6 trillion for regular fiscal 2023 discretionary federal spending and another \$100 billion for a wide variety of other legislation (nearly \$47 billion for aid to Ukraine and roughly \$38 billion for U.S. natural disasters) that was tacked onto the bill in last-minute negotiations by congressional leaders. Looking at the big picture, this bill minimizes congressional accountability to the voters by combining the 2023 spending approval for 15 Cabinet departments and eight federal agencies into only one bill. On top of that, the federal budget deficit for 2023 is expected to be one trillion dollars.

The House passed H.R. 2617 on December 23, 2022 by a vote of 225 to 201 (Roll Call 549). We have assigned pluses to the nays because passage of this largely unconstitutional bill in the context of a projected \$1 trillion 2023 federal budget deficit reveals a high degree of fiscal irresponsibility and unaccountability to the voters by Congress. This Omnibus 2023 spending bill should have been punted by this “lame duck” session of Congress into the next Congress, where it would have been subject to revision by the members selected by the voters on November 8, 2022. ■

117th CONGRESS, Votes 31-40

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40		Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40	
3 Phillips (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	10 Nadler (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
4 McCollum (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	11 Malloiotakis (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	65%	
5 Omar (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%	12 Maloney (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
6 Emmer (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	70%	13 Espaillat (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
7 Fischbach (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	75%	14 Ocasio-Cortez (D)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	21%	
8 Stauber (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	73%	15 Torres (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
MISSISSIPPI														16 Bowman (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	15%	
1 Kelly (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	78%	17 Jones (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
2 Thompson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	18 Maloney (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
3 Guest (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	79%	19 Ryan (D)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-		
4 Palazzo (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%	20 Tonko (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
MISSOURI														21 Stefanik (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	68%
1 Bush (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	18%	22 Tenney (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	69%	
2 Wagner (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%	23 Sempolinski (R)	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	-	+	+	+		
3 Luetkemeyer (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%	24 Katko (R)	30%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	40%	
4 Hartzler (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	83%	25 Morelle (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	
5 Cleaver (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	26 Higgins (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
6 Graves (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%	27 Jacobs (R)	20%	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	55%	
MONTANA														NORTH CAROLINA												
AL Rosendale (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%	1 Butterfield (D)	0%	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	
NEBRASKA														2 Ross (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	
1 Flood (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%	3 Murphy (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	77%	
2 Bacon (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	65%	4 Price (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	
3 Smith (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	74%	5 Foxx (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%	
NEVADA														6 Manning (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	
1 Titus (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	7 Rouzer (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%	
2 Amodei (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	68%	8 Hudson (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%	
3 Lee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	9 Bishop (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	98%	
4 Horsford (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	10 McHenry (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	76%	
NEW HAMPSHIRE														11 Cawthorn (R)	90%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88%
1 Pappas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	12 Adams (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
2 Kuster (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	13 Budd (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%	
NEW JERSEY														NORTH DAKOTA												
1 Norcross (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	AL Armstrong (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%	
2 Van Drew (R)	90%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	78%	OHIO													
3 Kim (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	1 Chabot (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	68%	
4 Smith (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	65%	2 Wenstrup (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%	
5 Gottheimer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	3 Beatty (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
6 Pallone (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	4 Jordan (R)	90%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	95%	
7 Malinowski (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	5 Latta (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%	
8 Sires (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	6 Johnson (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%	
9 Pascrell (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	7 Gibbs (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%	
10 Payne (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	8 Davidson (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93%	
11 Sherrill (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	9 Kaptur (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
12 Watson Coleman (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	10 Turner (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	63%	
NEW MEXICO														11 Brown (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
1 Stansbury (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%	12 Balderson (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	69%	
2 Herrell (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	92%	13 Ryan (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
3 Leger Fernandez (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	14 Joyce (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	58%	
NEW YORK														15 Carey (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	64%
1 Zeldin (R)	86%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	83%	16 Gonzalez (R)	25%	-	?	-	-	?	+	-	-	-	+	47%	
2 Garbarino (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	63%	OKLAHOMA													
3 Suozzi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	1 Hern (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88%	
4 Rice (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	2 Mullin (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	77%	
5 Meeks (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	3 Lucas (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	74%	
6 Meng (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	4 Cole (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%	
7 Velázquez (D)	11%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	5%	5 Bice (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%	
8 Jeffries (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	OREGON													
9 Clarke (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	1 Bonamici (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%	
THE SCORES														2 Bentz (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 22, 24, and 26.														3 Blumenauer (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
														4 DeFazio (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
														5 Schrader (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	8%

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
PENNSYLVANIA												
1 Fitzpatrick (R)	30%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	40%
2 Boyle (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
3 Evans (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 Dean (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
5 Scanlon (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 Houlahan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
7 Wild (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
8 Cartwright (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
9 Meuser (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	78%
10 Perry (R)	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	87%
11 Smucker (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
12 Keller (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
13 Joyce (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
14 Reschenthaler (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
15 Thompson (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
16 Kelly (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
17 Lamb (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
18 Doyle (D)	11%	+	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
RHODE ISLAND												
1 Cicilline (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
2 Langevin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	3%
SOUTH CAROLINA												
1 Mace (R)	70%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	80%
2 Wilson (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	74%
3 Duncan (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
4 Timmons (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	76%
5 Norman (R)	90%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	95%
6 Clyburn (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
7 Rice (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
SOUTH DAKOTA												
AL Johnson (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
TENNESSEE												
1 Harshbarger (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	85%
2 Burchett (R)	89%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92%
3 Fleischmann (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
4 DesJarlais (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
5 Cooper (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
6 Rose (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	89%
7 Green (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	84%
8 Kustoff (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	75%
9 Cohen (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
TEXAS												
1 Gohmert (R)	90%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	95%
2 Crenshaw (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	77%
3 Taylor (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
4 Fallon (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	78%
5 Gooden (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
6 Ellzey (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
7 Fletcher (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
8 Brady (R)	75%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	?	+	75%
9 Green (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
10 McCaul (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	68%
11 Pfluger (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	77%
12 Granger (R)	60%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	69%
13 Jackson (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
14 Weber (R)	78%	-	+	?	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	82%
15 Gonzalez (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	5%
16 Escobar (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
17 Sessions (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
18 Jackson Lee (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
19 Arrington (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	82%

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
20 Castro (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
21 Roy (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
22 Nehls (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
23 Gonzales (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	65%
24 Van Duyne (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
25 Williams (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	84%
26 Burgess (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	83%
27 Cloud (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	97%
28 Cuellar (D)	20%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	13%
29 Garcia (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
30 Johnson (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
31 Carter (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	75%
32 Allred (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
33 Veasey (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
34 Flores (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	73%
35 Doggett (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
36 Babin (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
UTAH												
1 Moore (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	71%
2 Stewart (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
3 Curtis (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	68%
4 Owens (R)	75%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	74%
VERMONT												
AL Welch (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
VIRGINIA												
1 Wittman (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	74%
2 Luria (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
3 Scott (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
4 McEachin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	3%
5 Good (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	97%
6 Cline (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	82%
7 Spanberger (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
8 Beyer (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
9 Griffith (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	85%
10 Wexton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
11 Connolly (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
WASHINGTON												
1 DelBene (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
2 Larsen (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
3 Herrera Beutler (R)	40%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	58%
4 Newhouse (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	63%
5 Rodgers (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	70%
6 Kilmer (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
7 Jayapal (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
8 Schrier (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
9 Smith (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	3%
10 Strickland (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
WEST VIRGINIA												
1 McKinley (R)	63%	-	+	?	-	+	+	+	-	+	?	73%
2 Mooney (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	83%
3 Miller (R)	78%	?	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	77%
WISCONSIN												
1 Steil (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	73%
2 Pocan (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	10%
3 Kind (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	8%
4 Moore (D)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
5 Fitzgerald (R)	70%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	78%
6 Grothman (R)	80%	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
7 Tiffany (R)	90%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	95%
8 Gallagher (R)	50%	-	+	-	+	+	+	?	+	-	-	74%
WYOMING												
AL Cheney (R)	22%	-	?	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	51%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 22, 24, and 26.

