

LIBERTY WATCH

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POLITICS. BUSINESS. LIBERTY.

CATHERINE CORTEZ-MASTO



THE TRUE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

**HARRY REID, DEATH
OF A 'STATESMAN'?
CUE THE LAUGHTER**

Larry Elder

PERILOUS TIMES

Andrew P. Napolitano

THE QUEST TO DESTROY WORK

BEN SHAPIRO

GOP HOLDS 4 ACES

Chuck Muth

REVERSE ROBIN HOOD MYTH

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planet 13

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Article 1

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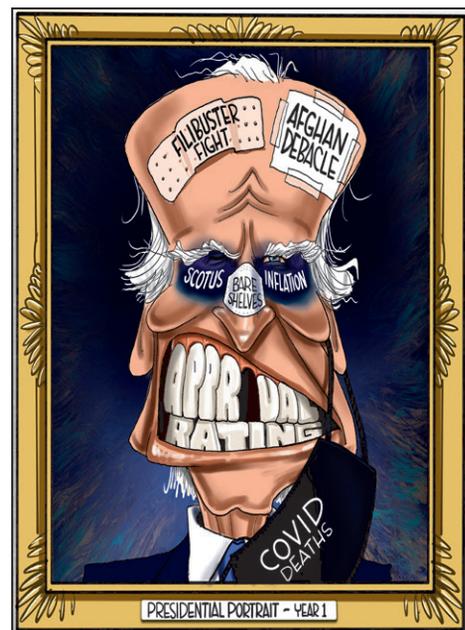
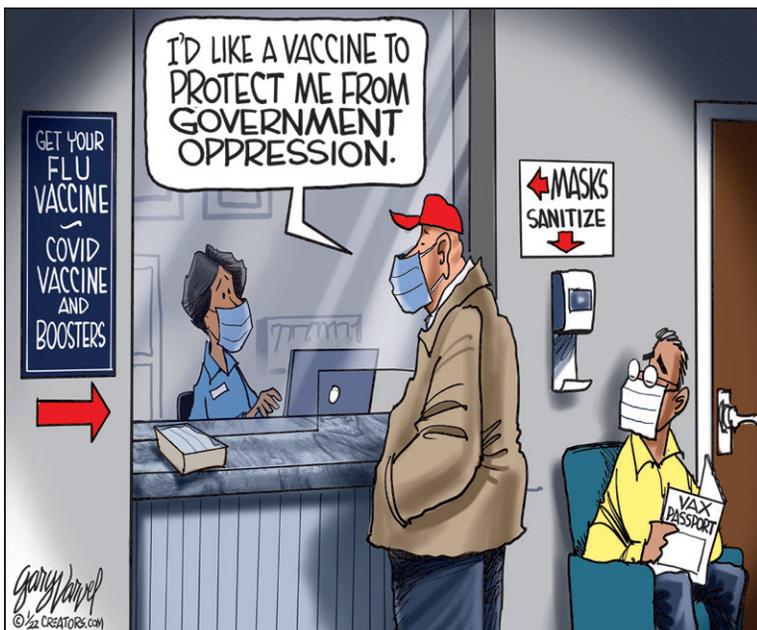
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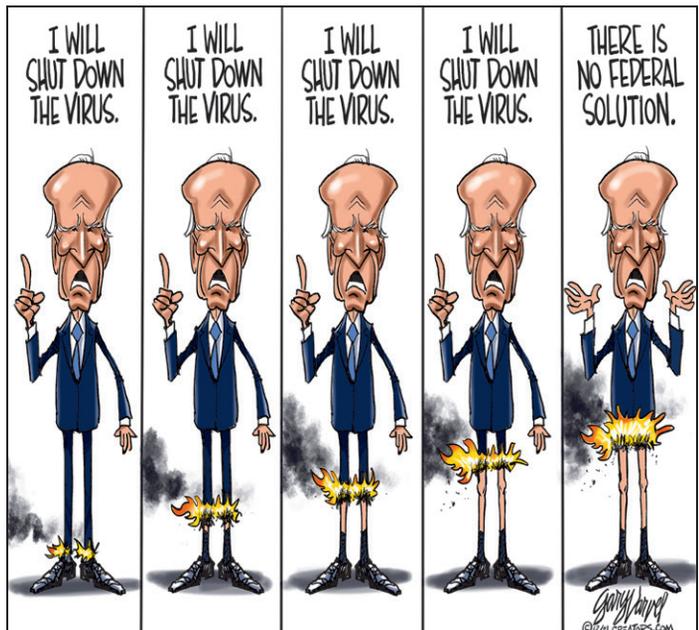
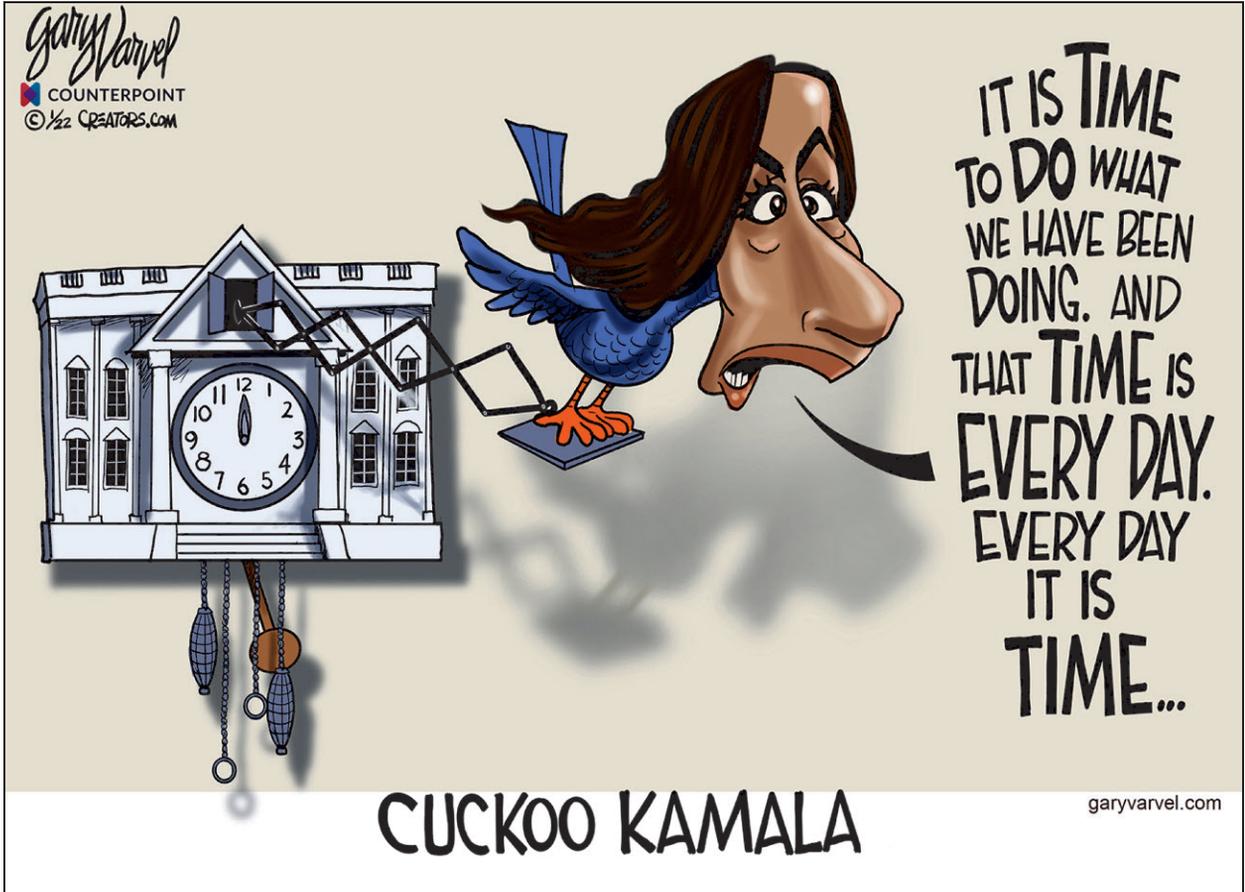
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CORTEZ MASTO MUST BE DEFEATED

This Election Day, Nevadans will have the opportunity to replace the state's senior U.S. Senator, Catherine Cortez Masto.

But should they? And if so, who should they elect in her place?

The clear answers are “yes,” and “not the guy everyone is thinking of.”

Since replacing Harry Reid in 2016, Cortez Masto has proven to be one of the most radical, progressive and fiscally reckless Senators in American history.

Cortez Masto earned the worst grade in the entire U.S. Senate on the National Taxpayers Union's (NTU) 2018 rating of Senators' voting records on bills impacting taxes, spending and debt. She scored a 14%, receiving an “F” grade and the title of “Most Taxpayer-Unfriendly Senator.”

Two years later, Masto broke all records of fiscal irresponsibility by scoring a 0%.

According to NTU, literally any time Cortez Masto could've voted to lower taxes, reduce spending, trim debt, or make life easier for American taxpayers, she refused.

Cortez Masto also earned a 0% on a 2020 scorecard released by Heritage Action. The rating considers lawmakers' votes on legislation that would limit the size and scope of government, protect free and fair elections, support the needs of America's military, and other critical decisions. Nevada's senior senator made the wrong choice every single time.

The nonprofit Council for Citizens Against Government Waste also rated members of Congress based on their commitment to fiscal transparency and protecting tax dollars. In 2020,

Cortez Masto scored so poorly that she was rated as “Hostile to Taxpayers.”

Since these ratings were released, things have only gotten worse.

Cortez Masto has supported job-killing tax hikes on Nevada's businesses – including on small mom and pop companies, and the state's crucial tourism and gaming industry. She also introduced legislation that would use tax dollars to fund the campaigns of progressive candidates, opposed a proposal to guard against Covid stimulus checks going to illegal aliens, and voted in favor of allowing violent criminals to receive taxpayer-funded stimulus money in prison.

During her 5 years on Capitol Hill, no member of the U.S. Senate has been more willing to waste taxpayers' hard-earned dollars or less willing to fight to reduce the burden of government on working Americans.

Beyond being the biggest spender in the Senate, Cortez Masto has also co-sponsored a bill that would expand automatic and same-day voter registration and vote-by-mail, encourage ballot harvesting, and limit states' ability to enact voter ID policies.

Cortez Masto is also one of the people most responsible for America's skyrocketing gas and energy prices.

She voted to kill the Keystone XL Pipeline, destroying thousands of well-paying jobs and preventing the transfer of 830,000 barrels of oil a day – which would have increased the supply of

gasoline and reduced the price at the pump. The senator steadfastly supports the Biden administration's absurd ban on fracking, which has dramatically reduced America's supply of clean, reliable natural gas.

