

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

October 20, 2022

Division, Deflection and Buying Votes

With the election right around the corner, Operation Wildfire turns its attention to actions being taken by the Biden Administration to minimize midterm losses. We'll discuss the issues that ignite the Democratic base, and those that aren't even on their radar (although most Americans disagree). Even the mainstream media gets some time here. And, as always, Operation Wildfire provides the facts and a few reminders. Let's see what the Biden Administration is up to to activate their base.

Meddling in Primary Elections

The national Democratic committees, as well as candidates across the country, including Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Josh Shapiro, began running ads boosting Trump-backed candidates. In meddling with Republican choices, Democrats believe it will make those labeled 'MAGA Republican' candidates easier to beat than those viewed as mainstream Republican candidates. It's a risky strategy and one that could backfire.

The Washington Post reported in March that Biden adviser Anita Dunn spent six months on a research project with the Center for American Progress Action Fund to see what attacks on Republicans resonated with voters. And it turns out that in "battleground areas, more than twice as many voters said they would be less likely to vote for someone called a 'MAGA Republican.'"

Dividing the Nation

President Biden delivered a dark, gloomy, 'Soul of the Nation' speech filled with contradictions on the steps of Independence Hall, the very cradle of liberty. The speech wasn't intended to unite Americans, nor was it meant to win over new voters. While President Biden stated he "will not let anything tear us apart," the speech appeared intended to do just that — by instilling fear and targeting his political opposition.

But it's not just the President, who simply reads the script, or even his Administration. Allies in the media consistently use words like "purge," "reeducate," "eradicate" and "deprogram" when talking about those who disagree with the Biden message. Senior Democratic leaders within the bureaucracy continue to abuse their power by pushing ideology over public service. This appears to be a coordinated and sustained campaign to portray political opposition as an existential threat and enemies of the state.

And it's not just 'MAGA Republicans.' All Republicans, Independents, Libertarians, even disaffected Democrats who do not support the policies of this Administration should pay attention to what's happening.

The Deflection

To distract from the real issues that concern most Americans like record inflation, a stagnant economy, high gas and food prices, crime, the crisis at the southern border, education (and/or indoctrination), lack of good paying jobs and a burgeoning deficit, the President has tried to focus the American voter on former President Donald Trump. For over a year, the January 6 committee in the U.S. House of Representatives has been attempting to do the same. Now, with the midterms days away, the committee decides to subpoena former President Trump when he could have been called months ago.

President Biden is telling Americans that the 2022 midterm elections are a choice between the Biden Administration and what the Democrats stand for versus 'MAGA Republican' extremism espoused by former President Trump.

Buying Votes

In his 'Soul of the Nation' speech, President Biden detailed how 'MAGA Republicans' have sought to strip Americans of their freedom, their human and civil rights, from their bodily autonomy to their ability to vote. This

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

is called vote buying, playing to that which energizes your base. The Democratic strategy may be to peel away moderate Republican voters and those Independent voters who dislike former President Trump.

Issues that Excite the Base

Abortion Rights – When the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision on the Dobbs case, nothing changed in Pennsylvania, but the Democrats are falsely claiming that it did. Abortion is still legal in Pennsylvania and several other states. Abortion for medical and personal reasons is legal in the first 23 weeks in Pennsylvania. Thereafter, abortion may only be performed if the life or health of the mother is in danger. In fact, only twelve states have a total ban. (*The New York Times*, August 26, 2022; *The Morning Call*, July 25, 2022)

On June 28, 2022, Operation Wildfire's "Abortion" issue paper noted, "Unlike 13 other states, Pennsylvania does not have a law that automatically restricts or completely bans abortions once this landmark court decision was overturned."

The Right to Vote – President Biden likes to say that Voter ID is "Jim Crow on steroids." The President may not remember that the Jim Crow laws were passed by the Democrats. In its July 19, 2021, issue paper, "Does Joe Biden Really Know Jim Crow," Operation Wildfire reminded our readers that "Jim Crow laws were state and local laws enacted by white Southern Democrat-dominated state legislatures to disenfranchise and remove political and economic gains made by black people during the Reconstruction period."