Senate Vote Descriptions

31 Semiconductor Incentives.

H.R. 4346 would appropriate \$54.2 billion over five years, including \$52.7 billion for semiconductor research and manufacturing and \$1.5 billion for 5G development and implementation, and authorizes a 25-percent tax credit for spending on semiconductor manufacturing facilities. Additionally, H.R. 4346 authorizes, over five years, \$81 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), \$67 billion for the Energy Department, \$11 billion for the Commerce Department, and \$9.7 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Among other actions, the bill authorizes new and existing NASA programs, requires the NSF to support research in new fields including climate change, and authorizes programs to improve underrepresented groups' participation in STEM fields.

The Senate passed H.R. 4346 on July 27, 2022 by a vote of 64 to 33 (Roll Call 271). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Constitution does not authorize Congress to fund research and development programs for the private sector. The free market, not government, is the key to technological and economic progress.

32 Foreign Aid. During consideration of a veterans healthcare bill (S. 3373), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to offset the cost of a Veterans' Benefits for Toxic Exposure bill by prohibiting USAID from distributing foreign-aid funds, other than to Israel, for 10 years. Paul defended his proposition with examples of USAID waste, including a \$50 million "Visit Tunisia" program and a \$37 million project designed to get "Filipinos back to school."

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on August 2, 2022 by a vote of 7 to 90 (Roll Call 277). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the United States cannot afford to give aid to the rest of the world (in fact, the United States must borrow the money it gives away, since it is operating in the red), and there is no constitutional authorization to do so.

AP Images



Perfect score: Senator Rand Paul is the only member of the Senate to earn a 100-percent score in this index.

33 Declaration of War.

During consideration of protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty to expand NATO to include Sweden and Finland, Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to add a reservation to the protocols stating that "Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty does not supersede the constitutional requirement that Congress declare war before the United States engages in war." Article 5 of the treaty, which created NATO in 1949, states, "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them ... shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them ... will assist the Party or Parties so attacked."

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on August 3, 2022 by a vote of 10 to 87 (Roll Call 281). We have assigned pluses

to the yeas because, under the U.S. Constitution, only the Congress may declare war.

34 Expanding NATO.

The Senate voted on protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty that created the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949 that would expand the military alliance to include Finland and Sweden. For the protocols to become effective, all 30 current NATO members must approve them.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the protocols on August 3, 2022 by a vote of 95 to 1 (Roll Call 282), far in excess of the two-thirds majority vote needed to ratify treaties. We have assigned pluses to the nay because NATO is based on the principle of collective security, as opposed to each country acting in its own best interests. Under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, "The Parties

Senate Vote Scores ✓

	Votes:	31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
ALABAMA													
Shelby (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	79%
Tuberville (R)	70%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
ALASKA													
Murkowski (R)	33%	?	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	44%
Sullivan (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	74%
ARIZONA													
Sinema (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	5%
Kelly (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
ARKANSAS													
Boozman (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	78%
Cotton (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	77%
CALIFORNIA													
Feinstein (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Padilla (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
COLORADO													
Bennet (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5%
Hickenlooper (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	5%
CONNECTICUT													
Blumenthal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Murphy (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
DELAWARE													
Carper (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Coons (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
FLORIDA													
Rubio (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	80%
Scott (R)	70%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
GEORGIA													
Ossoff (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Warnock (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	0%
HAWAII													
Schatz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Hirono (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
IDAHO													
Crapo (R)	67%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	+	+	+	85%
Risch (R)	67%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	+	+	+	82%
ILLINOIS													
Durbin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Duckworth (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
INDIANA													
Young (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	63%
Braun (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93%
IOWA													
Grassley (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	75%
Ernst (R)	50%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	74%
KANSAS													
Moran (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	75%
Marshall (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92%
KENTUCKY													
McConnell (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	60%
Paul (R)	100%	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
LOUISIANA													
Cassidy (R)	50%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	70%
Kennedy (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	82%

	Votes:	31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
MAINE													
Collins (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	43%
King (I)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	5%
MARYLAND													
Cardin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Van Hollen (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
MASSACHUSETTS													
Warren (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Markey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
MICHIGAN													
Stabenow (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Peters (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
MINNESOTA													
Klobuchar (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	3%
Smith (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
MISSISSIPPI													
Wicker (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	63%
Hyde-Smith (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	80%
MISSOURI													
Blunt (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	53%
Hawley (R)	90%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
MONTANA													
Tester (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	8%
Daines (R)	70%	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
NEBRASKA													
Fischer (R)	70%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
Sasse (R)	38%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	?	?	+	67%
NEVADA													
Cortez Masto (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	5%
Rosen (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	5%
NEW HAMPSHIRE													
Shaheen (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	3%
Hassan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
NEW JERSEY													
Menendez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Booker (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
NEW MEXICO													
Heinrich (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
Lujan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%
NEW YORK													
Schumer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Gillibrand (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
NORTH CAROLINA													
Burr (R)	38%	-	?	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	?	65%
Tillis (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	65%
NORTH DAKOTA													
Hoeven (R)	70%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	78%
Cramer (R)	67%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	?	76%
OHIO													
Brown (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Portman (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	60%
OKLAHOMA													
Inhofe (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	76%
Lankford (R)	80%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	88%

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
OREGON												
Wyden (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Merkley (D)	0%	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
PENNSYLVANIA												
Casey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3%	
Toomey (R)	67%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	?	+	79%	
RHODE ISLAND												
Reed (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
Whitehouse (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
SOUTH CAROLINA												
Graham (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	60%	
Scott (R)	70%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	85%	
SOUTH DAKOTA												
Thune (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	77%	
Rounds (R)	60%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	73%	
TENNESSEE												
Blackburn (R)	80%	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	90%	
Hagerty (R)	70%	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	87%	
TEXAS												
Cornyn (R)	71%	-	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	-	78%	
Cruz (R)	80%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	90%	

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a senator did not vote. If a senator cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to Senate vote descriptions on pages 29, 31, and 32.

agree that an armed attack against one or more of them ... shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them ... will assist the Party or Parties so attacked.” The expansion of this entangling military alliance, which was comprised of just 12 members at the time of its founding, increases the likelihood of the United States being drawn into a military conflict.

35 Targeting Parents as Domestic Terrorists. During consideration of the budget reconciliation bill (aka the Inflation Reduction Act), Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) made a motion to commit the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee for changes that would prohibit the Justice Department from using resources to “inappropriately target” or classify parents as “domestic terrorists” based on their engagement with public-school officials.

The Senate rejected Cruz’ motion on August 7, 2022 by a vote of 50 to 50 (Roll Call 316). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because Congress should ensure that executive branch officials do not abridge parents’ freedom of speech or their right to peaceably assemble and petition the

government for a redress of grievances, which is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

36 Inflation Reduction Act. H.R. 5376 would spend at least \$512 billion on federal programs, subsidies, and tax credits. This includes \$369 billion for various climate-change initiatives with the goal of lowering carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030, including \$270 billion in tax credits, \$27 billion in grants to state and local governments and nongovernmental organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and \$9.7 billion to support zero-emission or carbon-capture technology in rural areas; \$64 billion to extend expanded ObamaCare subsidies for three years; and \$79.3 billion in expanded IRS funding (including to hire up to 87,000 new agents). Among other programs, the bill imposes a 15-percent minimum tax — based on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD’s) global minimum tax proposal — on corporations with at least \$1 million in annual income, enacts drug-pricing changes for Medicare, and raises fee rates on energy production on public lands.

The Senate passed H.R. 5376 on August 7, 2022 by a vote of 50 to 50 (Roll

	Votes: 31-40	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	1-40
UTAH												
Lee (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	98%
Romney (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	50%
VERMONT												
Leahy (D)	0%	?	?	?	?	-	-	?	-	-	-	0%
Sanders (I)	10%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
VIRGINIA												
Warner (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	3%
Kaine (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	3%
WASHINGTON												
Murray (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Cantwell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
WEST VIRGINIA												
Manchin (D)	11%	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	18%
Capito (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	55%
WISCONSIN												
Johnson (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
Baldwin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	0%
WYOMING												
Barrasso (R)	67%	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	?	79%
Lummis (R)	70%	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	88%

Call 325). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Congress is failing to address its fiscally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that yielded a federal deficit of \$1.38 trillion in fiscal 2022. Moreover, the bill advances a radical environmentalist agenda, and virtually all of its provisions fall outside the Constitution’s specified powers.

37 Hydrofluorocarbons Reduction. This resolution of ratification (Treaty Document 117-1) would ratify the 2016 Kigali Amendment to the 1987 Montreal Protocol. Under this treaty, the United States would be required to reduce hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions 85 percent (compared to 2012 levels) by 2036, and create a licensing system to regulate HFC imports and exports.

