

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

July 2023

President's Byline



Recently we had something in this country confirmed that we all suspected. We have a two-tiered justice system when it comes to powerful politically connected Democrat families and the rest of us. I think we all were surprised when the Department of Justice system decided to look into Hunter Biden's finances. For about a nanosecond, we felt maybe one good thing will come out of the Biden administration but, that didn't happen. Two IRS whistle blowers said the Hunter Biden probe was mishandled from the start. They said Hunter Biden got preferential treatment from the IRS and other branches of the federal government.

According to transcripts released by House Republicans on June 22nd, two IRS whistle blowers said the IRS recommended far more serious charges for Hunter Biden including tax evasion and filing false tax returns both felonies in 2014, 2018 and 2019. The IRS also recommended that prosecutors charge him with failing to pay taxes on time, a misdemeanor, for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The transcripts listed 11 counts total of some type of tax fraud. The transcripts also said some prosecutors in the Justice Department wanted to charge Hunter Biden with all 11 accounts of tax fraud but not senior ranking attorneys. Instead, they cut Hunter a huge break.

Other odd happenings surrounding the Hunter Biden investigations:

- The IRS whistleblowers said the FBI told 12 people not to make themselves available for interviews about Hunter's finances and the way he obtained some of these funds. Only one person showed up for the interview. Why?? Where they worried about retaliation?
- Someone tipped off Hunter Biden's attorneys that the IRS was coming to look at boxes of financial records kept in his storage unit. Magically all the boxes with files disappeared.
- The IRS was denied the right to search the guest house on the Biden estate, where Hunter Biden lives.
- The IRS were not allowed to use Geolocation data for the ominous July 30, 2017, the WhatsApp message from Hunter Biden threatening Chinese energy officials to pay him the \$5.1 million dollars they promised or else. It's alleging Hunter Biden threaten the Chinese Officials with Joe Biden sitting next to him. The message said, "I am sitting here with my father, and we would like to understand why the commitment made has not been fulfilled," Hunter Biden allegedly wrote. "Tell the director that I would like to resolve this now before it gets out of hand, and now means tonight." "And, Z, if I get a call or text from anyone involved in this other than you, Zhang, or the chairman, I will make certain that between the man sitting next to me and every person he knows and my ability to forever hold a grudge that you will regret not following my direction," the message continued. "I am sitting here waiting for the call with my father." They paid within days.
- The IRS were told they were not allowed to ask if Joe Biden was involved in any of his son's financial deals with foreign governments and companies.
- The US attorney in Delaware was denied Special Counsel status so they could file charges against Hunter Biden that the DC US attorney and CA center attorney refused to do, even though all of these crimes happened in their jurisdiction.
- We were originally told when it first came out Hunter Biden was on the board directors for energy companies in Ukraine and China, it was because he was this incredible businessman. Now the narra-

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Calendar of Events

No Board Meeting
In July

Next Board Meeting
August 1st
11:30
Napoli's Restaurant

Next General Meeting

August 15, 2023, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano

PRW Presidents Byline

Continued from Page 1

time has changed, all of this happened because he is a drug addict duping foreign energy companies by using his father's name, often too high to even return text messages.

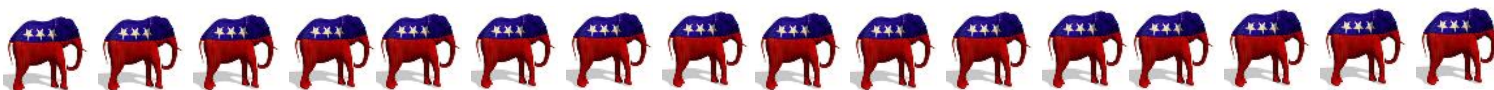
In the end Hunter plead guilty to only two misdemeanors for failing to pay taxes on time. Hunter's plea agreement included making a separate felony gun possession charge go away if Hunter Biden abides by court-imposed good behavior restrictions for a period of time. He also had his monthly child support payments reduced by 75% the next day in a separate family court. So, all in all, last weekend was great for Hunter Biden. He doesn't have to worry about going to jail. Please do not read about any of this from CNN, NBC, NPR, USA Today, Forbes or any liberal rag because they have all lied and said all of Hunter Biden's charges rarely lead to any jail time or fines. Wow, I'm sure a lot of career criminals want to be adopted by the Biden family. You can basically become a millionaire through extortion and fraud, not pay your taxes, lie on a federal gun form, and then have your child support payments slashed by more than half.

