

Dems' only 'trump card'



Gary Franks
Tribune Content Agency

Former President Donald Trump announced recently he supported the right of each state to determine their laws per the abortion issue in accordance with the Supreme Court's recent Dobbs decision.

Roe v. Wade, a federal rule for decades, guaranteeing the constitutional right for an abortion, was overturned rendering it unconstitutional.

Thus, the only way to address the abortion issue on a national level is via the passage of a constitutional amendment establishing new rules and guidelines. In the meantime, the state constitutions must take precedence per the Dobbs decision.

The Democrats and pro-choice groups understood the Supreme Court's decision immediately. They organized to make changes to state constitutions in friendly states that needed to make them.

However, in 2022 along comes South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham with his idea of ignoring the Supreme Court decision and getting his allies to profess that there could be a federal law to ban abortions. The Republicans lost the midterm elections thanks in part to this "political malpractice" of their party leaders in the Senate.

This was an early Christmas gift from the Republicans to the Democrats. The surprise electoral success for the Democrats on the strength of the abortion issue gave us a divided Congress. The result is gridlock, making it one of the least productive congressional terms in modern history.

But Trump got it. After all, being unpredictable is his "trump card." And who says that he has not learned from experience? He left the extreme, impractical, idealistic Republicans behind on this one. Or maybe he is leading them. Either way, it's a smart move.

An "assist" goes out to former South Carolina Governor and U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. Trump adopted her position nearly verbatim. And it was the reason why former Vice President Mike Pence and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, as well as the rest of the Republican candidates, bit the dust so quickly during the Republican primary season.

At best, the Graham crowd failed to look at history. They failed to hear and understand what the Supreme Court was saying. They only tried to ignite their base. The problem was with "their" base and the American people. Both groups understood the court's decision, but were baffled by their politicians' desire to push for their pipe dream of a national abortion ban.

This cannot be a revelation to Graham as he worked with me decades ago when we were both congressmen in the House. We worked to pass bills that the Supreme Court later declared unconstitutional. Let us remember that on the abortion question, the Supreme Court has already ruled it would be unconstitutional to pass a federal ban. Duh!

For example, in the 1990s this happened with the Balance Budget and Line-Item Veto measures. Congress passed them, but neither became the law of the land because the Supreme Court deemed both unconstitutional.

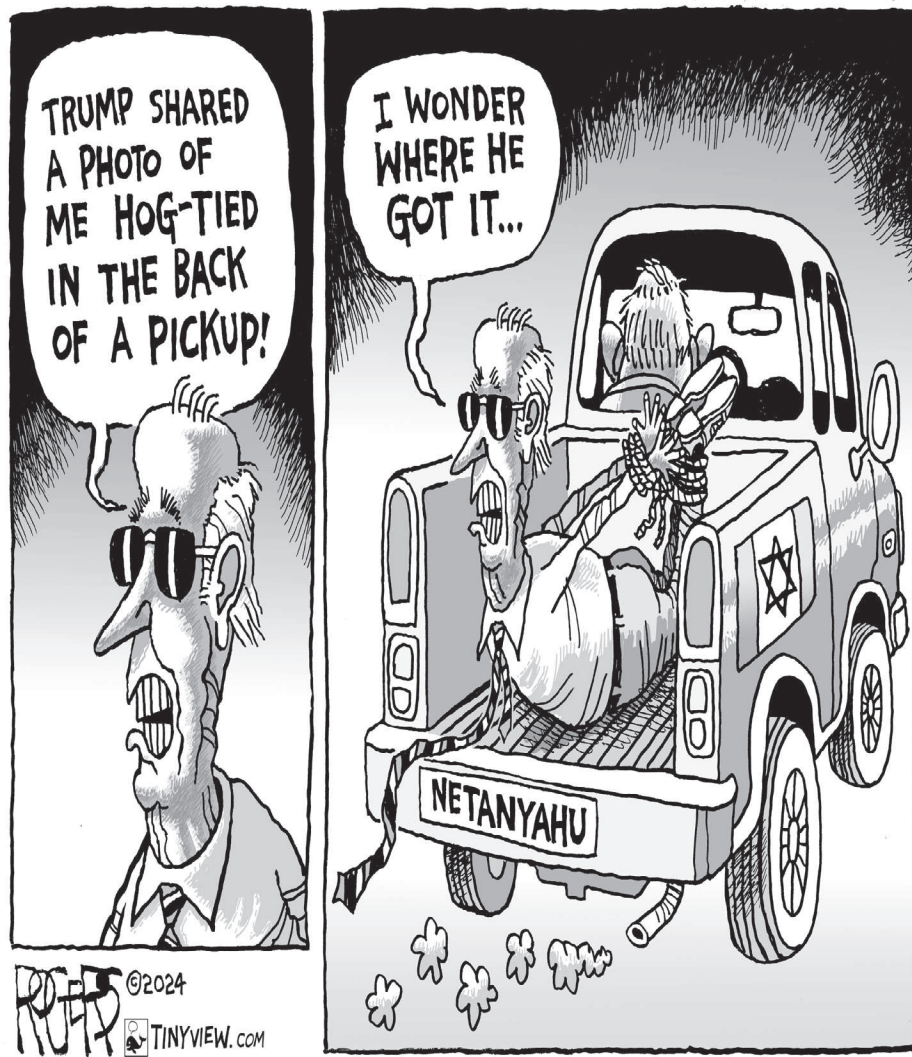
Congress has to participate in the process, but as would be the case in all constitutional amendments, the measure would need to be passed by 37 states. It would also have to get 60 votes in the Senate. Yeah right. The latter, as Haley and now Trump has inferred, "ain't" going to happen.