When President Biden nominated eco-terrorist Tracy Stone-Manning as National Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Cortez Masto voted in favor of confirming her – even though Stone-Manning booby-trapped trees being legally logged in an Idaho forest so that loggers could be hurt or killed. Cortez Masto also turned her back on Nevada and other Western States by supporting the administration's decision to relocate the Bureau of Land Management's headquarters from Colorado to Washington, DC.

In 2017, when Republicans ran the Senate, Cortez Masto signed a letter in support of preserving the filibuster. Now that Democrats are in control of the Senate, the hypocritical lawmaker is actively working to put an end to the filibuster in order to remove the voice of Republicans from legislative debate.

Obviously, Cortez Masto doesn't represent the moderate, commonsense values of our state. Nothing proves that point better than the fact that, in 2021, she voted with socialist Bernie Sanders 94% of the time and with and progressive extremist Chuck Schumer 98% of the time.

Cortez Masto clearly has no business representing Nevada. Defeating her would rid Congress of a fiscally reckless lawmaker with no interest in protecting tax dollars and no willingness to stand up for the values of working Nevadans. Beating her on Election Day would also very likely give the GOP control of the U.S. Senate – regardless of what happens elsewhere across the country.

Adam Laxalt – a failed gubernatorial candidate who, like Cortez Masto, served as Nevada's attorney general – is currently favored to win the Republican nomination to take on Cortez Masto.

While he may be the favorite in the GOP primary, Laxalt is not the candidate with the best chance of defeating Cortez Masto in the general election. He's also not the best choice for Republican voters hoping to elect a thoughtful conservative to the U.S. Senate.

Laxalt, coming off a disastrous campaign for governor against Steve Sisolak, is roundly disliked throughout the state. While only 42% of Nevadans have a favorable view of Cortez Masto, that unimpressive number is far better than Laxalt's paltry likeability score.

A recent poll by The Nevada Independent found that “only 28% of respondents expressed a favorable view of Laxalt, compared with 31% who expressed an unfavorable view.”

Nevadans' dislike for Laxalt is understandable. As the grandson of former Nevada Gov. and U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt and the “secret son” of former Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., Laxalt has been criticized by many for exploiting his last name to reach heights in Nevada politics he never earned.

Before running for AG, Laxalt worked at the Reno office of law firm Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie. In an employee evaluation, his bosses described him as “a train wreck.” The review went on to say Laxalt “has horrible reviews,” he doesn't understand “basic legal principles,” “his work is sloppy,” “he has horrible client service,” and “he doesn't even have the basic skill set” to succeed as a lawyer with the firm. Laxalt's bosses even criticized his poor grammar and spelling.

The review recommended a “freeze in salary” and “possible termination.” Perhaps most damning, the firm's evaluation said Laxalt “has judgment issues” and “doesn't even understand what to do.”

Laxalt's poor performance and general incompetence continued as Nevada's attorney general. He repeatedly found himself in hot water for playing fast and loose with ethical boundaries.

For example, in a 2017 recording, Laxalt illicitly demanded the Gaming Control Board chairman improperly intervene in a civil lawsuit involving one of Laxalt's largest campaign donors. The recording was turned over to the FBI and Laxalt's improper behavior spurred an ethics probe by the Nevada Legislature.

Later that same year, Laxalt opposed pardoning a wrongfully convicted man who spent 21 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit for political reasons.

Laxalt's only qualification appears to be that he

JUST THE FACTS

is related to other people who have served in high office. That might be enough to make him suitable for office in England, where bloodlines and titles of nobility are often more important than ability. Here in America, however, we should avoid creating dynasties and, instead, elect people based on merit and skill.

And even though Laxalt touts his family history as a justification for his election, Laxalt has been so disastrous as a candidate and an elected official that a dozen members of his own family penned a scathing op-ed in the Reno Gazette Journal encouraging Nevadans to vote against him.

After more than a decade in Nevada politics, Nevadans know who Adam Laxalt is: A dull, entitled, unprincipled candidate without a backbone who cares more about his own self-glory than he does about the people of the state.

The same cannot be said for Sam Brown, Laxalt's chief rival in the race to win the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

Captain Sam Brown is an American hero. He is a West Point graduate who was serving Afghanistan when he rushed to help a platoon from his company that was being ambushed. As he approached his fellow soldiers, his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, killing one of the soldiers in Brown's vehicle and injuring the other four, including Brown.

The 2008 explosion blew off part of one of Brown's hands and caused severe burns all over his face and body.

He spent the next three years rehabilitating from his injuries. Laxalt, incidentally, was also in a rehab facility...for alcohol abuse after a dangerous and embarrassing DUI arrest.

Brown has undergone nearly 20 surgeries, from skin grafts to repair his charred flesh to plastic surgery to reconstruct his face to hand surgeries to increase his range of motion.

As part of his rehab, Brown was assigned a dietician, 1st Lt. Amy Larsen. After months as Larsen's patient, Brown worked up the courage to ask her out. She accepted and the pair were married in 2009, while Brown was still in the midst of his long and painful recovery.

The Browns now have three children.

But Brown is much more than just a courageous veteran with an amazing story. Because of his knowledge and insight about military affairs and foreign relations, Brown regularly appears on news outlets, including Fox News and Newsmax to provide expert analysis.

He and Amy also run a small business that works with the VA to provide veterans with urgently needed medication and medical supplies. That experience as a business-owner has renewed his belief that the keys to economic growth are low taxes, responsible government spending, and minimal regulatory burdens.

Brown, who bought his Reno home in 2018, has been attacked by Laxalt supporters for being a carpetbagger and a newcomer to Nevada.

Laxalt, however, spent almost his entire life in the fancy suburbs of Washington, DC. He only moved to the Silver State within the past decade and never owned a home in Nevada until recently.

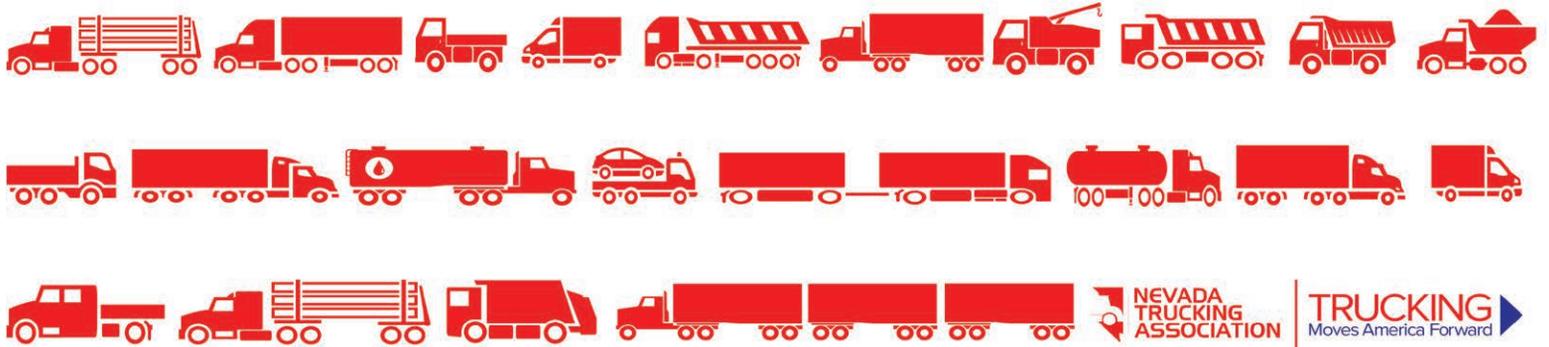
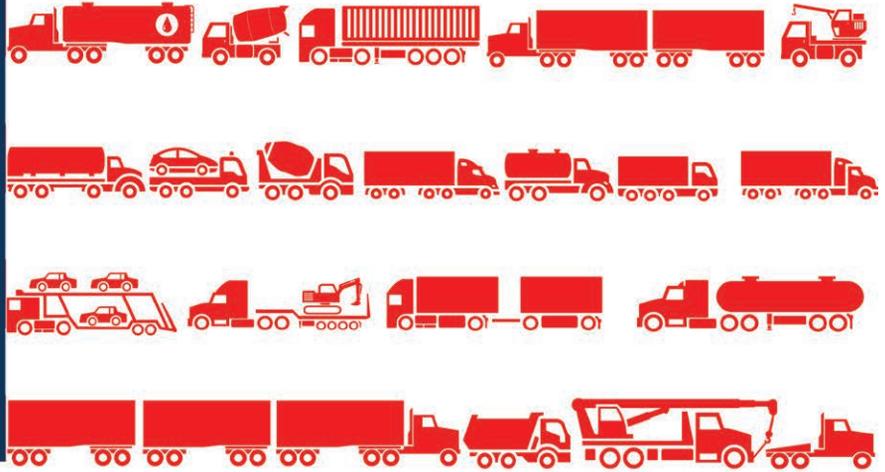
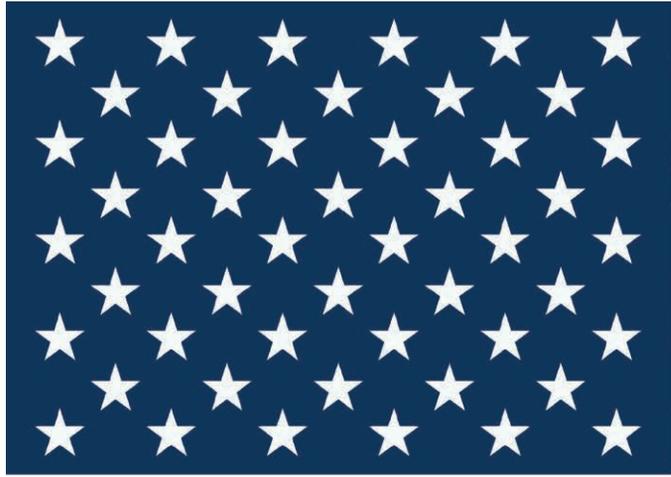
In fact, in the op-ed written in opposition to Laxalt's ultimately failed gubernatorial bid, his own family members wrote, "[It's] difficult to hear him continue to falsely claim that he was raised in Nevada or has any true connections to Nevadans."

Laxalt has already proven himself one of the great losers in recent Nevada political history. His surprising 40,000 vote defeat to Steve Sisolak, a flawed and relatively unpopular Clark County Commissioner, gave Democrats the governor's mansion for the first time in a generation. It also set the stage for Sisolak to destroy the state's economy and trample individual liberties through Covid-related shutdowns, mask mandates, and unbridled spending.

The last thing Silver State voters can afford is to re-elect Catherine Cortez Masto. She cares more about representing extremist, socialist values than she does standing up for the interests of Nevadans. But if Adam Laxalt is the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate, Cortez Masto will likely win reelection.

That's why it's absolutely vital that Sam Brown wins the GOP primary. If he does, Brown will defeat Cortez Masto and give Nevadans the principled, devoted representative we deserve in the U.S. Senate. **LW**

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IN NEVADA'S GENDER-CARD DAME-GAME, GOP HOLDS 4 ACES

Identity politics is stupid.

