



Breaking the Cycle: Restoring Integrity and Trust in Leaders

On Halloween 2024, while children dressed in costumes roamed the dark streets of Fannin County, GA, knocking on strangers' doors for candy, thousands of crimes were being committed. The situation was so extreme that the only way for the Fannin County Sheriff to counter the lawlessness would have been to arrest every parent who was not accompanying their children as they went door to door for trick-or-treating.

I called the Fannin County Sheriff's dispatch number, 706-632-6022, a line that subsequently reroutes to 911, to alert them to these incidents. Instead of receiving assistance, I was met with hostility. The dispatcher told me I was breaking the law by reporting these crimes and promptly hung up on me. When I called again to fulfill my civic duty, the response was the same: a dismissal and another abrupt hang-up.

At this point, you might be wondering why I called the Fannin County Sheriff's office in the first place for something that seems minor. To understand my frustration, let's rewind to the day before Halloween 2024, when a mother in Mineral Bluff, GA, was arrested after her 10-year-old son, who was briefly left home alone—was found walking in their small town. Bodycam footage captured the shocking moment this mother was handcuffed in front of her children.

"I was shocked, surprised, in disbelief," said Patterson, the 41-year-old mother. "I couldn't understand what was happening or why. They told me to put my hands behind my back, and I had to ask for permission to say goodbye to my kids."

The charge? A violation of a statute the Georgia State Supreme Court declared unconstitutional in 1997. Yet the Fannin County Sheriff's Office enforced it anyway, violating her constitutional rights. This blatant overreach raises an important question: Why would a government agency act in such a way? And why does it feel justified in doing so?

As I write this blog, I find myself wondering: Why would the government deem it appropriate and safe for a child to pursue gender reassignment without requiring parental permission? What does this say about the role of parents in decision-making for their children? Where should the line be drawn, and who gets to decide?

My theory is this: The government, along with its various branches and institutions, has become emboldened to act without accountability because too many voters focus solely on headlines. Courts practice political or activist justice instead of adhering to constitutional principles. Schools, influenced by radical activist school boards, extend their authority beyond the classroom into the home. And the media amplifies the drama to increase viewership, knowing that a reactionary electorate is easily manipulated.

This cycle thrives because too many of us vote based on emotional reactions rather than informed judgment. When we fail to evaluate the character, history, and habits of the people we elect, we



empower leaders who care more about maintaining power than serving their communities. Leaders like those in Fannin County, who prioritize creating subjects tethered to the penal system over protecting the rights of their citizens.

The solution lies with us. We must become a constituency that values collective well-being over instant gratification, that prioritizes what is right for the long term instead of succumbing to the latest outrage. When we do, we will replace politicians who perpetuate injustice with those who genuinely serve the people.

Holding lawmakers accountable starts with our votes. Every election is an opportunity to take out the trash—not let it pile up at the curb. We must demand term limits at every level of government, including Congress, and make it clear that those who trample on our rights will not remain in power.

It's time to shift the narrative. Let us choose leaders who stand for integrity and fairness, not those who thrive on division and spectacle. Our democracy depends on it, and so do the values we hold dear.

When I have the honor of serving as a senator for the great State of Texas, I will champion the change we desperately need—starting with term limits in Congress. Among other critical initiatives, I will commit to putting myself out of a job 12 years after taking my seat in the Senate.

This isn't about holding power—it's about restoring trust in leadership and ensuring that your voice, the voice of the people, shapes the future of our nation. Together, we can create a government that serves the people, not the interests of career politicians.

~George Bunker

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