The Senate confirmed the treaty on September 21, 2022 by a vote of 69 to 27 (Roll Call 343). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Kigali Amendment infringes on U.S. sovereignty and allows the United Nations to dictate HFC environmental regulations in the United States. Furthermore, the U.S. Constitution does not authorize federal or international regulation of HFCs.

38 Terminate Covid-19 National Emergency.

Senate Joint Resolution 63 would terminate the Covid-19 national emergency declared by President Donald Trump on March 13, 2020. As Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) stated in a November 17, 2022 op-ed, “The Constitution is the guarantor of our liberties. So it should come as no surprise that those who crave power to rule over their fellow man always seek to suspend the Constitution by declaring and perpetuating national emergencies.” He went on to write, “A president should not be able to unilaterally aggrandize his powers by saying a magic word. If he will not terminate the national emergency himself, it falls to us, the people’s representatives in Congress, to act, and, in the wise words of the court, remind Biden that ‘there is no pandemic exception to the Constitution.’”

The Senate passed the resolution terminating the Covid-19 national emergency on November 15, 2022 by a vote of 62 to 36. (Roll Call 355). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because it is unconstitutional to suspend the Constitu-

tion by declaring national public health emergencies.

39 Marriage. H.R. 8404 would codify the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation or race. It prohibits the states from denying marriage between two individuals on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin. This bill also repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as “only a legal union between one man and one woman.”

The Senate passed H.R. 8404 on November 29, 2022 by a vote of 61 to 36 (Roll Call 362). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this Marxist-inspired bill violates state sovereignty. Additionally, it embraces “woke” culture and undermines the traditional nuclear family. Rights come from God, not government.

40 Omnibus 2023 Spending. H.R. 2617 would authorize \$1.6 trillion for regular fiscal 2023 discretionary federal spending and another \$100 billion for a wide variety of other legislation

(nearly \$47 billion for aid to Ukraine and roughly \$38 billion for U.S. natural disasters) that was tacked onto the bill in last-minute negotiations by congressional leaders. Looking at the big picture, this bill minimizes congressional accountability to the voters by combining the 2023 spending approval for 15 Cabinet departments and eight federal agencies into only one bill. On top of that, the federal budget deficit for 2023 is expected to be one trillion dollars.

The Senate passed H.R. 2617 on December 22, 2022 by a vote of 68 to 29 (Roll Call 421). We have assigned pluses to the nays because passage of this largely unconstitutional bill in the context of a projected \$1 trillion 2023 federal budget deficit reveals a high degree of fiscal irresponsibility and unaccountability to the voters by Congress. This Omnibus 2023 spending bill should have been punted by this “lame duck” session of Congress into the next Congress, where it would have been subject to revision by the members selected by the voters on November 8, 2022. ■

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FREEDOM INDEX
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THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Planting Seeds

A liquor-store employee in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, proved that a single act of kindness can inspire goodness in others.

Brooklyn Center Liquor employee TaLeia Thomas, better known as "Ace" by friends and family, was working at the front of the liquor store on December 6 when she noticed a homeless man digging through the trash outside the store. The man pulled out two boxes and strapped them to his feet in a desperate attempt to create makeshift shoes to protect his feet from the bitter cold.

Without hesitation, Ace called after the man and unlaced her own beloved, and very expensive, retro Air Jordans from her feet and helped put them on the man's feet.

The man was shocked by Ace's generosity, noting that nobody else would have given him such unique and expensive shoes.

The entire interaction happened to be caught on the store's security camera and has been widely shared.

For Ace, the decision to give the man the shoes right off her feet was an easy one.

"I tell everybody I didn't even care about the shoes, I cared about that man," Ace told KARE 11. "I felt like if somebody was able to give one person a chance, the world can be a better place."

When Ace's manager, Tom Agnes, arrived at the store and saw Ace working in her socks and learned of what happened, he bought Thomas a new pair of sneakers so she did not have to continue to work in just her socks.

"I was gonna walk home in my socks, and I live across the street. I didn't care about the shoes, I have shoes at home. I was like, 'OK, replacements.' I just look at it as replacements," she explained.

Agnes was so proud of his employee he later posted the positive news on Facebook.

"I wish I could have a dozen Aces on staff," he told CBS News.

Agnes and a few friends in the industry wanted to replace Ace's favorite shoes, so they raised \$450 to do just that. But when they learned that Ace was also taking care of her mother, who was staying with Ace, they gave her the money instead so that she could use it to purchase a bed for her mom, CBS News reported.

It was not long, however, before Ace was flooded with new replacement shoes. According to KARE 11, a stranger came to the store days later and gave her a custom pair of brand-new Air Jordans and gift cards for her family.

Ace also received a package from the Jordan brand with three pairs of the most iconic sneakers in the world, KARE 11 reported.

When the Brooklyn Center Community Emergency Assistance Program caught wind of Ace's story, they decided to launch "Ace's Winter Drive."

"We were inspired by Ace's story of giving a man her own shoes," said Mark Zobel with the Brooklyn Center Community Emergency Assistance Program.

For the drive, donation barrels were placed at Ace's store for people to donate mittens, scarves, coats, and shoes.

Ace is thrilled to see that her good deed has inspired others to act in turn.

"I feel like, honestly, giving that man a pair of shoes is like I planted a seed in the soil and now it's blooming to something more beautiful," Ace said. "I want to keep planting seeds so that it's blooming all over."

Hair for Prayer

In an effort to spark faith in others, a barber in Midland, Texas, offers free haircuts in exchange for prayer.

David Lopez, owner of Premier Mobile Cuts barbershop, told WFAA that he wanted his customers to feel valued and good about themselves. While customers who can afford it are welcome to use traditional methods of payment for their haircuts, he also allows customers to use prayer as a form of payment.

"I'm trading haircuts for prayer!" he wrote on his Instagram. "I believe in prayer and am in need that only our father can provide, so if you stop by for a cut, instead of money, I'm accepting prayer out loud after the cut is complete."

Lopez said he believes in the power of prayer and believes it is the greatest currency.

"I guess it just depends on what people value. Some people value money, some people value different things and put their

faith in things of this world. I just, bottom line, I just have more faith in prayer than I do money," he commented.

Lopez is outspoken about his faith on his social-media page and warned customers that he will "not hide his faith" when they are in his store. He also wrote that 10 percent of his profits is always earmarked for "the kingdom."

The customer's experience at Lopez' shop is a unique one, which includes listening to gospel music while they are cut and cleaned.

For Lopez, the best part of his job is having the opportunity to do God's work.

"Just knowing that God is real, he's hearing my brothers and sisters speak up on my behalf. He's seeing that, you know, I'm kind of doing His work and showing the power of prayer and the value of prayer," Lopez said. "So I'm pleasing the Father and at the same time, I'm kind of sparking the faith in others."

"Pete" Strikes Again

For the last 32 years, an anonymous donor known only as "Pete" has blessed the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center in Evansville, Indiana, with donations annually, totaling more than \$100,000.

This year was no exception, according to WNIN. On December 5, the center received a call from Pete, who instructed staff to look for his donation outside the nonprofit's headquarters.

What they found was a gift bag with a red, Christmas-decorated truck inside. Tucked into the truck were 30 \$100 bills, with a note to use the money to provide gifts to children with disabilities from disadvantaged families, a request he has made every year since 1990.

Pete's generous donation helped to make the holiday special for children in need.

"Thanks to the combined generosity of Pete and others in the community, more than 140 children served by Easterseals will receive assistance this year," Easterseals spokeswoman Megan Irish told Yahoo!News. "Gifts will range from toys, books and games to socks, shoes and winter coats." ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

THE KEY TO FREEDOM

Disseminating truth is the key to our efforts to overcome the forces that threaten to destroy our great Republic.



AndreasNesslinger/Stock/Getty Images Plus

by Fr. James Thornton

The following is an abridged version of an article that originally appeared in our May 18, 1992 issue.

The more thoughtful among patriotic Americans have long held that education is the primary key to victory in overcoming the forces of collectivism that for several decades have threatened to overwhelm and enslave the people of our Republic. [John Birch Society founder] Robert Welch, for many years one of the chief spokesmen for those Americans who favor a return to constitutional government and genuine conservatism, put it succinctly: "Education is our total strategy, and truth is our only weapon."