Democrats love to play this game. Vote for Candidate A because he's black. Vote for Candidate B because she's a woman. Vote for Candidate C because he's Jewish. Vote for Candidate D because she's gay. Vote for Candidate E because he's a she or she's a he, depending on how he/she wishes to "identify."

Republicans tend to play a different game. Vote for candidates A, B, C, D and E because they'll vote to keep government limited, taxes low and defend individual liberties regardless of their race, gender, religion, national heritage or sexual orientation/identification.

Democrats judge candidates by what they are. Republicans judge candidates by what they believe. Democrats judge candidates by the color of their skin. Republicans judge candidates by the content of their character.

Which do you think is the "American Way"?

Anyway, back in 2018 Nevada became the "Dame-Game" champion. After a pair of appointments, not elections, women ended up outnumbering men in the Nevada Legislature. And the corporate media went into full rapture...

- "Nevada became the first state in the U.S. with an overall female majority in the Legislature," reported PBS.
- "Women have hit a political jackpot in Nevada (when it became) the first in the nation with a majority female legislature," burred CNN.
- "For the first time in our nation's history, a state legislature has a majority of female lawmakers," trumpeted CBS.
- "No state has ever had a female majority," noted CNBC.
- "No other legislature has achieved that milestone in U.S. history," gushed the Washington Post.
- "Nevada is the first and only state in the country where women make up a majority of lawmakers," observed the Los Angeles Times.
- "Nevada made history when it became the first state in the US with a female-majority legislature," the BBC breathlessly reported.
- "It's the first time in our nation's history that any state legislature holds a majority of female lawmakers," chimed in NPR.
- "Nevada will seat the nation's first-ever female-majority Legislature in February,"

added the Reno Gazette-Journal.

And how's that worked out for us? Um, not so swell...

- *Nevadans are being fired for not getting a vaccine that doesn't work*
- *Nevadans are being forced to wear masks that don't work*
- *Nevada's at the bottom of the list in education*
- *We're at the top of the list in unemployment*
- *Crime is surging*
- *Drug abuse is skyrocketing*
- *The southern border is wide open*
- *The homeless camps on our streets continue to grow*
- *Government spending has exploded*
- *Taxes have gone up*
- *Prices have gone up*
- *Store shelves are empty*
- *Traffic sucks*
- *Elections are unsecure*

But here is perhaps the most embarrassing failure of Nevada's woman-majority Legislature: They've meekly let a man tell them what to do and assumed a submissive, obedient position in state government.

The Man is Nevada Democrat Gov. Steve Sisolak. And on March 17, 2020, this man essentially declared himself Emperor by seizing unprecedented, and arguably unconstitutional, "emergency" powers without consulting with, let alone getting approval from, Nevada's woman-majority Legislature.

The Man told them they were to be

seen, not heard. They were told, "Don't call us; we'll call you." Silenced. Ignored. Patted on the head. Sent to the kitchen. Barefoot.

But rather than channel their "I am woman, hear me roar!" power, they did as they were told and retreated to the corner awaiting further instructions.

Not all of them, to be sure. It was DEMOCRAT women who let The Man push them around, blow them off and run roughshod over them. Conversely, it was a handful of conservative Republican women who defied the governor, fought him every step of the way and attempted to strip him of his dictatorial powers.

The Democrat women didn't support their fellow Republican women. Instead, they blindly supported The Man who didn't even give them cab fare home in the morning.

But if you think that's bad, consider this...

Depending on which figures you use, Nevada is either dead last or second to last in education. And the reason isn't the schools in Nevada's rural counties. The reason our state is always sucking hind teat is Clark County.

And the Clark County school board is absolutely, positively, without a doubt, inarguably, the single most dysfunctional government body in the entire state. Bar none. Just look at the recent embarrassment where they fired the superintendent and then just a couple weeks later re-hired him.

The seven board members? All women. Every one of them.

Now, to be fair, the problem isn't electing

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women. It's electing wrong-thinking women. It's electing women solely on the basis of their gender, not their genius. It's in electing subservient liberal women who are treated as nothing more than political "eye candy" to the identity politics gang on the left.

Look, if you're a Nevadan hellbent on playing gender politics and electing more women in 2022, fine. But let's at least elect more conservative GOP women with actual qualifications and experience who think independently, have a backbone and won't destroy our economy and undermine our constitutional rights.

I have four modest suggestions for this election cycle...

1.) Sigal Chattah, Attorney General

After the "Sisolak Shutdown" was ordered in March 2020, suddenly the cat had the tongue of just about every reporter and columnist in the state – other than Victor Joecks of the Las Vegas Review-Journal – and just about every elected official – other than Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman.

Filling the void in that vacuum of leadership opposition was an Israeli-born private attorney in Las Vegas named Sigal Chattah (see-GALL CHAT-ah).

Chattah filed a lawsuit, pro bono, to overturn Sisolak's authoritarian "emergency" order that padlocked Nevada's churches of every denomination. And on December 15, 2020, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down Sisolak's church ban, earning her the nickname, "The Jew Who Saved Christmas."

Shortly thereafter she announced her

candidacy for Nevada attorney general.

"Personally, my candidacy started because of COVID restrictions," Chattah told the Nevada Globe in an interview. "The Governor's abusive emergency powers, the violation of personal constitutional rights and the failure of the Attorney General (Aaron Ford, a man) is what inspired me to run."

Sigal graduated from Valley High School in Las Vegas and received her degree in Political Science at UNLV, concentrating on International Politics and Middle Eastern Studies.

She attended Widener University School of Law in Pennsylvania, as well as Webster University in Geneva, Switzerland - studying both Human Rights and International Law – before opening her own firm in 2002 catering to both domestic and international litigation needs in Las Vegas.

Sigal's an intelligent, ball-busting, take-no-prisoners, bare-knuckle street fighter who ain't about to sit by quietly while a governor – or a president, for that matter – tramples on the basic constitutional rights of Nevada's citizens.

2.) Diane Steel, Congress, District 1

Diane Steel received an undergraduate degree from Valdosta State College in 1977 and earned her J.D. from California Western School of Law in 1990.

She got her start in politics in 1994 when she won a surprising upset victory for a seat in the Nevada State Assembly, where she chaired the Economic Development and Tourism Committee.

She then served as former Lieutenant Gov. Lonnie Hammargren's chief-of-staff

before being elected to Clark County's 8th Judicial District Court, Family Division, in 1996. She was consistently re-elected and retired, after 22 years on the bench, in 2019.

Diane served on the Supreme Court's Blue Ribbon Commission on Guardianships, served as the presiding judge in the Family Division from 2000 through 2002 and was president of the Pro Bono Foundation for five years.

She also served on the Clark County Bench Bar Committee, the Nevada State Bar, Family Section Executive Council, the Board of Trustees Clark County Law Library and was the Family Court Legislative Representative.

In addition, Diane was instrumental in the creation of the Donna's House Visitation Exchange Program, the Judicial Studies Program, the Self-Help Center Project, the Youth Eagle Leadership Project and the Jury Services-CASA Recruitment Program.

If CD-1 voters are looking for an extremely qualified woman with intelligence and experience to represent Nevadans in Washington, DC...well, look no further.

3.) April Becker, Congress, District 3

April worked to put herself through law school. But she's not just an attorney; she owns her own law firm. And she's not just a "settlement" attorney; she's a trial lawyer - and a darned good one at that.

In 2020, April had the gumption to challenge the sitting Democrat State Senate Majority Leader, Nicole Cannizzaro, in a Democrat-majority district, and came within a whisker of pulling off a major upset in an election

loaded with plenty of suspicious voting irregularities.

She's extremely personable, confident and conservative. She doesn't suffer fools gladly or take crap off anybody. She's nobody's puppet. She's no creampuff. She's no wallflower. She's no pushover. To the contrary, April has the fighting spirit of a honey badger.

Indeed, while most other candidates who lost close races in that fouled-up 2020 election simply accepted their defeat and withdrew from the battlefield, April fought back. She put together a team of grassroots canvassers who went door-to-door to collect sworn affidavits attesting to votes illegally cast and then sued, though unsuccessfully, to contest the results.

Losing a close race that may very well have been stolen is a pretty bitter pill to swallow. Few would blame her if she quit politics after such an experience. Instead, April's hopped right back up on the horse and has an extremely good chance to win this seat in November.

4.) Annie Black, Congress, District 4

Even before the ink was dry on Gov. Sisolak's unconstitutional March 17 "Declaration of Emergency" executive order shutting the state down, then-Mesquite City Councilwoman Annie Black was on his case and in his face.

She blistered him throughout her 2020 campaign for the Nevada State Assembly, where she blew out a RINO (Republican in Name Only) incumbent in a landslide.

She was nicknamed "Political Orphan Annie" by Las Vegas Review-Journal editor Steve Sebelius after she refused

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to join the wishy-washy Republican Assembly Caucus and became a one-person wrecking crew taking on Sisolak and his Democrat minions in the Legislature.

Annie's first bill called for the immediate termination of Sisolak's "Declaration of Emergency," and she regularly took to the floor of the Assembly calling on the Legislature to open its doors to the public.

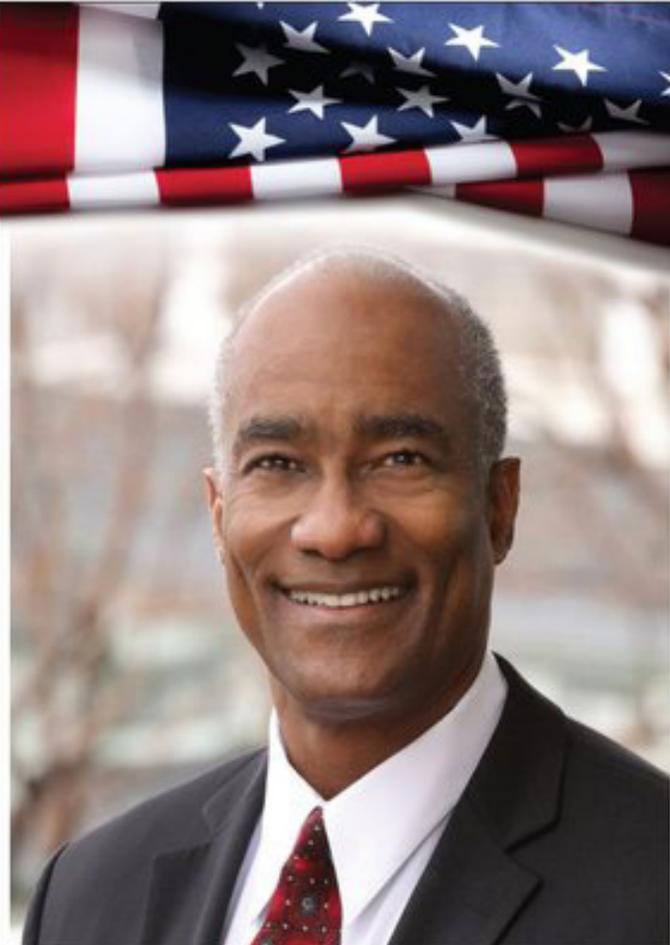
Towards the end of the session, Annie was banished from the floor of the Assembly for refusing to wear a mask or produce a "vaccine passport." When Democrats demanded that she apologize to be allowed back in the Chamber, she told them to kiss her grits.