So, the Democrats are screaming "wolf" or "fire" in an attempt to scare women into voting for them. They are also burning through tens of millions of dollars in television commercials pushing this false narrative. They are using the liberal media to give us hours upon hours of twisted fear-mongering on the abortion issue.

The white women vote – suburban and young women – will be pivotal in 2024.

We will see if at least the abortion issue will be taken off the table when voters decide the presidency in 2024. After all, it is like arguing over how the food tastes on the Titanic. Important, but it does not make a difference if we do not deal with the icebergs ahead – multiple wars, inflation, the border invasion and correcting our inability to buy a \$6.20 cup of coffee without borrowing \$1.75 to pay for it (fiscally, we are on an unsustainable course).

ROB ROGERS



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Benefits of a central gathering place

After researching the repurposing of the former school on Main Street, I could not find a more straightforward and immediate catalyst for improving the economic landscape for so many of us in Napoleon than to open a community center. Let me explain how I came to this opinion.

Reopening the school's John L. Johnson auditorium as the heart of the community center will boost the local economy. According to Ohio's Tourism Economic Impacts report, day trippers to similar venues spend an average of \$115 per day and out-of-towners \$343 on activities like dining and shopping. Spending estimates for those of us in town likely range between \$25 and \$47 per person. Imagine what that might mean to our local businesses.

Beyond the auditorium, our community center's strength will come from the mix of activities offered, including sports, educational support, art activities and, frankly, anything else we as a community feel is needed. The health benefits should not be overlooked.

Other regions have learned that a community center makes the area a more attractive place to live, work, and socialize. This helps businesses when it comes to recruiting and retaining employees. It also increases the ability to attract new businesses.

Plus, there are young people seeking an alternative to city living, but only if there are things to do and places to connect with others.

We had family visiting from out of town last week, and it was so nice to say, come join us at the former school for an eclipse viewing event which was hosted by the Cultural Center of Henry County, the nonprofit driving this project. From what I have seen, the building is in excellent shape primarily due to the efforts of a small group of volunteers who want nothing more than to see Napoleon thrive for future generations.

Despite rumors of staggering refurbishing costs, the reality is that the reuse of the former school is a straightforward, cost-effective, and sustainable approach to community development. This project is a perfect example of how we can leverage an existing structure – that happens to be an architectural gem – to meet current and future needs.