Welch and others have stated that if we could simply reach the American electorate, educate them in the fundamental prin-

ciples that comprise our American way of life, and expose the nefarious plans of the exponents of all-powerful, socialistic government, then the victory of American principles would be assured. This is so for several reasons.

One Hope

First, if an electorate is thoroughly informed as to the ultimate objectives of socialism, it will oppose this alien ideology and opt for freedom. An intelligent, educated, informed electorate will not willingly submit to slavery. That is why the proponents of socialism are forced to use deception to achieve their goals. For collectivists, truth is indeed a most dangerous enemy. Thus, in place of truth, socialists invariably employ crude propaganda, mob psychology, envy, class hatred, and hysteria. Unless deceived, honest, morally upstanding people will never choose the socialistic path to serfdom.

Second, the very concept of a republican government, limited by constitutional law, is predicated on the notion that the electorate must be properly educated and fully informed if it is to make sound decisions. Generally speaking, a more thoroughly educated people, if it is made up of those who are also morally upright, will translate its knowledge into better government when it makes its choices at the polls.

By contrast, an ill-educated and poorly informed electorate will subject itself inevitably to purveyors of simplistic sloganeering instead of truthful information. Such a body of ignorant voters will make poor decisions about those it selects to lead government.

Patriotic Americans, in their opposition to collectivism and their fight to maintain our republican form of government and the freedoms and individualism that are fostered by that form of government, have but one realistic hope. That hope is to work for the ongoing education of the American people so that they know clearly what is at stake in the world struggle that has dominated the 20th Century, so that they appreciate the incomparable blessings that spring forth from a way of life that is free and so that they will avert the disaster represented by that dreary, downward-sloping road to totalitarian collectivism of various types, including especially both communism and its first cousin, social democracy. Let us consider this matter in greater depth and briefly survey the historical record as it touches on the subject of education.

Voices of History

The famed Greek philosopher Aristotle remarked almost two and a half mil-

Fr. James Thornton is a priest in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

lennia ago that the difference between a man who is educated and one who is ignorant is as great as the difference that distinguishes the living from the dead. An early Christian Father, St. Basil the Great, writing in the Fourth Century, observed that education allows for an informed choice between that which is beneficial and that which is unintelligent and injurious. The British essayist Joseph Addison (1672-1719) wrote: "Education is a companion which no misinformation can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, no despotism can enslave." Another Briton, Henry Peter Brougham (1778-1868), stated that "education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave." Our own Thomas Jefferson admonished future generations of Americans that ignorance is the enemy of liberty. He said: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

In his Farewell Address delivered in 1796, the Father of our Country, George Washington, expressed his confidence in the value of a virtuous, morally sound, educated citizenry when he said:

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government.... Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

Another of the American founders, Benjamin Rush (1745-1813), placed emphasis on the critical necessity for an educated, informed citizenry when he declared: "There is but one method of preventing crimes, and of rendering a republican form of government durable, and that is, by disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part of the state." And the 20th President of the United States, James A. Garfield, spoke these words to the American people: "Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained."

It has been well appreciated down through history that a nation whose citi-

zens are little more than an ignorant rabble, without moral bearings and without any sense of history, will quickly sell its birthrights of independence, freedom, and self-government in exchange for imagined security or supposed material well-being. In fact, for those who do not know better, the mere promise of security and material goods suffices. Wallowing in ignorance, a wretched, rootless *fellaheen*, even after its freedoms are gone forever — and after the security and material well-being for which it traded its freedoms are also gone and have become a bittersweet memory — will thrash around in futile rage, never suspecting the truth. It will drift fecklessly from one vicious tyrant to another.

The question now presents itself as to what, precisely, constitutes education and an educated public. There are several ways in which this question may be answered, all of them essential to our objective. Let us first examine the importance of education at its highest level.

Higher Education

Education is described in the dictionary as the process whereby, through the acquisition of knowledge, the mind and character are developed and shaped. However, this, I believe, is insufficient. One can see that, according to the definition just cited, the mind and the character can be shaped according to a variety of formulae. Depending on which formula is used, the final product might be as admirable as a Jefferson or as execrable as a Stalin. We are compelled to add, therefore, that true education must aim at the shaping of the character and mind not only through the acquisition of knowledge, but through the acquisition of tradition — more specifically, the tradition of the West. The Western tradition is a living tradition that has enjoyed a continual existence since the time of ancient Greece. It is the underpinning for our entire way of life and is unique in all the world for its emphasis on individual responsibility and individual liberty.

Of late there has been a concerted attack on the tradition of the West. Incredibly, that tradition is now characterized in certain circles as the outmoded striving for "cultural hegemony" by the followers of "dead white males" and is being expunged from high school and college curricula. It



Embodiment of civic virtue: According to Washington, "virtue is a necessary spring of popular government." This means that a people must be both educated and of high moral character to be capable of self-government.

is being replaced by the vapid ravings, outpourings, and scratchings of Marxists, primitivists, lesbian liberationists, and a host of other assorted fanatics of various stripes, all united in one thing: their violent hatred for and desire to destroy Western Christian civilization. Knowing our enemies as we do, however, we must confess that their hatred is perfectly understandable. These enemies of freedom comprehend fully what some of us do not — that the Western Christian tradition is the final and most formidable bulwark against collectivistic slavery. The contemporary attack on the Western tradition is only the latest and most blatant attempt at the undermining of education in general. Some others are more subtle.

Ignorant of Ignorance

Professor Michael Bauman of Hillsdale College delineates the fundamental differences between, on the one hand, higher education as it was once universally understood (and is today understood only in a few places) and, on the other, the technologically oriented job training that has largely replaced the classical, liberal-arts education in the United States and Western Europe. The difference between the two is, the professor writes, “the difference be-

tween wisdom and information, between knowledge and data, between knowing and knowing about. Those who acquire the former are genuinely educated; those who gain only the latter are technological functionaries.”

To underscore his point, Bauman relates a story from the life of Socrates. Socrates once said to the Oracle of Delphi that he wished to know who was the wisest among men. “You are the wisest,” the Oracle told him. Socrates was amazed at this reply. “But I do not know anything,” he insisted. Socrates, we learn from this story, was wiser than other men because he grasped his own ignorance; so much so that he boldly affirmed that he knew nothing. As Professor Bauman says, “At least he knew he was ignorant; the others were ignorant and didn’t know it. As long as they were ignorant of their ignorance, they could never change it.” The man of real wisdom, in knowing his own ignorance, can strive throughout his entire life to overcome it.

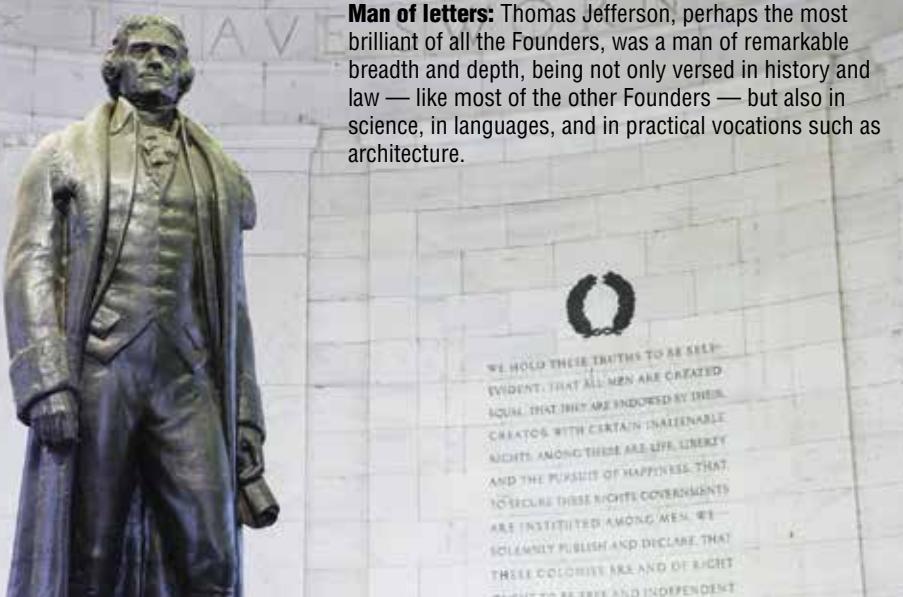
Education, before the “progressive education” quacks came onto the scene, once aimed at revealing to students their own ignorance, so that upon that underlying premise could be erected the edifice of a sound, thorough, broad, classical edu-

cation. That sort of education, we recall, produced great men such as many of our own American Founding Fathers. These men were true aristocrats: not of blood, but of profound wisdom, enduring honesty, strong character, and tenacity in the face of adversity.