Wanna send a woman to Congress from Nevada who's a proven fighter and proven conservative? Do what I do: Bet on Black!

The list of solid, thinking, fighting, experienced, qualified conservative women running for office this year doesn't end here. The amount of space I have ends here.

So I'll close by throwing out just a few additional names for you to watch this cycle who have excellent chances to win in November: Monica Jaye for State Senate, Melissa Blundo and Amy Groves for State Assembly and Mary Marshall-Lang and Erica Neely for Clark County School Board.

Ladies, start your engines!

A portrait of Tony Grady, a Black man with a receding hairline, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a red tie with a small pattern. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with an American flag visible at the top.

Tony Grady
FOR LT. GOVERNOR

It Matters for Nevada

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HOW THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT IS HELPING NEVADA

Below is a continuously updated list of good news arising from Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted by Republicans in 2017.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST IRS DATA:

16.6% tax cut for Nevadans making between \$25k - \$50k. Nevada households with adjusted gross income between \$25,000 and \$50,000 saw their average federal income tax liability drop from \$2,124.96 in 2017 to \$1,821.80 in 2019, a 16.6% reduction in federal income tax liability.

20% tax cut for Nevadans making between \$50k - \$75k. Nevada households with adjusted gross income between \$50,000 and \$75,000 saw their average federal income tax liability drop from \$5,390.83 in 2017 to \$4,487.88 in 2019, a 20% reduction in federal income tax liability.

19% tax cut for Nevadans making between \$75k - \$100k. Nevada households with adjusted gross income between \$75,000 and \$100,000 saw their average federal income tax liability drop from \$9,019.95 in 2017 to \$7,568.59 in 2019, a 19% reduction in federal income tax liability.

Data from the Congressional Budget Office also shows that high-earning Americans pay a greater share of taxes than before the Trump tax cuts. In other words TCJA actually made the tax code more progressive, though you won't hear Democrats admit it.

The TCJA also contained numerous reforms that benefited Nevada households:

NV households are no longer stuck paying the Obamacare mandate tax. The TCJA zeroed out the Obamacare individual mandate tax penalty effective 2019. In 2017, 52,180 Nevada households paid the Obamacare individual mandate tax penalty. 46,410 (89%) of taxpayers earned less than \$75,000. 43,590 households paid the Obamacare individual mandate tax penalty in

2018. 37,560 (86%) of taxpayers earned less than \$75,000.

Doubled Standard Deduction. The TCJA doubled the standard deduction from \$12,000 to \$24,000 for taxpayers filing jointly and \$6,000 to \$12,000 for single filers. 1,283,730 NV households took the standard deduction in 2018 including 1,254,850 households earning less than \$200,000. 1,365,710 taxpayers took the standard deduction in 2019 including 1,339,990 taxpayers earning less than \$200,000.

20% tax deduction for NV small businesses. The TCJA created a new, 20% deduction for small businesses organized as pass-through entities (LLCs, sole proprietors, S-corporations, partnerships). 176,570 NV taxpayers claimed the small business deduction in 2019 including 145,360 taxpayers earning less than \$200,000. 150,660 taxpayers claimed the small business deduction in 2018 including 124,730 taxpayers earning less than \$200,000.

Doubled Child Tax Credit. The TCJA doubled the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. 387,640 NV households took the child tax credit in 2019 including 370,490 households earning less than \$200,000. 378,790 households took the child tax credit in 2018 including 363,270 households earning less than \$200,000.

Utility Savings: If not for the TCJA, utility bills would be even higher. As a direct result (see citations in the list of companies below) of the TCJA's corporate tax rate cut, Nevada residents are saving money on utility bills. Lower electric, water, and gas bills help households and small businesses operating on tight margins.

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- ★ Filed a lawsuit against the Governor for access to hydroxychloroquine preventing him from extending his emergency regulation, which was banning this lifesaving medication to Nevadans.
- ★ Filed a lawsuit against the Governor to open Nevada churches and won at the ninth circuit Court of Appeals, opening all Nevada churches 10 days before Christmas in December 2020.
- ★ Worked with residents of eight Nevada counties to assist them in negotiating with their county commissions to fully open up their counties with zero Covid restrictions, mask mandates or occupancy limits of businesses.
- ★ Participated in a rally in Battle Mountain Nevada alongside Sheriff Richard Mack where because of the hard work of the county manager, county commissioners and District Attorney, Lander County became the first constitutional county in Nevada.

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NEW LAWS ENDANGER NEVADA'S ELECTION INTEGRITY

Lax Voting Regulations Threaten Confidence in Electoral System

Honest, well-run elections are something many of us take for granted. Perhaps that's a good thing – it shows at least of modicum of faith in our electoral process. But the reality is that election integrity is like freedom, trust and respect: Once gone it's very hard to get it back. Just ask the citizens of Russia, Venezuela or any banana republic. At this moment there is considerable doubt about the Nevada election process.

Ensuring election integrity, specifically making it easy to vote but hard to cheat, is crucial for a number of reasons, including:

- *It strengthens public confidence in elections and those elected to public office, underscoring political legitimacy;*
- *It bolsters civic activism by increasing turnout;*
- *It allows for the peaceful resolution of debates and encourages debate; and*
- *It provides a sense of a united community, expressing their rights.*

Unfortunately, over the past few years, election integrity has been undermined in Nevada by sweeping legislative changes that have created what are arguably the laxest voting regulations in the country:

- *Last session the legislature codified a law expanding mail-in voting to all active, registered voters. The move, begun on a temporary basis in 2020 as a purported response to the Covid-19 pandemic, required local election officials to send mail ballots to all registered, active voters before the general election. With the 2021 legislation, all active, registered Nevada voters – more than 1.8 million – will continue to automatically receive a mail ballot before each election unless they*

specifically opt out. In addition, voters are not required to provide identification when casting ballots.

- *The new law allows people to collect and turn in mail ballots on behalf of other voters. Known by some as “ballot harvesting,” it increases the opportunity for bad actors to tamper with the voting process. Nevada law previously had prohibited any non-family members from turning in another voter's absentee or mail ballot.*
- *The vote-counting process has become protracted. This was evident in the 2020 election, when it took Nevada officials 10 days after the election to announce results. Voters should be able to wake up the morning after the election and know who won.*

Every Nevadan should be able to exercise their right to vote without interference. Every Nevadan needs to have confidence in the electoral system and faith that those elected to public office won fair and square. All Nevadans who are eligible have the right to vote, but they also have the right to trust that their ballots will not be stolen or diluted by fraudulent tactics.

State lawmakers have undercut confidence by relaxing voting regulations, diluting faith in the electoral process among many in the state. They wonder why Nevadans can cast a ballot without photo ID for those vying for the right to run our state, counties, cities and school boards, but are required to present such identification to fill a prescription, hop a plane or cash a check.

The argument that minorities and the poor are hindered by this requirement doesn't hold water. The vast majority of Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds not only have identification

but support such common-sense election reform.

For the small percentage of the state's population which doesn't have proper identification, the state can provide free photo ID cards to allow all eligible voters access to voting. There's a cost involved, but it's less than the \$3 million the legislature set aside for the preparation and distribution of mail ballots to all those listed as registered voters.

The idea of mailing ballots to all active, registered voters is problematic for a number of reasons. Keeping voters' rolls clean and accurate is difficult given the transient nature of southern Nevada and the poor track record of our election boards to do so.

While more people are moving into Nevada than out, there is still significant migration from the Silver State. One report for the year 2019 showed that more than 50,000 individuals moved from Nevada to either California, Texas, Arizona, Utah or Colorado. Thousands more moved to other states.

This trend will result in a significant number of mail-in ballots being sent to addresses of individuals who no longer reside in the state. This doesn't even include the thousands of individuals who move within the state each year.

The 1 million-plus mail ballots that will be sent to voters could well be targets of theft, as well. In November 2020, a Las Vegas man was charged with possession of stolen mail that included Clark County absentee voter ballots. Stolen ballots don't have to be cast illegally to have an impact on an election. A ballot that doesn't reach its intended recipient is a ballot that may not be cast at all.

In addition, Nevada permits online voter registration, and individuals who have voted previously are not required to present identification at the polls. You also do not need to provide ID when you vote by mail in Nevada.

Conversely, those registering for the first time or updating their existing voter registration must appear in person at a polling location and provide their current Nevada driver's license or ID card showing their physical address as proof of identity

and residency. If an individual's driver's license or ID card does not show their current residential address they also need to provide proof of residency, such as a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or income tax return.

If we require photo ID at the time of registration, is it asking too much to ask all voters to present a photo ID when voting or if voting by mail to include a copy of their photo ID?

Requiring voter ID will deter impersonation fraud at the polls, individuals voting under fictitious names or in the name of dead voters, double-voting by individuals registered in more than one state and voting by individuals who are in the United States illegally.

The goal is not to disenfranchise anyone but to ensure that each and every vote is cast fairly.

Consider that in the 1964 U.S. Senate election, H.W. Cannon defeated Paul Laxalt by 84 votes out of more than 134,000 ballots cast. And in 1998, Harry Reid defeated John Ensign by 484 votes – out of more than 415,000 ballots cast – to retain his place in the U.S. Senate.

Perhaps even more important than the outcome of any individual race is the concept that voter ID regulations helps reinforce the legitimacy of the electoral process. Public confidence in election results is an essential element in a stable democracy.

The U.S. Supreme Court stated not long ago that, "There is no question about the legitimacy or importance of the State's interest in counting only the votes of eligible voters. Moreover, the interest in orderly administration and accurate recordkeeping provides a sufficient justification for carefully identifying all voters participating in the election process. While the most effective method of preventing election fraud may well be debatable, the propriety of doing so is perfectly clear."

If the highest court in the land believes it's important to carefully identify all voters participating in the election process, why is Nevada holding itself to a lower standard?

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Ben Shapiro

THE QUEST TO DESTROY WORK

This week, after spending time vacationing in the disease-ridden hellscape known as Florida, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., came down with COVID-19.

It was a tragic blow to the irrepressible Instagram star, who was forced to quarantine. But then, like an extraordinarily inaniloquent phoenix rising from the ashes of the dread omicron variant, she returned to her web audience with a message for the ages.