Whether it's called a cultural center, civic center, or community center, the economic benefits for all of us from a central gathering place are clear. Let's get informed, speak up, and make sure this opportunity does not slip away.

Mary Cramer
Napoleon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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Letters may be submitted to the Northwest Signal via email, contactus@northwestsignal.net, mailed or dropped off. Typewritten letters are preferred.

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Whose voters like RFK more?

By S.E. Cupp
Tribune Content Agency

As you might have noticed, the political class is in a bit of a frenzy, trying to intuit exactly whom Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s quixotic campaign for president will hurt the most — President Biden or former President Donald Trump.

I suppose it's good news for the independent candidate and Democratic Party scion that both campaigns are taking him seriously enough to worry about him — after all, he's only polling at 9.5% in an average of polls, and is only on the ballot in five states — so far.

Team Biden has said they aren't taking anything for granted, and the Democratic National Committee has built its first ever team to counter his run, bringing in several veteran operatives known for their aggressive approaches.

The DNC also placed billboards all over the state of Michigan declaring RFK was "powered by MAGA/Trump."

And Trump has been busy attacking Kennedy, too, posting on Truth Social that he is "the most Radical Left Candidate," whose running mate Nicole Shanahan is "even more 'Liberal' than him," and baselessly musing that Kennedy could somehow "be indicted any day now, probably for Environmental Fraud."

In some confusing messages, Kennedy himself has denounced the idea that he's running as a spoiler to either Biden or Trump, but acknowledges that his "intention is to hurt both of them."

But both parties seem to agree on something. Democrats believe — or are at least posturing like they believe — that RFK is a serious threat to Biden. In a DNC press call recently, several Biden surrogates called Kennedy's campaign "disgusting."

My dear friend and colleague Paul Begala enumerated the reasons why he believes RFK will take from Biden, all of which having to do with the fact that his last name is Kennedy.

As for Trump, he also believes — or is at least posturing like he believes — the same, saying Kennedy is "Crooked Joe Biden's Political Opponent, not mine. I love that he is running!"

But there's often a big difference between what each candidate wants to be true, and what is true.

We won't know until exit polling in November whose presidential reelection dreams Kennedy ends up spoiling, but I happen to believe both teams are wrong — RFK Jr. is clearly going to take votes away from Trump.

Just listen to him in his own words and it's inarguable. In a lengthy and eye-opening interview with CNN's Erin Burnett Monday night, Kennedy claimed he could make the argument that Biden was actually the bigger threat to democracy — not Trump. He used utterly Trumpy language to accuse Biden of "weaponizing" federal agencies against him and censoring him — CNN fact-checker Daniel Dale quickly pointed out there was no evidence of either.

Echoing Trump, he alleged not one but two presidential elections were stolen — 2000 and 2004 — and even worse, said that we shouldn't make "pariahs" of people who say elections are stolen, a very weird defense of Trump and other election deniers.

He defended Trump voters, accused the Democratic Party of forgetting them, and called himself a populist, like Trump.

Does this sound like a guy who really wants Democrats to vote for him?

Then there's veep-gate. Early reports had RFK considering conspiracy theorist Aaron Rodgers and infomercial life coach Tony Robbins — two very unserious candidates who certainly appeal more to the right than the left.

Don't take my word for it, just ask RFK's own supporters. "The Daily Show" spoke to Kennedy voters who expressed disappointment in the Shanahan pick and were hoping for Rodgers instead.

"Aaron Rodgers, just because he's also anti-mandatory vaccine," said one about his preferred choice.

"I really like how Aaron Rodgers stood up and spoke out against the COVID tyranny," said another.

Yes, these sound like people who might consider voting for Biden.

Kennedy and Shanahan's anti-vax views and penchant for conspiracy theories, along with Kennedy's rabid support for Israel in no way endear him to either the radical left or the moderate left.

So, in what world does RFK take from Biden? If you ask me, that assertion just sounds like a get-out-the-vote tactic from the Democrats and wishful thinking from Trump.

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