Today such men are much rarer than in the past because few real institutions of higher learning any longer exist. Instead, job training and extremely narrow specialization are the rule. This produces not well-rounded men of wisdom, but, to use Dr. Bauman’s term, “technological functionaries,” who are frequently little more than fools and dilettantes when they step outside of their chosen professions. And a society led by technological functionaries is a society ignorant of the lessons of the past and ignorant most particularly of its own ignorance. While technological functionaries may well be brilliant in their own fields, they are not truly educated since they have been stunted in the growth and development of character and in the acquisition of a useful base of knowledge. Frequently, such men as these are radical pragmatists in the sense that they are not restrained by any measure of inward respect for law and morality. Indeed, such men are, at worst, potential building stones of a future totalitarian state. They are men who have been cut off from their roots and have become moral, cultural, and historical barbarians. But higher education, though it can be the training ground for future leaders, is only one part of the picture.

Educating Yourself

One cannot denigrate also the value of self-education. One example of the power of self-education is Abraham Lincoln, whose life has been an inspiration both to Americans and all people of good will around the world. Lincoln was a man with little formal education. He was, nevertheless, a man who possessed a fine mind and good common sense and who, by assiduous and careful reading, came to acquire wisdom. Likewise, the beloved English author Charles Dickens was largely self-educated and grew to adulthood amidst many hardships. We must not forget to mention also the famous inventor Thomas Edison, and one of the greats of modern industrial production, Henry Ford. Both of these men were self-taught.



eric fotz/E+/Getty Images Plus

All men of learning are, to some extent, self-educated. Education, we remember, is not confined to the short span of a person's youth, but rather is a life-long quest. We may see this in the life of Robert Welch, too. A child prodigy, Welch attended the University of North Carolina and graduated in the top third of his class at the age of 16. Yet he never relinquished his thirst for learning or, as one writer put it, his "joy in the pursuit of knowledge."

Mr. Welch's devotion to a life of ongoing self-education is exemplified in his excellent book *The Romance of Education*. The writer Gary Allen says of Robert Welch that he "never slowed his frenetic pace. He never considered success in the financial and business worlds as anything other than a means to buy the time to pursue the world of scholarship and travel the globe. As he consumed one book after another, his personal library grew until it eventually comprised some five thousand volumes — most of which Welch had actually read!"

Welch acquired wisdom through a lifetime quest for knowledge and truth. The fruits of that quest, that joy and adventure in study and thought, he shared with others, most particularly with the members of the organization he founded. Those who knew him will testify that not only did this drive for knowledge serve to make him wise; it kept his mind youthful and agile.

This feature of Robert Welch's life brings to mind a statement made by another great American, Douglas MacArthur, on the occasion of the celebration of his 75th birthday. Though the General does not speak directly about education, he expresses an attitude towards life which is reminiscent, in many respects, of Robert Welch and which alludes to the same idea of life as a quest:

Youth is not entirely a time of life; it is a state of mind. It is not wholly a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips, or



Modern prodigy: Robert Welch, who was largely homeschooled, graduated from college at age 16. In addition to having a vast personal library, being extensively self-taught in history, mathematics, and many other disciplines, and being a successful businessman, Welch founded the influential patriotic organization The John Birch Society.

s supple knees. It is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a freshness of the deep springs of life. It means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of an appetite for adventure over love of ease.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear, and despair — these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.

Whatever your years, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for what is next, and the joy and the game of life. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt, as young as your self-confidence, as

old as your fear, as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber; so long as it receives messages of beauty, cheer, and courage, so long are you young. When the wires are down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and only then, are you growing old.

We have briefly discussed the importance of formal education, according to the traditional meaning of that term. We have also noted that self-education and a life of ongoing education are crucial to the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom. All of these aspects of education are vital because they provide the basis, within the hearts and minds of individuals, for the shaping of a comprehensive philosophy of life, a world view, or, to put it in more familiar words, a set of iron principles by which a person is guided throughout his life. We

must go one step further, however, and see that not only individuals are so guided.

Men who have, through study, come to adopt a set of noble and ennobling principles by which they chart their life's course must, it seems, seek to share their ideals with others, so that these principles and ideals may continue to live beyond the short span of an individual person's life. Robert Welch did this when he founded The John Birch Society. The primary worth of The John Birch Society, as opposed to some other types of organizations, is that it is founded on a set of timeless principles which are themselves, quite naturally, based on Robert Welch's own lifetime of study and experience.

G. Edward Griffin, a former spokesman for the Society, once stated that political parties, even if they are initially founded by men of principle, are subject to constant change under a system whereby a party must appeal to the transitory whims of an electorate in order to achieve suc-

cess. A political party must be as broad-based as possible and must, in the final analysis, sacrifice principle in pursuit of temporary victory. Griffin said: "Political parties are usually formed in the very beginning when a group of people who share the same political ideologies decide to get organized in order to be more effective in promoting their common goals."

In time, however, the vicissitudes of the democratic political process bring about change. The ideology is slowly whittled away, the shining ideals and principles become tarnished with time and compromise, until, at last, they are gone. As Griffin states: "I doubt if one person out of a hundred today even remembers what the ideologies were that led to the creation of our major parties. At any rate, whatever they were, they're certainly not the same today. And whatever they are today, chances are they won't be the same tomorrow. They're subject to democratic change, and, consequently, they do change every four years."

Changeless Principles

Here, then, is the reason that The John Birch Society was not founded as a political party: so that it would not be subject to the political process and would not need to seek "success" on the basis of the illusory and ever-changing tides of public popularity. The John Birch Society has never been and will never be in the business of making political promises in order to curry favor with this or that special interest group or faction. Thus, in Mr. Griffin's words, "the people who join our organization a hundred years from now will be endorsing exactly the same principles for which we strive today. We think those principles are important, and we're determined to preserve them."

Now, if The John Birch Society is not a political party, a political action committee, or a political group of any kind, what is its purpose? The answer to this question is that the John Birch Society is an educational organization. The pressing need for this kind of orga-

nization was set down by Robert Welch at the founding of the Society: "There are all kinds of methods of opposing the communist conspiracy which seeks to enslave us," he observed. "One is by political action. We insist, and all historical experience supports our insistence, that such political opposition is of no avail unless it is supported by a sufficiently widespread understanding of the strategy, the tactics, and the purposes of the conspiracy."

In other words, if political activity is to be fruitful, the public must first be educated. It is not possible, after all, for every citizen to receive a traditional classical education. It is not practical to hope that every citizen can educate himself to the extent that Abraham Lincoln or Charles Dickens could. Only a select few men will ever imitate Robert Welch by reading thousands of serious books during their lifetimes.

What, therefore, must be done is to as-

sure that Americans receive the benefits of the wisdom and experience that comes from education and a lifetime of study. That is the function of an organization such as the John Birch Society. Through the efforts of the members of that Society, the average citizen may stand upon the shoulders, so to speak, of the wise men of the past, and in so doing see farther and more clearly than they otherwise would. An organization that seeks to educate the American electorate cannot but contribute to better decisions at election time. Insofar as it continues to grow and expand its efforts, it must have a substantive and salutary impact on the "course of human events." The actual course of history itself can be changed and the independence of the country and the freedoms of its people can be secured for the generations to come.

Economically and politically, the United States of America remains the leading

power in the world today. Not only do other nations in the Free World rely on our nation's economic strength, but, as we know, the communist world is also dependent, and has always been dependent, on American aid and trade for its own survival. And so, a fundamental change in American politics in favor of freedom would have enormous effects everywhere throughout the globe.

A truly conservative government would mean not only a return to constitutional rule in America and a renewal of all the individual freedoms for which this country is justly renowned, but, by removing government's dead hand from our economy, it would mean a revival of free enterprise that would create a robust and thriving economy that would rival any in the world. It would mean, moreover, an instantaneous end to the subsidizing by the American taxpayer of world-conquering, Marxist totalitarianisms and an end to the bankrolling of would-be world governments like the United Nations. In short, it would mean "less government, more responsibility and — with God's help — a better world." ■



AP Images

Old-school leadership: In an era before the woke conquest of the upper echelons, American military leaders like Douglas MacArthur, products of the sort of classical liberal education that was once the norm in American schools and universities, led the country through times of crisis following an unswerving moral compass.