"Welp, so it happened," she wrote, in truly Tolstoyan fashion. "Got COVID, probably omicron. As of today I am thankfully recovered and wrapping up quarantine, but COVID was no joke. For a while I've noted the term 'mild' is misleading when the bar is hospitalization and death." After dispensing with the preliminary medical advice, Ocasio-Cortez got down to business -- or rather, to the business of avoiding doing business. She explained, "The idea of forcing people to work just 5 days after symptoms start is sociopathic and 100% informed by a culture that accepts sacrificing human lives for profit margins as a fair trade."

Now, this is, to put it mildly, dumb as a box of rocks. No one is suggesting that people with significant COVID-19 symptoms ought to go back to work. And nobody is sacrificing human lives by encouraging those with waning or no symptoms to return to the office. Businesses cannot run without employees.

Fortunately for us, the brilliant, "So Fresh, So Face" congresswoman has a solution: community. And by community, she means government. And by government, she means your money. "If you've noticed," she writes, "much of the emphasis on media conversations on COVID are individualistic -- if there's one lesson I think we as a country are repeating until we learn, it's that community and collective good is our best shot through our greatest challenges -- way more than discorded

acts of 'rugged individualism' and the bootstrap propaganda we've been spoon-fed since birth ... In a world of MEs, let's build team WE."

So, what exactly is the illustrious congresswoman proposing? Presumably, that businesses pay people to stay home if they are mildly symptomatic or asymptomatic; or that the government regulate businesses into such activity; or that taxpayers pay the freight. This accords with other proposals from Ocasio-Cortez, such as her Green New Deal idea to provide "economic security to all those who are unable or unwilling to work."

And Ocasio-Cortez's message is mirrored by even higher-level politicians like Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who once proposed that Americans be provided nationalized health care so that they could leave their jobs en masse, thereby freeing them to "be a photographer or a writer or a musician, whatever, an artist." In the view of the far Left, work is a bad, foisted upon unwilling individuals by a cruel and arbitrary system. If only the system could be run properly, in top-down fashion by great minds like Ocasio-Cortez or Pelosi, Americans would be freed from the tyranny of everyday life.

Of course, precisely the opposite is true. Someone, as it turns out, has to pay the bills. And what's more, Americans generally *like* working. They find work fulfilling. Depression rates are twice as high among the unemployed than the employed -- and more than three times as high for those unemployed for more than 27 weeks. Most Americans aren't eager to spend their days locked in their apartments waiting for government checks. And they're even less eager to spend more money at the store thanks to supply issues

(continued on page 46) →

THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO ENFORCE THE CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS IMPOSED UPON GOVERNMENT

That the judiciary must enforce the constitutional rules imposed upon government, and that their failure to do so would lead to tyranny, has been understood since before the founding of this state. *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 176 (1803).

Under our co-equal, tripartite form of government, it is the responsibility of the Nevada Supreme Court “to interpret the Constitution and to resolve disputes arising under it.” *Monier v. Gallen*, 122 N.H. 474, 476 (N.H. 1982).

Yet, when it comes to enforcing Nevada’s constitutional separation of powers doctrine, state courts have repeatedly failed to perform this vital task. While the doctrine requires that no person charged with the power of one branch of government exercise any functions related to another,

Consequently, numerous government employees who enforce the law and thus exercise a function of the executive branch are allowed to simultaneously wield the legislative power through their dual service as a state legislator. Clark County prosecutor Nicole Cannizzaro is the most prominent example of this practice: As Senate Majority Leader, Cannizzaro can literally write the laws she later chooses whether to enforce.

Rather than addressing the blatant constitutional violation, however, the Nevada courts have instead so far dismissed all challenges by asserting that only those who have suffered a unique and specific harm — as opposed to the general harm caused to all Nevadans when their government violates the Constitution — are entitled to bring a lawsuit. There is nothing in the Nevada Constitution which

supports this judge-made rule, which instead finds its origin in federal case law.

As a threshold matter, federal decisions regarding standing “are not binding upon” state supreme courts, which are, instead, “free to dispense with the requirement for injury where the public interest so demands.” *State ex rel. Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers v. Sheward*, 86 Ohio St. 3d 451, 715 N.E.2d 1062, 1999 Ohio 123 (1999).

As the authoritative legal encyclopedia, *American Jurisprudence*, explains: “Unlike the federal courts, state courts are not bound by constitutional strictures on standing; with state courts standing is a self-imposed rule of restraint.”

Thus, the claim that the Nevada Supreme Court cannot address the ongoing violation of Nevada’s Constitution due to a perceived lack of standing is without merit, a fact recognized by numerous other state supreme courts nationwide.

As the Wyoming Supreme Court previously held, state supreme courts can adopt “a more expansive or relaxed definition of standing when a matter of great public interest or importance is at stake.” *Jolley v. State Loan and Inv. Bd.*, 38 P.3d 1073, 1077 (Wyo. 2002).

While this public importance test is rarely granted, the Iowa Supreme Court explained that it is designed precisely for cases like these, “when the issue is of utmost importance and the constitutional protections are most needed.” *Godfrey v. State*, 752 N.W.2d 413, 427 (Iowa 2008).

Ironically, it was the Nevada Supreme Court that first warned of the devastating consequences that

would result if the separation of powers doctrine was not applied with a “fullness of conception... involving all of the elements of its meanings and correlations.” *Galloway v. Truesdell*, 83 Nev. 13, 422 P.2d 237 (1967). The Court further explained that the very attainment of freedom itself required vigorous enforcement of the separation of powers doctrine. *Id.*

Unfortunately, a total lack of enforcement in the nearly half century that has passed since *Galloway* is largely responsible for enabling those same abuses the Court once seemed so committed to preventing. Confidence in the rule of law is undermined as, despite the plain text of the constitutional separation of powers prohibition, legislators nonetheless continue to engage in the prohibited act of dual service.

Famously, former Assemblyman and Las Vegas city employee Wendell Williams in 2003 openly admitted to the conflict that is ordinarily merely implied with legislative dual service when he claimed to have voted for a particular piece of legislation that would benefit his government employer in exchange for a pay raise and promotion. The scandal was so brazen that it prompted yet another Attorney General opinion, which would form the basis of then-Secretary of State Dean Heller’s lawsuit the following year.

In *Heller*, the Nevada Supreme Court declined to address the issue due to lack of standing, but did offer the following guidance for how to bring an appropriate challenge:

declaratory relief, possibly coupled with a request for injunctive relief, could be sought against other executive branch employees. The party with the clearest standing to bring the quo warranto action would be the attorney general and declaratory relief could be sought by someone with a “legally protectible interest,” such as a person seeking the executive branch position held by the legislator. Individual legislators would need to be named as either quo warranto respondents or declaratory relief defendants. — *Secretary of State v. Nevada State Legislature* (July 14, 2004, 120 Nev., Advance Opinion 51).

Nearly two decades later, this issue has still failed to receive substantive review from the

Nevada Supreme Court, even as legislative dual service and the abuses associated with it have reached unprecedented heights.

Despite the dozens of viable cases that have presented themselves since *Heller*, no Attorney General has ever brought a quo warranto action. That dual service is a bipartisan affair, and that the AG is an elected politician that is likely uninterested in harming members of his or her own party, almost certainly explains this inaction. In other words, any Attorney General bringing a quo warranto action on the grounds of legislative dual service runs the risk of harming his fellow party members, given the proliferation of the practice on both sides of the political aisle.

But, as the South Carolina Supreme Court explained, citizens “must be afforded access to the judicial process to address alleged injustices,” and, clearly, relying on a politician to act against the best interest of his fellow party members has all but denied Nevadans that access. *Sloan v. Sanford*, 357 S.C. 431, 434, 593 S.E.2d 470, 472 (2004).

With the Attorney General unable or unwilling to perform this role, the only avenue *Heller* afforded Nevadans to vindicate this most fundamental constitutional right is through a private action brought by someone with a “legally protectable interest.”

After an exhaustive search, NPRI finally located just such a plaintiff in 2011 and initiated a lawsuit to properly bring this issue before the state supreme court so that Nevadans may finally be provided with a resolution on the meaning and application of the separation of powers doctrine — which the Nevada Supreme Court has consistently affirmed is “perhaps the most important single principle of government” protecting and safeguarding Nevadans’ liberties.

Yet, after the offending dual-serving legislator resigned his government job, the Nevada Supreme Court declined to rule on the issue, claiming the matter was moot, despite the prevalence of numerous other dual-serving legislators at that time.

It would take 7 years before another suitable plaintiff was identified. In that case, the district court dismissed the case on the grounds that,

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pursuant to Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure 19, joinder of all the numerous other legislators engaging in dual employment was both necessary and unable to be accomplished by a single plaintiff.

The district court in the instant case dismissed on similar grounds. As evidenced by the fact that only 2 suitable plaintiffs have been identified since Heller, the requirement to identify an equal number of qualified, personally harmed plaintiffs to match all dual-serving legislators has transformed what was presented as an avenue for justice into nothing more than a mirage.

As the Nevada Supreme Court so emphatically stated in Galloway, this issue is of such profound importance as to require vigorous enforcement. Yet, Nevadans are helpless to enforce the constitutional rules imposed upon government; only the Nevada Supreme Court can do that. It is precisely for these kinds of “exceptional circumstances...in cases involving issues of great public importance that are likely to recur,” that a relaxed definition of standing is warranted, according to the Arizona Supreme Court. *Bennett v. Napolitano*, 206 Ariz. 520, 81 P.3d 311 (2003).

The issue cries out for a resolution on multiple fronts. One need not be a constitutional scholar to determine that allowing a prosecutor to simultaneously act as chief lawmaker runs afoul of the separation of powers doctrine. That this clearly prohibited practice can continue, with Nevadans never even being afforded the opportunity for meaningful judicial review, undermines the faith and legitimacy of our very system of government.

That there is an inseparable conflict to legislative dual service has previously been acknowledged by all involved. Assemblyman and city employee Wendell Williams admitted that he used his power as a legislator to advance the interests of the government agency he worked for, rather than serving the public. A city councilwoman, meanwhile, acknowledged that governments sought to hire legislators because of the added “value” they provide as superlobbyists. Then-Mayor Oscar Goodman explained that, to his understanding, the whole point of hiring a legislator on the city payroll was to ensure that “you have somebody up there who was looking out for the City’s best interest.”

After the Nevada Supreme Court declined to exercise its discretion to address this issue in the first lawsuit brought by NPRI in 2011, the abuses associated with legislative dual service reached a level that appears unprecedented in the history of American government. Specifically, in both the 2019 and 2021 legislative session, the same person charged with the enforcing the law as county prosecutor also wielded the power of supreme lawmaker as Senate Majority Leader. There is no conception of the separation of powers that can tolerate such an outcome. Indeed, other than judicial inaction, there exists no persuasive authority whatsoever that even purports to condone such plainly unconstitutional conduct.