Thirty-five states require or request some form of ID to cast a ballot. These laws applied to about 6 in 10 voters in 2020. The laws vary on how strictly they're applied and what forms of ID, photo or others, are accepted. The states that don't have ID requirements use other methods, such as matching signatures, to verify a voter's identity. (*Politifact*, June 13, 2022)

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a lower court ruling that had allowed the counting of undated mail-in ballots in three states, including Pennsylvania. Under Pennsylvania law, voters MUST write the date on the outer envelope of a mail-in ballot. However, the Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth, Leigh Chapman (Democrat and voting rights activist), issued guidance that counties should count undated mail ballots, ignoring Pennsylvania law and the dictates of the nation's highest court. Why?

Student Loan Forgiveness – Democrats may not realize it, but those advocating for President Biden's plan to transfer debt of up to \$10,000 or \$20,000 from each student loan borrower to taxpayers is just one more step in making Congress obsolete. That's the warning from accomplished law professor and Constitutional expert Jonathan Turley. The legal basis for this action is superficial and strikingly cynical. Even House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) previously stated that Biden could not unilaterally forgive such debt and would need a vote by Congress.

According to Jonathan Turley, the unilateral plan to waive up to a trillion dollars without Congressional approval is a dangerous and unconstitutional violation of our system of the separation of powers. Turley added that Congress is applauding "a president waiving a trillion dollars unilaterally because he knew that he could not get such a massive waiver from Congress. It is precisely what the Framers sought to avoid in a system of shared powers." (*WND*, August 29, 2022)

At this time, Operation Wildfire understands that several lawsuits have been filed to prevent this illegal abuse of power.

Social Security – "These MAGA Republicans in Congress are coming for your Social Security as well," said President Biden in a Labor Day speech. According to MarketWatch:

- Social Security is currently paying out more than it is taking in. Its trust fund is projected to be exhausted by 2034. When that happens, retirees will get whatever can be generated by payroll taxes, and currently that's projected to be about 77 cents on the dollar.

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

- No Republican advocates doing away with Social Security. And even if they did, there would be no chance of the idea gaining traction in Congress.
- Republicans want to fix Social Security, but they are at the opposite side of the spectrum from Democrats on how to do that. Democrats prefer raising revenue; Republicans want to reduce the program's long-term expenditures by more accurately reflecting the retirement age.

But What About These Issues?

The Economy/Inflation

President Biden recently said the economy is "strong as hell." Let's take a quick look.

- Rising Prices at the Pump – The Biden Administration took credit for declining gas prices but is silent on the prices going back up. The Administration begged Saudi Arabia, the de-facto leader of OPEC, to "delay its decision on oil output by a month." Notably, the President's request would have delayed the decision until after the midterm elections. (CNBC, 10/13/2022) OPEC said "No."
- President Biden has borrowed from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and intends to do it again before the midterm elections, bringing the Reserve to its lowest levels ever.
- President Biden claims he is doing everything he can to lower prices at the pump but he's unable to explain why the U.S. was a net exporter of fossil fuels before he took office and the regulatory tricks being played on our fossil fuel producers.
- We know that you didn't have to be told, but, according to Morgan Stanley Research, consumer spending is down and inflation is up. Food prices have risen 65% in the past two years. Rising prices and a looming recession mean food insecurity is increasing all over the country.

The Border is Secure

President Biden, Vice President Harris and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas repeatedly say that the U.S. border is secure (?).