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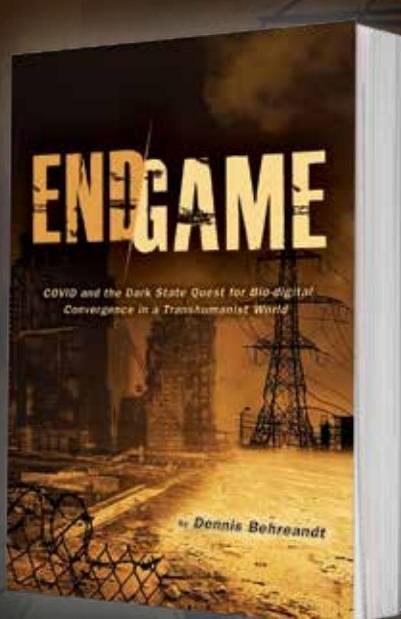
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— Ron Paul, former congressman
and presidential candidate

by Dennis Behreandt



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Man Shot Forcing His Way Into Apartment

Click2Houston.com reported on December 8 about a shooting in southeast Houston in which a mother who was home with her 11-month-old baby was forced to defend herself. Houston Police Department Lieutenant Larry Crowson told Click2Houston.com that “somebody started beating on her door very heavily. She opened the door and a male that she didn’t know started forcing his way into the apartment.”

Police say the man tried shoving the door open and entering the apartment while rambling incoherent gibberish. Thankfully, the fast-acting woman was able to retrieve a loaded firearm and shoot the deranged man before he got into the apartment. Police say she only shot him once; the mortally wounded intruder tried to flee but did not get far. He was found deceased on the scene.

Law enforcement is still investigating, and they have not yet determined a motive, but there are suspicions he was either under the influence of drugs or had mental problems. Houston Police Department homicide investigator Bobby Smith told Click2Houston.com that the suspect had been seen wandering around the apartment complex in the days prior to the shooting. “People have seen him around in the apartments before, just kind of walking around, wandering around.... But nobody really knows him, nobody knows whether or not he actually lives in the apartments,” Smith said.

Police are still reviewing the case, and they said the woman’s actions were most likely justified.

Number Carrying Guns Doubled in Four Years

The Blaze reported on November 27 about a study published by the *American Journal of Public Health*, which reported that the number of Americans who carry a loaded handgun doubled between 2015 and 2019.

According to the study, three million people carried a gun every day in 2015, but by 2019, that number had grown to

six million. The study’s author, Dr. Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, who is a professor of epidemiology at the University of Washington, wrote that between “increases in the number of people who own handguns and the number of people who carry every day, there has been a striking increase in handgun carrying in the U.S.”

The study contained some interesting statistics about the carrying of weapons. “Of handgun owners who carried, 4 in 5 carried primarily for protection, 4 in 5 had a concealed carry permit, 2 in 3 always carried concealed, and 1 in 10 always carried openly.... The prevalence of handgun carrying was similar in states with permitless carry laws and states with shall issue carry laws. By contrast, the prevalence of carrying was notably lower in states with may issue carry laws.”

The study’s author appeared to favor more gun control, and expressed concerns about the sharp increase in gun ownership. Based on these trends, however, it appears that gun ownership and the carrying of guns will continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

California DOJ Publishes Gun Owners’ Private Data

Supporters of the Second Amendment have long warned about the government collecting the personal information of gun owners. These warnings usually revolve around fears of outright gun confiscation, but a news story out of California highlighted another danger of entrusting government authorities with the private information of gun owners.

The Associated Press reported on December 1 about a data breach at the California Department of Justice in which the personal information of 200,000 gun owners was “accidentally” posted to their public website. The information was made public in June, and ended up getting downloaded thousands of times before it was taken down.

The DOJ claimed that it was done in error, although some critics are concerned it was done out of spite after a court struck down a California gun-

control law. A law firm retained by the California DOJ claimed the release was not due to “nefarious intent” nor was it “politically motivated in any way,” but instead was done out of sheer incompetence. The DOJ claimed that it intended to publish anonymous data about gun ownership but inadvertently published the data containing personal information.

The investigation into the data breach revealed a staggering amount of incompetence at the California DOJ, which led to the information getting posted and then not taken down even after staff were tipped off by people who discovered the data on the website. Two state employees who were tasked with researching the breach after the DOJ received reports mistakenly assured everyone that no personal information was publicly available. In reality, the site had crashed because so many people were trying to download the data. The DOJ actually got the site back up and running again before realizing the information was public. The information was finally taken down, but the damage was done.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta was apologetic in his remarks about the breach and did not mince words when talking about what happened. “This was more than an exposure of data, it was a breach of trust that falls far short of my expectations and the expectations Californians have of our department.... I remain deeply angered that this incident occurred and extend my deepest apologies on behalf of the department of justice to those who were affected,” he said in prepared remarks.

The California Rifle & Pistol Association is preparing a lawsuit against the DOJ over the breach and is encouraging any gun owners who were impacted to pursue their own legal action. Chuck Michel, president of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, was skeptical over the explanation for the breach and said the group is still pursuing more information to get to the bottom of it. “There are a lot of gaps and unanswered questions, perhaps deliberately so, and some spin on this whole notion of whether this was an intentional release or not.... This is not the end of the inquiry,” he told the Associated Press. ■

— PATRICK KREY



Devastating Plagues, Then and Now

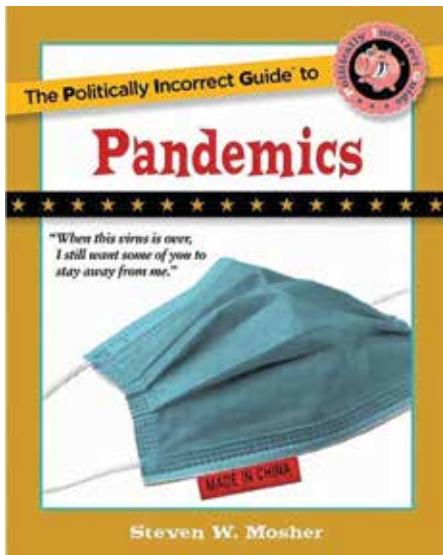
by William P. Hoar

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Pandemics, by Steven W. Mosher, Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, 2022, 365 pages, paperback. To order, go to ShopJBS.org.

Disease can affect history. For instance, typhoid, malaria, and smallpox played key roles, respectively, in the Peloponnesian War, the fall of the Roman Empire, and the Franco-Prussian War. This book on pandemics doesn't cover all of those yesterdays — though it does delve very deeply, as far back as 3000 B.C.

Bubonic plague is the general subject in the separate chapters on the Plague of Justinian (541-750), the Black Death (1347-1351), and the Yunnan Plague (1772-1960) — which all traveled to the West and can be traced back to China.

Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, is the Sinologist author of numerous other books, including many on China, such as *Journey to the Forbidden China; Broken Earth: The Rural Chinese; and Bully of Asia: Why China's Dream Is the New Threat to World*



Order. This volume provides, in the very reader-friendly package characteristic of the publisher's library of "Politically Incorrect Guides," generous dollops of real science and medicine as well as history.

Yet, it is the spreading of Covid-19 — which Mosher calls the China Virus — that drives the theme: It differs from other diseases. Its precursor, as he puts it, "did not even exist in nature." What has hit the United States and the rest of the world, Mosher writes precisely, "is a man-made virus, the result of laboratory insertions on an existing coronavirus. The goal was to create an 'unrestricted bioweapon' — a virus that was highly infectious but only moderately lethal and whose makers could plausibly deny any connection with it."

Role of Biowarfare

Biowarfare is not a Chinese monopoly, and this book also mentions Japan's actions in that regard in World War II (and before that) against China.

Beyond the author's research and findings, the volume under review has one of the features of this series that adds value ("A Book You're Not Supposed to Read" is the title of these particular text boxes.) In this case, we're invited to be politically incorrect and refer to another account written by historian Sheldon Harris (*Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare 1932-1945 and the American Cover-Up*, 1994). It relates how Imperial Japanese personnel who had used bubonic plague and other pathogens were not tried for war crimes, having received "immunity from prosecution in return for handing over their research to the United States."