As the New Mexico Supreme Court previously held, cases like these, which involve “clear threats to the essential nature of state government,” require an engaged judiciary, rather than one that allows the threat to continue just to comply with the non-binding and non-applicable federal rules of standing. *State ex rel. Sandel v. New Mexico Pub. Util. Comm’n*, 1999-NMSC-019.

Private jobs don’t entail the lawful power to kill

The conflict-of-interest associated with allowing those who enforce the law to also write the law was most obvious in the proceedings surrounding a bill pertaining to the ultimate State power: the death penalty.

Assembly Bill 395 would have abolished the death penalty in Nevada. Clark County DA Steve Wolfson fiercely opposed the proposed legislation and testified in support of maintaining the death penalty. A report from the Reno Gazette-Journal described the legislative process surrounding AB 395 thusly:

“But AB 395 is yet to be considered in the Senate, where its fate will depend on a pair of legislators employed by one of the state’s most prominent death penalty proponents.”

These are, to put it mildly, not normal conflicts of interest inherent to a part-time, citizen-run legislature. The problem with legislative dual service rests upon the fundamental difference between government and non-governmental actors. When a private business raises its prices, Nevadans are under no obligation to pay them.

When the government increases its fees or taxes, that money is forcibly taken from Nevadans without their consent. The only thing justifying such coercion in a free society is the notion that “in a representative government all powers of government belong ultimately to the people in their sovereign corporate capacity,” and that the government has only those powers authorized by the constitution and is constrained by the rules imposed upon them by the constitution. Saxby v. Sonnemann, 318 Ill. 600, 604 (Ill. 1925).

Only the Nevada Supreme Court can ensure Nevadans live under a form of government that is in accordance with the state constitution, which is precisely why inapplicable federal guidelines about standing should not prevent the Court from performing such a vital task. This fact is also recognized by the Colorado Supreme Court, which granted standing to plaintiffs not because of any unique individualized harm, but “because of their interest in ensuring that the organization of government conforms to the constitution of this state.” Dodge v. Department of Social Services, 600 P.2d 70, 198 Colo. 379 (1979).

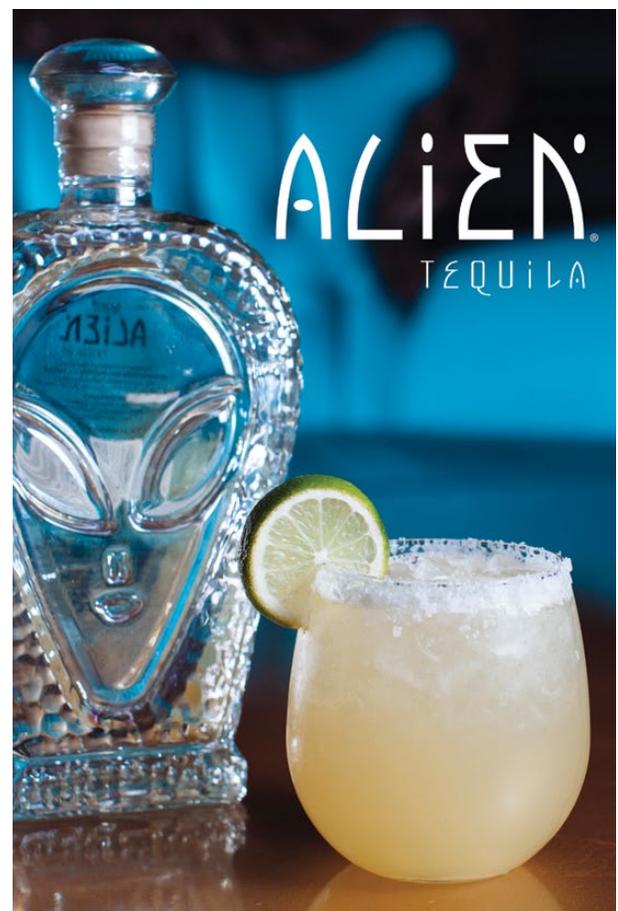
That the Nevada Supreme Court has not been able to provide judicial clarity on an issue of such profound public importance in the 17 years since Heller suggests that the roadmap provided therein was unduly narrow.

In the 2016 case of Schwartz v. Lopez, the Nevada Supreme Court recognized the need for a relaxed standard of standing for issues of statewide public importance, at least when it pertains to issues relating to government expenditures. But if an inappropriate use of tax dollars warrants a public-interest exception to standing, so too should constitutional violations that threaten to destroy the very essence of our system of representative government.

Schwartz stood for the proposition that it is improper for the judiciary to deny Nevadans relief on matters of statewide public importance simply because of the difficulties associated with the traditional rules of standing. Allowing Nevadans to be ruled by those who wield both the legislative and executive powers is no less tyrannical simply because it occurred independently of any particular legislative appropriation.

The Nevada Supreme Court should follow the logic of their ruling in Schwartz, as well as the reasoning of the numerous other state supreme courts cited above, and exercise its discretion to provide standing for cases like the instant matter, wherein “the governmental action would otherwise go unchallenged,” “judicial relief is appropriate,” and “no other persons are better situated to assert the claim.” Consumer Party of Pa. v. Commonwealth, 507 A.2d 323, 329 (Pa. 1986).

For more information on Nevada Policy’s ongoing Separation of Powers lawsuit, please visit <https://www.npri.org/separation-of-powers/>



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EVIL FLORIDA

Omicron spreads.

The media say, "Governments must act!"

Many have, bringing back mask mandates and closing schools.

Do these rules work?

No.

My new video shows why Florida's approach is better.

Gov. Ron DeSantis ended pandemic restrictions last spring and refuses to impose new ones. "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result," he said. Lockdown states let "hysteria drive them to do really damaging things."

The media hate him for saying things like that.

"Some governors are putting their own political gain ahead of children's lives," said CNN anchor Don Lemon.

If you watch most TV news, you'd think the rules, bans and shutdowns really save lives. Florida killed people because Florida didn't impose tougher rules, we're told.

"Florida leads the nation in new COVID cases," says Action News in Tampa.

"Florida has the worst rate of coronavirus anywhere in the country!" rants "The Young Turks" host Cenk Uygur.

But it's not true.

Florida has had *fewer* deaths than 16 other states.

Mississippi, Arizona, Alabama and New Jersey had the most deaths per capita. New York, where most TV anchors and I live, had the sixth most deaths.

Florida did better even though Florida has more high-risk old people.

What's going on?

The media rarely just lie. Most simply cite Florida when deaths are high and ignore the state when deaths fall. They deceive by omission. Florida's good numbers just don't fit the reporters' biases.

But even some pro-lockdown politicians know that less regulated Florida is no more dangerous than other states.

After Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez complained that "anti-shutdown people" are "spreading COVID all over the place," she was filmed partying in Florida.

Two days after Rep. Eric Swalwell sneered that "Republican liars ... prolonged" the pandemic ... "your vacation cancelled," he was photographed in Miami.

DeSantis laughs about this. "If I had a dollar for every lockdown politician who decided to escape to Florida over the last two years, I'd be a pretty doggone wealthy man."

Fewer rules allow people to build better lives for themselves. Lack of shutdowns is one reason Florida's unemployment rate is 4.5%, well below New York's 6.6%.

Does this mean shutdowns and mask mandates are useless -- and less regulated Florida has the answer?

No. We can't say that. There's no clear pattern.

Yes, strict mandate states like New York, New Jersey and Michigan have some of the worst death counts, but California had strict mandates and fewer deaths.

The one clear trend: Lockdowns don't stop COVID-19, but they do destroy opportunity. California's unemployment is the highest in America.

(continued on page 46) →

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HARRY REID, DEATH OF A 'STATESMAN'? CUE THE LAUGHTER

Former Democrat Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid just died.

New Hampshire Democrat Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's website said: "Harry Reid was a statesman." Rep. Joe Morelle, D-N.Y., tweeted: "America has lost a true statesman with the passing of Harry Reid." Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., tweeted: "Saddened to learn of the passing of Harry Reid -- a statesman, a gentleman and a Democratic institution."

"Statesman"? Where to start?

After voting for the Iraq War, Reid turned against it and attacked President George W. Bush as a "loser" and a "liar." He later apologized for the "loser" part but kept "liar" intact. Never mind that Colin Powell, Bush's secretary of state, later admitted that the intel was wrong but insisted no one lied about it. The Washington Post's Bob Woodward concurred -- bad intel, nobody lied. Reid's defamation gave energy to the disgraceful bogus narrative that became a partisan chant: "Bush lied. People died." In 2004, a Washington Post-ABC News poll found that three out of four Democrats said Bush either lied or exaggerated what his administration knew about Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction. This slur remains an article of faith among Democrats.

When informed of Reid's impending death, former President Barack Obama wrote, "I wouldn't

have been president had it not been for your encouragement and support." And Obama, in a tough 2012 campaign against Republican nominee Sen. Mitt Romney, might well have been defeated but for the baseless, scurrilous lie, during the campaign, that Reid uttered on the floor of the Senate: "So the word is out that (Romney) has not paid any taxes for 10 years. Let him prove he has paid taxes, because he hasn't."

Years later Reid admitted he made the charge with no evidence, but told CNN he had no regrets, adding, "Romney didn't win, did he?" About this blatant lie, even CNN Politics editor Chris Cillizza wrote in 2015: "This all-means-justify-the-ends logic -- assuming the end is your desired one -- is absolutely toxic for politics and, more importantly, democracy." Notably, while politicians on both sides of the aisle praised Reid after his death, including Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Romney said nothing.

Then there's Reid's stalwart support for and assistance in passing the constitutionally dubious Obamacare, a crowning achievement for those on the Left who call health care insurance "a right." For those of us who believe in quaint notions of a limited government, restricted by Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, it was a gigantic leap forward in expanding the welfare state and federal governmental overreach.

A MINORITY VIEW

Days before Obamacare passed, with Obama promising that it would "bend the cost curve" and that no one would lose his or her health care insurance, the Wall Street Journal's Evan Newmark excoriated it in a piece headlined, "The Worst Deal of All Time." After Obamacare passed, FactCheck.org, citing research by the liberal Urban Institute, estimated the number of those losing their health care insurance at 2.6 million, a number other analysts consider far too low. Reid said: "There's plenty of horror stories being told. All are untrue, but they're being told all over America."

Democratic President Harry Truman said, "Show me a man that gets rich by being a politician, and I'll show you a crook." About one of Reid's many ethically dubious, self-enriching Nevada real estate schemes, the liberal Los Angeles Times wrote in 2007: "It is a potential violation of congressional ethics standards for a member to accept anything of value -- including a real estate discount -- from a person with interest before Congress." About Reid's lobbyist sons, whose firms raked in \$2 million from "special interests" in need of their dad's help, the Las Vegas Review Journal in 2010 wrote: "So pervasive are the ties among Reid, members of his family and Nevada's leading industries and institutions that it's difficult to find a significant field in which such a relationship does not exist."