In July, you received two issue papers on Immigration. Operation Wildfire has also tried to keep you informed about the illegal immigrants that are being shipped around the country by President Biden and, more recently, the Governors of Texas and Florida. Here's some recent data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

- U.S. officials are aware of at least 599,000 migrants who crossed the southern border and evaded authorities in Fiscal Year 2022, a Customs and Border Protection source told Fox News. That amounts to an average of roughly 50,000 "gotaways" every month and more than 1,500 per day. These numbers represent those illegal migrants that have been observed on cameras or detected via sensors, footprints or other means, but never apprehended because of a lack of manpower.
- The border crisis has been an ongoing problem throughout Biden's presidency. There were more than 2.1 million migrant encounters this fiscal year and more than 200,000 migrant encounters in August alone.
- Former President Bill Clinton even acknowledged the problem on a recent CNN podcast. "There is a limit to how many migrants any society can take without severe disruption and assistance, and our system is based much more on an assumption that things would be more normal," Clinton said.

Influence of the Mainstream Media

The mainstream media is reporting that Democrats and Republicans are ahead or neck and neck in the upcoming midterm elections, in large part due to:

- Energized abortion rights voters (many of whom don't know the laws in their own states);
- Student loan forgiveness (which is probably not constitutional);
- The Inflation Reduction Act (which really doesn't do a thing to reduce inflation); and,
- Former President Trump back in the spotlight (a Democrat strategy to peel away voters from Republican candidates).

But are the Democrat and Republican candidates running neck-and-neck? Or is this designed to keep Republican voters home? Is this voter suppression?

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When YOU Vote

What about the Independents?

- A Quinnipiac University poll conducted from Sept. 8-12 found that inflation was of top concern to both independents (43%) and Republicans (73%). However, despite the economic recession, inflation was only the issue of most concern to 8% of Democrats, ranking under election laws and racial inequality. Abortion was the number one issue to Democrats at 23%.
- In Pennsylvania, a CBS News/YouGov poll, conducted Sept. 6-12 suggests the economy is very important to 80% of Independent voters and 94% of Republicans, while only 66% of Democrats ranked it as an important issue.
- In Ohio, a Suffolk University poll revealed that inflation and the economy were the top issues for 38% of Independent and 43% of Republican voters. Only 9% of Democrats in Ohio stated that the economy is the issue of top concern, according to the poll.
- In Wisconsin, a Marquette University survey conducted September 6-11 reported that inflation was the top issue to Independent voters in the state, receiving 69% of the vote. Inflation was also the top issue for 92% of Republicans, but only 41% of Democrats.

The bottom line: Recent polls found that Independent voters are significantly more matched with the concerns of Republicans than those of Democrats, with the latest polls discovering that their top concern is inflation, whereas Democrats are focused on abortion, MAGA Republicans, and gun policy. And, it is the Independent voter that is likely to determine control not only of our state government but of the U.S. Congress.

Saying Anything to Win

During the 2012 presidential campaign, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D) made an outrageous allegation that GOP nominee Mitt Romney hadn't paid taxes for 10 years and continued to repeat the allegation throughout the campaign as did other Democrats. Post-election, Reid was asked if he had regrets about those statements. "I don't regret that at all," he told CNN's Dana Bash. "Romney didn't win did he?"

So what mattered most to Reid was that Romney lost and Obama won. It's one thing to try to gain a political advantage by pointing out certain undesirable aspects of an opponent's background or record, but when baseless allegations are spread without a shred of evidence that's one step too far. And what makes it even more egregious is that the then Majority Leader seemed to be proud of his actions. It's this win-at-all-cost mentality that continues to poison our politics and fuel public distrust of elected officials.

"Romney didn't win did he?" No he didn't. But there's more to politics than winning and losing. Integrity matters. A strong commitment to upholding public trust matters. Honesty and magnanimity matter.

The Challenge

Now that you have read about the issues above – and you may have others that we didn't cover – it's your duty and responsibility to go to the polls on Tuesday, November 8 and cast your ballot. Operation Wildfire trusts that you will vote for the candidates who are more likely to represent your values and beliefs.

One thing we know for sure: Insulting the American voter is no way to win midterm elections. You deserve better.

Sources: The *Washington Post*, *Yahoo.news*, *Axios*, *HuffPost*, CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, *Forbes*, MorganStanley Research, MarketWatch