For those interested in learning more about the notorious Japanese medical unit involved and its human experimentation program, this reviewer suggests *Unit 731: Testimony* (1996) by Hal Gold; a significant portion includes remarks and recollections of those personally involved. Steel yourself for accounts of vivisections and injecting plague into prisoners, among other actions.

After the war, as Mosher notes, China took over Japan's facilities in Manchuria, "and has been operating them, with increasing sophistication, ever since." The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), he con-

tinues, “was eager to go from being the victim of germ warfare to the victimizer.”

Earlier Global Pandemics

There is a chapter about the so-called Spanish Flu (1918-1920), during which perhaps 30 percent of globe’s population contracted the disease (about 500 million). Around 50 million died, though estimates vary.

Wartime propaganda being what it was, bad news was not desired. President Woodrow Wilson issued no statements about the “Spanish Flu,” recounts Mosher, and the Committee for Public Information in the United States suppressed what was going on, though rumors led to panic in several places in the United States. (Spain was neutral during the war and printed plenty about the spreading disease, helping to give the pandemic that name.)

The fatality rate of the Spanish Flu was about 100 times as high as the ordinary flu. Subsequent pandemics would also be quite deadly, but the body counts in the United States would not reach similar totals for the Asian Flu and Hong Kong Flu (1968-1969). Mosher also notes that, years later, the “sensitivity” police pushed for changing the name of the first of these to the “1957-1958 Pandemic,” claiming that earlier term was racist. He declines, pointing out that for months the CCP purposely did not warn world public health organizations of the new deadly influenza that arose in Guizhou province, aiding in its spread. (China was also secretive and misleading for what became known as Covid-19.)

A chapter about what the book terms the “great Swine Flu hoax” is replete with the panicking and overreactions that accompanied that episode. It all was kicked off with the January 1976 illness of a few soldiers and the death of a single one at Fort Dix, New Jersey. (As it happens, your reviewer was stationed at Dix a few years before that, serving as, among others, drill sergeant, operations sergeant, and a leader of what was called the “Alpha Team.” This was essentially a first-responder unit for potential chemical, biological, and radiological incidents. Yes, our CBR training did introduce us to some very nasty pathogens.)

Alarmed by what seemed unusual at Dix, the U.S. Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention (CDC) leaped into action: The first thought was influenza. An attempt to keep the incident under wraps didn’t work, and *The New York Times* in short order had a front-page story suggesting the possibility “that the virus that caused the greatest world epidemic of influenza in modern history — the pandemic of 1918-19 — may have returned.”

To make a longer story short, it was decided to inoculate every “man, woman and child in the United States.” Shots started, as did the cases of Guillain-Barré as side effects — because vaccines do have other unwanted consequences.

Meanwhile, there were no more cases of Swine Flu found at Dix. There was also no *New York Times* front-page story about how the sole private who had died had (in Mosher’s telling) “risen from his sickbed to take part in a forced nighttime march. After marching for five miles on a bitter cold midnight’s night” — and be advised that the New Jersey Pine Barrens where Dix is located really can be inhospitable in the winter — “he had collapsed and died.” As the author explains, “Rather than dying of the swine flu, it is more likely that Private [David] Lewis died with the swine flu.”

Before the campaign was stopped,

about 20 percent of the nation received shots. After the author recapitulates (and sets the stage for focusing on the “China Flu”), he concludes that “the risk from vaccination was real, while the benefits were totally illusory. No one in America encountered the Fort Dix swine flu after the initial handful of cases, so the 45 million people who were immunized received zero benefit from the vaccine, and some were actually harmed.”

Counting the Dead

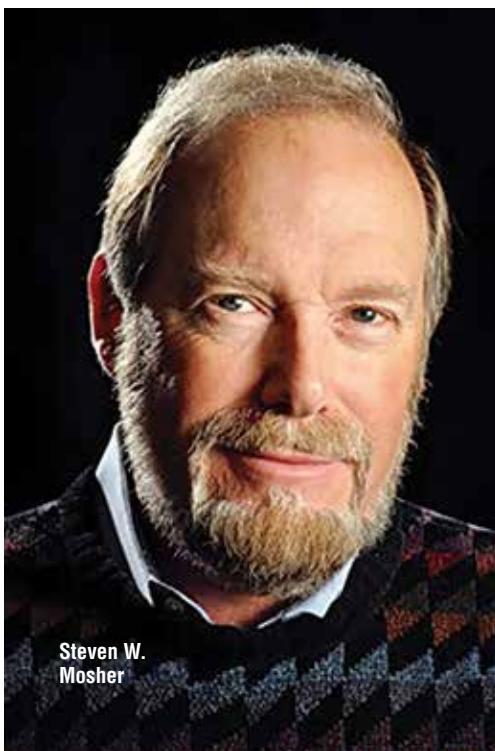
Mosher’s analysis in his volume is clear and detailed. When there’s compelling evidence, he cites it (and the book is well-documented); on the other hand, when there could be alternative explanations, he mentions those too. This tends, to this reader, to make his conclusions stronger.

Yes, the subject is deadly, though exactly how deaths were involved in the various contagions is disputed. As we read in *Pandemics*, estimates for the Asian Flu worldwide have ranged from one million to four million; some say there were 116,000 Asian Flu deaths in the United States, while others put the total at 66,000; and reported Hong Kong Flu deaths (in the United States) fluctuated from 33,000 to 100,000. What was actually examined and whether comorbidities were taken into account did alter totals.

Yet, when it came to Covid-19, as the author points out, “all uncertainty suddenly vanished. Almost every country — including the United States — claimed to be reporting the *exact number of deaths that had occurred in their country* from Covid, updated every single day. The WHO website purported to give you the *exact number of deaths that had occurred worldwide* from Covid, again updated every single day (5,070,244 as of November 8, 2021).” (Emphasis in original.)

At the same time, as the CDC itself acknowledged, up to 95 percent of all Covid-19 death certificates had comorbidities or other conditions listed. The average number listed of such comorbidities was four. Regardless, CDC guidance directed that if a doctor suspected that the deceased had Covid, that is what should be listed as the cause of death.

Here are some more numbers. The



Steven W.
Mosher



the United States, hypocrisy about what types of protests are politically correct, treatments and vaccines, and what really took place at that Wuhan lab.

If you want to believe that the facility at the Wuhan Institute of Virology is just an innocent civilian laboratory, the book will give you second, third, and more things to consider — including what the U.S. State Department calls China’s “Military-Civil Fusion,” a strategy that “allows a growing number of civilian enterprises and entities to undertake classified military R&D and weapons production.”

For good reasons, Mosher points to two major threats — one from the outside, being Communist China, the other being more “insidious, coming from within,” what he terms “our corporate ruling elite.”

The author goes into some detail about that lab and even interviews a Chinese medical doctor (Yan Li-Meng) and virologist-turned-whistleblower who studied the novel coronavirus, then defected to the United States to tell what she knows. She fears for her life. Among other points, she maintains — no surprise considering Dr. Yan’s personal experience — that the “China Virus” did “not come from a wet market in Wuhan. It did not come from nature at all. It was created in a lab.”

Coverage includes a discussion that follows the money to China from U.S. taxpayers; the national security priority set by Chinese leader Xi Jinping on bioweapons; and specific citations, evidence, and collaboration about that work.

The author sticks the landing. “However opaque the origin of the Covid outbreak remains,” maintains Mosher, “one thing is crystal clear: once China itself was unexpectedly in the grip of Covid, the CCP decided to use its own people as human disease vectors to deliberately spread the virus to the world.”

He’s not exaggerating when he refers to the results as devastation. “Millions of people died. Nearly 20 percent of the world’s GDP was destroyed.” Moreover, as he continues, “all of this has happened without the PLA’s [People’s Liberation Army] having to fire a single shot.” In a single concluding line, here’s the case that Steven Mosher has made: “The China Virus turned out to be the most effective weapon in history.” ■

Ghost town: Lockdowns in Shanghai and elsewhere throughout the world had devastating consequences.

deaths attributed to the Spanish Flu in the United States were about 675,000, or 0.64 percent of the then-total population, which translates into between six and seven deaths out of every 1,000 people. Jump forward. The CDC said in February 2022 that there had been 911,145 Covid deaths, though who knows how many really were from Covid?