No, calling Reid, a "statesman" is not the same as calling O.J. Simpson, a double murderer who attended the funeral of his butchered-to-death wife, a "grief counselor." But it's close.



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PERILOUS TIMES

These are perilous times.

They are made worse by the government's political reaction to lawless behavior, which is a greater threat to personal liberty than the behavior it seeks to punish.

Last week, the feds obtained an indictment of 11 members of the Oath Keepers for their role in trashing the Capitol building and attempting to interfere with the functions of government on Jan. 6, 2021. The evidence of their guilt of trashing and obstruction is manifest. The hooligans who invaded the Capitol were lawless by any rational standard.

But did they really agree to overthrow the government by force?

Here is the backstory.

The history of British monarchs staying on their inherited thrones is the history of the suppression of dissent. The favorite tool for suppression was charging dissidents with treason. Treason was whatever threatened the government's stability from the perspective of the government.

In 1535, St. Thomas More, a former Lord Chancellor of England -- the precursor to the modern Prime Minister -- was convicted of treason and beheaded for remaining silent when the king and Parliament commanded him to speak.

The punishments for treason were horrific and always included the convict's death, often preceded by his public dismemberment.

The framers of the U.S. Constitution were familiar with this history and sought to prohibit its repetition in America. They did so by defining treason in the Constitution. "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

Treason is the only crime defined in the Constitution. James Madison, who drafted the Constitution, insisted that the definition of

treason be in the founding document so that neither Congress nor the president could manipulate it to their own ends as British monarchs and parliaments had done.

Not deterred by the constitutional language they had sworn to uphold, the federalist Congress and President John Adams crafted a substitute crime in 1798 and called it sedition. It made criminal any "false, scandalous or malicious writings against the government of the United States." This was intended to suppress dissent, and evade the high bar established in the Constitution for proving treason.

Thus, the same generation -- in some cases, the same human beings -- that had just written in the First Amendment that "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech" did just that. And they used it to prosecute their political opponents, including infamously, Rep. Matthew Lyon of Vermont who mocked President Adams' waistline.

The Federalists were so accustomed to the use of this tyrannical tool that a lame duck federalist Congress and President Adams repealed it after Thomas Jefferson was elected president and while the anti-Federalists were waiting to assume control of Congress, lest it be used by the incoming government against them. Yet, one of Jefferson's first acts as president was to pardon Rep. Lyon.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson offered legislation to suppress dissent during World War I, and Congress enacted it. The socialist firebrand Eugene V. Debs was convicted of sedition, a conviction upheld by the Supreme Court, for publicly denouncing the war.

Wilson and his Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer ruthlessly used the Sedition Act of 1918 to suppress dissent. They prosecuted college students who sang German beer hall songs and read the Declaration of Independence aloud in public. Their theory was that dissent dissuaded young men from registering for the draft, and

thus had the potential for impairing America's war effort, and thus constituted sedition.

The statute under which Debs and others were convicted is essentially the same statute under which the Oath Keepers were indicted last week. It also prohibits any conspiracy to overthrow the government by force. A conspiracy is an agreement by two or more persons to commit a crime, where at least one of those persons took a material step in furtherance of the agreement.

But the essence of conspiracy consists of constitutionally protected behavior -- speech and thought, and that makes it legally dubious and practically difficult for the government to prove.

The last federal sedition case was brought against a Michigan militia in 2010. The indictment was dismissed by a federal judge who ruled that the defendants' hateful and threatening words and outlier agreements were protected speech and did not evince a realistic plan to overthrow the government by force.

In the indictment against the Oath Keepers, the feds have outlined in great detail the communications among them in the months preceding Jan. 6. The detail is so great that the FBI must have had an undercover agent or cooperating witness embedded in the group. This leads to a host of other problems for the government. What did the feds know, and when did they know it? How and why did they let it lead to destruction and death?

The Oath Keepers have insisted that they never intended to use violence and only wanted to make a political point -- a point that the government hates.

Prosecuting speech is dangerous business. Violence is certainly not constitutionally protected, but hate speech is. As recently as 1969, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled that all innocuous speech is absolutely protected, and all speech is innocuous when there is time for more speech to rebut it.

Even the feds don't claim that the Oath Keeper defendants are somehow criminally liable for the behavior of others present at the Capitol. Rather, they claim that 11 persons -- 11! -- agreed to overthrow the government by force. Can an agreement that is impossible to perform legally constitute a conspiracy? Only those who hate the politics of the 11 could seriously believe that it can.

The government should prosecute only crimes that have caused harm, not words and ideas that it hates, for they are protected by the First Amendment that the government has sworn to uphold. Whose words and ideas will the feds prosecute next?

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SAVE THE CHILDREN, FIRE THE TEACHERS UNIONS

It started in Chicago, where an incredible 91% of union teachers voted to go on strike and refused to do what they get paid to do, which is teach.

Then the union walkouts spread to Maryland, New Jersey and California.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a liberal Democrat, has attacked the Chicago teachers unions for "holding kids hostage." She is right.

Why doesn't she call a state of emergency and disband the union to save the children from the union terrorists? Or tear up the contract because the unions have violated it? If she did, she would be a hero.

President Joe Biden keeps talking about how much he and his fellow Democrats in Washington care about "the children." Uh-huh. He has correctly stated that there is no health reason for closing schools. But in this latest episode of union child abuse waged against our school-age children, he does nothing. Maybe that is because more than 90% of the tens of millions of campaign dollars donated by the teacher unions go to Democrats.

It is time for a Ronald Reagan moment. In the first year of his presidency, in 1981, he fired thousands of illegally striking air traffic controllers. He broke the back of a militant union that put public safety at risk by refusing to show up to work. The airlines continued to operate, and the havoc that the unions were trying to impose on our national transportation system was averted thanks to Reagan's bold decision.

Let me be clear: There is no health or safety excuse whatsoever for teachers and students not to be in the classroom, as the first wave of COVID-19 should have taught us.

The nearly incontrovertible evidence shows that school closures have no positive effect on the spread of COVID-19. Many studies have shown that keeping children at home can increase the

spread when students and teachers not in school are instead in the community, where infections spread more quickly.

A *Journal of Global Health* systematic review of 90 studies found that "opening educational establishments may not predispose children and adolescents to a higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection compared to adults. On the contrary, children and adolescents were more than 2-fold greater risk of infection in household and community settings than in schools. The school attendance may serve as a protective factor, which reduces children's chances of community contacts in a relatively isolated environment during school hours."

But the emotional and educational progress to children from school closures can be devastating. McKinsey found that students ended the last school year, on average, five months behind in math and four months behind in reading.

Another study from the Ohio State University found that "districts with fully remote instruction experienced test scores declines up to three times greater than districts that had in-person instruction for the majority of the school year."

The left loves to talk about social justice and income inequality. However, the children most adversely affected by the school lockdowns are poor, of a minority and below the median academic achievement. For top-achieving motivated students, remote learning can work just fine. For those who need schools the most, the underachieving, online learning is basically the same as no schooling.

What is to do? It is time for a national revolt against the evil empire of teachers unions that

(continued on page 46) →



Froma Harrop
fharrop@gmail.com

OUR BIGFOOT-PRINTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

From the moment many of us leave the womb, images of our infant selves get posted on Facebook and other social media.

Once out and about, they become part of our permanent digital footprint, often soon to be joined by photos at every stage of life -- crawling, first steps, puppy hugging, first day of kindergarten and so on.

This accumulated visual record can be embarrassing or damaging in later life. It's long past time to reconsider all this public sharing.

You don't even have to be out of the womb to have your picture making the internet rounds. Expectant parents are posting fetus ultrasounds.

One site, Babylist, uses this medical imaging as the featured image on a registry for baby toys, blankets and brand-name strollers. The parents-to-be list the items with the prices and sellers (Amazon, Walmart and so on). Just click the box. Fetuses are now prenatal marketers.

There have long been debates on the wisdom of putting children's pictures online without the children's permission. Of course, children, much less fetuses, are not intellectually equipped to decide what about them should be made public.

Some of this material could come to haunt them. Not everyone finds pictures of toddlers with chocolate cake smeared around their mouth adorable. Even worse are videos of little kids punching other little kids or throwing tantrums, which, believe it or not, some parents put online.

They may be pose serious problems for the children when they apply for a job 18 years hence. At the very least, they could be used to humiliate or blackmail the subject.

Questions of legality and privacy aside, are pictures of children you don't know really that interesting? Of more concern are twisted adults putting the images to unwanted uses or even trying to seek out the children.

(Dear Boomer: Your grandbaby is cute, but so are all babies. Second birthday parties are especially boring. The baby doesn't care, so the

point in your posting these visuals is to draw attention to yourself. If you are hungry for "likes," why don't you share pictures of you on your fabulous beach vacation?)

One advantage of being older is that that there were less or no social media when we were in our teens, hungry for attention and not always possessing good judgement. I, for one, am glad that my adolescent self didn't have TikTok, on which I could post self-incriminating videos.

Even the innocent TikTok dances could be problematic down the road. Imagine the case in which someone is seeking a seat on the Supreme Court, and their political enemies find and use these silly little videos to cast doubts on the candidate's gravitas.

Meanwhile, a lot of things young adults put on TikTok are not entirely innocent. YouTube, for example, features compilations of attention-grabbing posts, such as the "Best Cute Relationship TikToks." It shows young couples displaying affection, nothing pornographic, but some quite suggestive and involving beds. A pictorial record of passionate kissing could also complicate future relationships.

At least that video is fairly wholesome. There are compilations of sexy TikToks where young women are twerking and shaking their cleavage as well as booty. These ladies may not be headed for the corporate C-suite, but this kind of thing could imperil a job as a store manager or doctor's assistant. It could also ruin any later attempt to recast themselves as fine-mannered women of dignity.

Who among us doesn't have an unflattering headshot, gawky high school picture or gag photo of us clowning around? With any luck, the worst of them are hidden in drawers or pasted in albums (if they haven't been ripped up). The ones online, alas, we're stuck with for eternity.

LIBERTY WATCH

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VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 1 | March 2021

To George
ELECTIONS HAVE
CONSEQUENCES

GREAT JOB!

[Handwritten signature]

BETTER DAYS AHEAD
George Harris

**CENSORSHIP &
THE CANCEL CULTURE**
Joe Morabito

**JUST SAY "NO" TO
HARRY REID AIRPORT**
Chuck Muth

**REPORT: SISOLAK'S EMERGENCY
POWERS LACK LEGAL
AUTHORITY**
Deanna Forbush

**DEMOCRATS WANT A 'RETURN TO
CIVILITY'; WHEN DID THEY
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Larry Elder



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(THE QUEST TO DESTROY WORK

continued from page 27)

caused by lack of production due to labor shortages.

But Ocasio-Cortez and Pelosi don't have to worry about all of that. Ocasio-Cortez can always Instagram Live from her apartment or Zoom into congressional conference calls. And she never has to worry about the profit margins she spends so much time deriding; she can undercut those for others at her leisure.

Democrats used to pose as the party of labor. Now, they're increasingly the party of those who wish to avoid it at all costs.

(SAVE THE CHILDREN, FIRE THE TEACHERS UNIONS

continued from page 40)

has become the worm in the apple of our education system. How outrageous it is that parents, taxpayers and politicians have to beg teachers to teach. The fact that more than 9 in 10 Chicago teachers don't want to teach tells us of the dismal quality of the people we are putting in front of our children.

What is the solution? First, if teachers walk out on our children, they should be fired and banned from ever teaching in a public school again -- just as happened with the illegally striking air traffic controllers.

Second, this is a school choice moment for America. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has correctly issued an executive order in his state declaring that if any school district shuts down, he will redirect the education dollars directly to the parents so they can send their children to private or religious or home schools that are open and teaching the students.

What is clear is that handing over political control of our schools to the unions has done irreparable damage to our children. They are the virus injuring the health and well-being of our children. But it is also true that if we, as citizens and voters, allow this hostage-taking to continue, then we are responsible for the damage. We are to blame if we keep electing politicians who genuflect to militant unions.

We need a heroic Reagan moment to end this tragedy. It stops now.

Free our children.

(EVIL FLORIDA

continued from page 34)

Florida did some bad things. DeSantis should pay more attention to his own pro-freedom speeches. Last year, he decreed that even private companies may not require customers or workers to be vaccinated.

Governor? They're private companies! They should have the right to make their own decisions. It's usually the totalitarian left that won't let people set their own rules.

Aside from that nastiness, Florida's COVID-19 policies are among the most sensible.

Since lockdowns won't stop the virus, we must learn to live with it. Thanks to vaccines and new drugs that reduce COVID-19's effects, now most of us can.

"We don't have to upend human life in our quest to eliminate COVID ... which can't happen anyway," says economist Don Boudreaux.

Giving up these laws is not "admitting defeat" but "admitting reality. We learn to live with COVID in the same way that we learn to live with many other pathogens. ... One day, every one of us is going to be done in by something."

That's why I will vacation in Florida this week.

I'll wear a mask if I'm in a crowd, but most of the time I won't. It's a joy to breathe freely.

I might catch omicron. But since I'm vaccinated and fit, I probably won't die. I might even gain immunities that protect me in the future.

And anyway, "All of us will be done in by something."

I choose to live free.





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THE REVERSE ROBIN HOOD MYTH VILIFYING CREDIT CARD COMPANIES MIGHT BE A GOOD STORY, BUT IT'S JUST NOT TRUE

A myth has been sweeping Capitol Hill.

It goes something like this: Credit card companies are behaving like Robin Hood in reverse – they steal from the poor and give to the rich.

Concocted by retail lobbyists, this myth aims to demonize credit card companies so they can skim a few extra pennies off customers with every purchase.

Retailers claim that interchange fees – the tiny percentage credit card companies charge for using their networks and assuming the risks associated with fraud and nonpayment – are passed on to all consumers in the form of higher prices, whether they pay with cards or not.

People who believe the reverse Robin Hood fiction also imagine that low-income customers are subsidizing the airline miles, hotel points and cash-back bonuses for wealthy rewards card users.

But a research paper released by the International Center for Law and Economics earlier this month investigated the reverse Robin Hood narrative and found it to be total malarkey.

First, the claim that credit card processing fees are passed to all consumers on all goods doesn't hold water. In reality, cash customers and credit card users tend to make purchases at different stores and service providers.

Even when they shop at the same merchant, studies show they tend to buy either completely different products or, in the case of staple goods that most everyone purchases, they purchase different brands. There is a reason almost all merchants accept Amex; it's because the costs of

accepting Amex exceed the benefits. The average Amex transaction is \$170, compared to about \$20 for the average cash transaction. If anything, cardholders subsidize cash-only consumers.

Additionally, federal law encourages merchants to provide cash discounts along to their customers. But, as shoppers know, almost no retailers and few service providers do that. It turns out businesses are the ones most often playing the grinch, not credit card companies.

In fact, when Congress voted to restrict interchange fees on debit cards as part of the disastrous 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, more than three-quarters of retailers didn't lower their prices. That's pretty solid proof that prices wouldn't magically drop on most items if Congress applied the same big government price control scheme on credit cards.

While there is unquestionably a small expense to sellers for accepting credit cards, there is a significant cost related to accepting cash. A 2018 study discovered the average retailer in the U.S. spends 9.1% of the cash they receive dealing with handling, counting, auditing, transporting and depositing cash. These expensive and time-consuming tasks will only grow more expensive as retail wages continue to rise due to inflation and minimum wage laws.

Finally, people who spread the reverse Robin Hood myth argue that lower-income consumers somehow subsidize credit card reward benefits through paying interchange fee expenses on credit cards without such benefits.

MONEY MATTERS

For that claim to be true, cards that provide perks like travel rewards and cash-back benefits would have to be used largely by high-income households. But that isn't the case.

Research by Verisk found that 86% of credit card-holders have active rewards cards. This includes 77% of cardholders with a household income of less than \$50,000. Further, a consumer's ability to obtain rewards cards has little to do with income. Instead, according to the International Center for Law and Economics research, "access to rewards cards (are) tied to credit score, not to income."

If efforts to cap interchange fees are successful, however, credit card rewards programs actually will become the domain of the rich.

In Australia, where socialist fee caps were adopted, the value of rewards programs plummeted and the annual fee for a modest reward card has skyrocketed to about \$420 a year. Here in the U.S., cardholders actually receive an average of \$167 in rewards and bonuses beyond what they pay in fees. Banks actually pay Americans to carry credit cards.

While the reverse Robin Hood myth has been totally debunked, retail lobbyists and nanny state extremists continue to spread the lie. They hope their tall tale will encourage federal lawmakers to slap absurd caps on credit-card interchange fees. If such a scheme were to pass, it would do little, if anything, to lower prices for customers and it would take away benefits from lower-income credit card users and small businesses that rely on cards to help subsidize travel and help pay day-to-day expenses.

The reverse Robin Hood myth might make a compelling fairy tale, but the true story about capping credit card interchange fees is a much more troubling story. Consumers would be harmed and the federal government would have more power over individuals' financial choices, all so big retailers can pocket a few more dollars from their customers.

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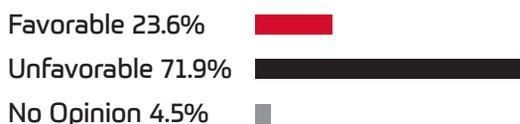
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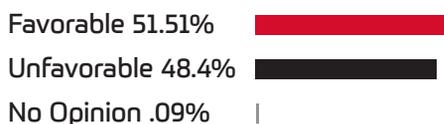
Liberty Watch Magazine conducted a poll of 1,200 Nevada Republicans, Independents and Democrat, inveterate primary voters, on January 28th, 29th and 30th 2022, chosen from the following criteria: voted in the last two primary and general elections and reside within the 17 counties of the state of Nevada.

The following questions were asked:

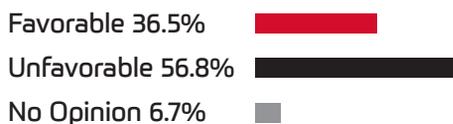
What is your opinion of President Joe R. Biden Jr.:



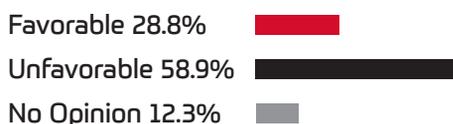
What is your opinion of Former President Donald J. Trump:



What is your opinion of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell:



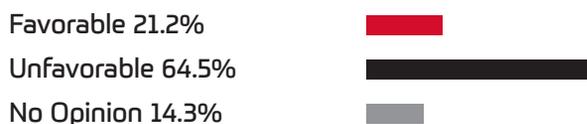
What is your opinion of Senate Majority Leader "Chuck" Schumer:



How familiar are you with the following candidates for U.S. Senate?



What is your opinion of Former Attorney General Adam Laxalt?



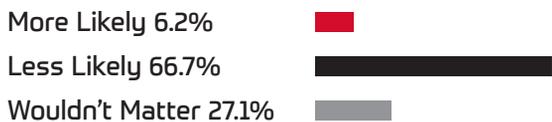
If you knew that President Donald J. Trump endorsed former Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt for U.S. Senate, would you be:



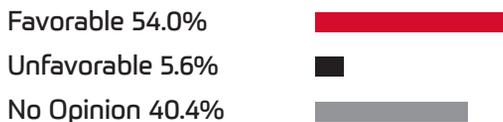
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To support Laxalt in the General election.

If you knew that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell endorsed former Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt for U.S. Senate, would you be:



What is your opinion of Captain Sam Brown?



What is your opinion of U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto:

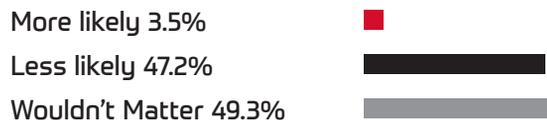


Take-Aways: Masto is clearly in trouble without the “Harry Reid” machine to raise her money and beat nay-sayers into submission and her relationship with Chuck Schumer, which is doing major damage to her campaign our prediction Cortez Masto’s campaign is (DOA) Dead on Arrival.

As in the previous poll, nothing has changed with Brown. As people get to know Captain Brown, they like him, because he is approachable, friendly, and very relatable. As Voters get to know the West Point graduate and American War Hero, they feel they have a leader that will watch out for them in Washington D.C.

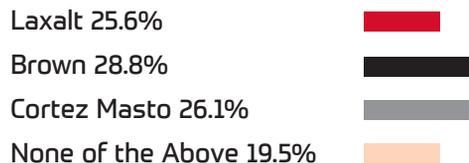
As the facts are coming out about Adam Laxalt’s relationship with Senator Mitch McConnell, Republicans can’t and won’t swallow his betrayal to President Trump and nothing has changed in the view of Laxalt from previous polling. He is just

If you knew that Senate Majority Leader “Chuck” Schumer endorsed U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto for U.S. Senate, would you be:



To support Cortez Masto in the election.

If the General election for U.S. Senate were held today, for whom would you vote for?



not popular among primary Republican voters and that’s for a myriad of reasons; everything from his time as the failed Attorney General, to running the most horrible campaign for governor against Steve Sisolak and failing President Trump in the Voter Integrity Project. Voters just don’t trust Laxalt, as he continues to be self-absorbed and entitled.

Brown has gone toe-to-toe in fundraising against Laxalt and Brown will easily out-raise Laxalt in the first quarter as word gets out about Laxalt’s betrayal of Trump for McConnell.

Brown is the best chance for Republicans to win the General Election and Beat Cortez-Mastro

As former United States Ambassador Sig Rogich was overheard saying, “It will be extraordinarily difficult for the Democrats to attack an American War Hero”.

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