Using the CDC’s own total of deaths attributed to Covid, *Pandemics* notes that is just 0.27 percent of the current U.S. population, “or a little under three out of every 1,000 people. And if the misdiagnosis rate is 40 percent as [CDC Director Rochelle Walensky in January 2022] let slip, then the actual death toll may be far lower, perhaps 500,000.”

Mosher emphasizes that he is not making light of the dead, but rather arguing that the ones who are actually “trivializing their deaths are those who used inflated numbers to gaslight the rest of us into a state of abject terror.”

Many decisions made in the early days of the Covid pandemic were based on the flawed modeling of a since-disgraced professor (Neil Ferguson) from Imperial College London. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime U.S. director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases — who has famously equated himself and “science” — promoted that “sham model”

as a key element in his proposals for the United States, as *Pandemics* recounts. It was largely based on such recommendations, Mosher reminds us, “that the economy of the entire country” was shut down, “40 million people were put out of work,” tens of thousands of children were “denied an education,” and “millions of ‘non-essential’ small businesses” were shuttered.

The author continues, saying of Fauci: “One by one, all of his predictions came to naught. Millions of Americans did not, in fact, die of the virus. Actually, as the numbers came in, the mortality rate of the China Virus kept dropping until it bottomed out at a fraction of 1 percent, more in line with the Asian Flu of 1958 than the Spanish Flu of 1918. Yet throughout the two years of the pandemic, Dr. Fauci remained indifferent to the tremendous human cost of his policies.”

Apparently being “science” means you never have to say you’re sorry.

Threats From China, Within

Fauci is unlikely to be handing out copies of *Pandemics* to his friends and colleagues. He and his double-talking and flip-flopping come under considerable (deserved) criticism in this volume. As do the Chinese Communists. We can only hint at some of the many other related issues covered — including liberty lost in

TAKING ACTION

BY WILLIAM S. HAHN, CEO OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Build Your Influence, **Educate the Electorate, Save America**

This issue's installment of the Freedom Index offers a powerful tool that many Americans who are sick of politics wish they had. Let me offer some suggestions on how you can best use this tool to build your influence, educate the electorate, and save America.

Let's start off with the intent of this tool. The Freedom Index and its accompanying tools (Congressional Scorecard and State Scorecard) are meant to be used to increase your elected officials' adherence to the Constitution, regardless of party affiliation. The John Birch Society has never endorsed a political party or a candidate. Our making such important tools available is only part of the solution. The rest involves you.

To be most effective, these tools need to be distributed among the electorate to educate them on the adherence of their elected officials to the Constitution. After all, our elected officials take an oath to support the Constitution, so We The People need to know how they are supporting the Constitution. And how best to support the Constitution than to obey it? Obeying means to work within the limitations of that grand document. For instance, when Congress legislates, it should only do so by following the confines of Article I. Specifically, Article I, Section 8 lists the enumerated legislative powers of Congress. Unfortunately, the current practice is to use the Necessary and Proper Clause as a catch-all excuse to legislate on topics not listed in Section 8.

The end result of obeying the Constitution means less government spending, less government intrusion, less government overreach into state powers, and more free exercise of rights, liberties, and overall freedom. Anytime government operates outside of its constitutional limitations, it takes away power from either another branch of government or another level of government, such as the states.

Once enough of the electorate sees adherence to the Constitution by their elected officials, they will help the officials by generating pressure on them to either keep up the good work, or to improve upon their votes. But this pressure is best accomplished as a concerted effort among organized groups spread throughout the various congressional districts.

In *The Power of 500* video, former JBS employee and cur-



dmadig/Getty Images Plus

rent constitutional scholar Robert Brown highlighted the powerful effect of this tool. He says in the video that seeing the Freedom Index was one of the three most important political events of his life and that it literally changed his life. He said once he understood that his elected officials were not following the Constitution, he shared the Freedom Index with as many people as he could.

Later in the video, he describes how to build influence among the electorate by distributing the Freedom Index, using the JBS 100-10-6 program.

Briefly, through the coordinated efforts of JBS members and nonmember supporters, one person can influence 100 households. Assuming there are four voters per household, then one person could influence up to 400 people. If there are 10 people in an organized group or chapter of JBS, then those 10 can influence up to 4,000 voters in any given legislative district.

If these 4,000 voters regularly receive the Freedom Index, then wouldn't they be more inclined to vote (assuming that election integrity is intact), and wouldn't this influence potentially be a large factor in an election? Of course, more activity means more educated voters.

If 500 of these activists were in a single congressional district following this same distribution formula, then there is a potential to hit 200,000 voters. Do I have your attention? If I had additional space, I'd tell you more about the 10 opinion molders/influencers each person should target and the six top prospects you would get for JBS membership from the interaction of 100 households (our 100-10-6 plan).



This is the power of organization, and this is why The John Birch Society is a target for the leftists who are at battle with God, family, and country. I recommend viewing *The Power of 500* (<https://jbs.org/power500/>) and learning more about the potential of this tool.

Then, join The John Birch Society to work within your local area to build your influence, educate the electorate, and take back your freedom. Start at JBS.org. ■



RESTORE

Election Integrity



↑ OVER 6 FEET TALL! ↓

Restore Election Integrity — BOOKLET

Use this 17-page booklet to educate voters and state and federal legislators on the details of 16 specific steps that need to be taken legislatively in order to restore election integrity in America. (2021, 17pp, 1-9/\$2.95ea; 10-24/\$2.00ea; 25-49/\$1.50ea; 50-99/\$1.00ea; 100+\$0.75ea)

BKLTREI

Restoring Election Integrity — REPRINT

Sixteen-page reprint of the cover story by Kurt Hyde and “Leftists in Power” article by Steve Byas that originally appeared in the February 15, 2021 issue of *The New American*. (2021, 16pp, 1-24/\$1.25ea; 25-99/\$1.10ea; 100-499/\$1.00ea; 500+\$0.75ea)

RPREI

Work from Home to Restore Election Integrity — SLIM JIM

Educate voters on four specific activities they can undertake in and near their homes to stop the decades-old deterioration of America’s elections and start restoring election integrity. (Sold in packs of 25, 2021, 1/\$3.00ea; 2-4/\$2.50ea; 5+\$2.00ea)

SJWFHTREI

Who Really Won the 2020 Presidential Election? — SLIM JIM

Educate voters on how restoring election integrity starts with them. This slim jim provides the online address of The John Birch Society’s “Restore Election Integrity” action project along with a QR code that can be scanned for instant access. (Sold in packs of 25, 2021, 1/\$3.00; 2-4/\$2.50ea; 5+\$2.00ea)

SJWRWPE

Restore Election Integrity — BUMPER STICKER

Spread the word and show your support for our Restore Election Integrity campaign! (4-color, 2021, 1-9/\$1.00ea; 10-25/\$0.85ea; 26-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.50ea; 1000+\$0.45ea)

BSREI

Restore Election Integrity — YARD SIGN

Spread the word and show your support for our Restore Election Integrity campaign by displaying this sign in your yard. Corrugated plastic, double-sided, 18" x 24" — includes 24" x 10" wire stake. (4-color, 2021, 1/\$14.95ea; 2-4/\$13.95ea; 5-9/\$12.95ea; 10+\$12.45ea)

YSREI

Did You Know? How to Restore Election Integrity — SLIM JIM

Educate voters and state legislators on 12 important steps that will restore election integrity that can be accomplished in their own state legislature. (Sold in packs of 25, 2021, 1/\$3.00ea; 2-4/\$2.50ea; 5+\$2.00ea)

SJDYKHREI

9 Ways To Restore America’s Elections — SLIM JIM

Let everyone know about the importance of restoring election integrity by sharing this slim jim to restore election integrity. (Sold in packs of 25, 2021, 1/\$3.00ea; 2-4/\$2.50ea; 5+\$2.00ea)

SJNWRAE

The World of Soros: Influencing Elections

The World of Soros reveals a vast network of organizations and individuals working together to influence and/or control elections across America. It reveals what their goal is and how they aim to achieve it. (2022, pb, 173pp), 1-4/\$9.95ea; 5-9/\$8.00ea; 10-55/\$6.50ea; 56+\$4.95ea)

BKWOS

Restore Election Integrity — PULL UP BANNER

Use this eye-catching banner for your booth to attract visitors to learn more about our Restore Election Integrity campaign.. This artwork is created to be sent to a sign shop that has the ability to print and deliver a 36" x 80" pull-up banner. (Branded JBS, 2019, \$10.00, order online)

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