If Hunter was not Joe Biden's son, he would have potentially faced a 12-month prison sentence on each of his tax charges and a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison on the firearm charge. Chris Clark, Hunter's attorney, said in a statement: "With the announcement of two agreements between my client, Hunter Biden, and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware, it is my understanding that the five-year investigation into Hunter is resolved." Clark added: "I know Hunter believes it is important to take responsibility for these mistakes he made during a period of turmoil and addiction in his life. He looks forward to continuing his recovery and moving forward." --Really?

In the end, Kevin McCarthy, our new House Speaker said he was going to impeach Attorney General Garland and he should. This is a miscarriage of justice. If you or I had done any of these things, we would be spending serious jail time. I look forward to electing a Republican president in 2024 so we can restore the rule of law and end the Biden kleptocracy.

Cleo Marchese

prw_president@planorepublicanwomen.org



Connections was formed to help members get to know one another over a glass of tea and to complete a common goal.

Please join other PRW members for **Connections**, following our General Meeting.

Let's plan to work together for an hour or so. Come and go as your schedule allows. Bring your staplers, scissors and pens and you will be prepared for whatever we tackle!

Last month we wrote thank you notes to our Border Patrol Officers.

Our projects continue to evolve. Whatever we do,
we will get to do it together.

*"The tasks may change, but the **Connections** will last."*



PRW August Meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

August 15, 2023

US Congressman Keith Self

“Behind the Scenes of the DC Swamp



Keith Self was born in a military hospital during his father's service in the United States Army and was raised in Texas. After graduation from High School in Amarillo, he accepted an appointment to The United States Military Academy at West Point, where he began a 25-year career of service to our country.

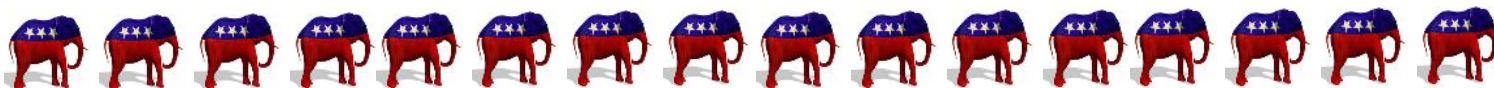
Keith's Army tours included Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader, Airborne Infantry Company Commander, Special Forces Detachment Commander and Special Forces Company Commander. His service took him to Europe, the Middle East, and the Pentagon, where he worked on the most sensitive military programs. He deployed to Grenada, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraqi Freedom. During his career, Keith received the Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab, and Joint Staff Badge.

He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Upon retiring from the Army, Keith was elected County Judge in Collin County, TX, in 2006.

He served three consecutive terms before retiring in 2018.

Keith and his wife Tracy have been happily married since his graduation from West Point. They reside in McKinney, TX and are active members in their church and local community.



Location : Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

**Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival
RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, August 11, 2023**

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting

We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch

PRW Photos

Victory Celebration and Watch Party for Cathie Alexander and Jay Saad



Photos of Collin College Trustee Swearing In Ceremony





Legislative Report



6/29

Happy Birthday America!

We began our Second Special Session on Wednesday, with [two very specific things to cover](#). They both have to do with property tax relief and reform. It is our goal to pass the largest tax cut in Texas history.

Special Session #2 agenda items include (these are the Governor's words):

ELIMINATING A PROPERTY TAX IN TEXAS: Legislation to put Texas on a pathway to eliminate school district maintenance and operations property taxes.

LASTING PROPERTY TAX RATE CUTS: Legislation to cut property tax rates solely by reducing the school district maximum compressed tax rate in order to provide lasting property-tax relief for Texas taxpayers.

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee passed two bills out of committee to address those exact purposes: [HB 1](#) and [HJR 1](#), which will be a Constitutional Amendment requiring voters approval in November, and the enabling legislation. These two bills will lower the M&O (Maintenance and Operations) portion of each property owner's school taxes, which is the highest tax on all our properties. By using over \$17 billion to significantly buy those taxes down, we will be returning those dollars back to the taxpayer.

You may remember that I have covered, in previous Noble Reports, the different property tax plans that are possible, including one where we just return extra taxes to citizens in the form of a rebate. That plan won't work, however, because it would cause us all to have to pay Federal Income Tax on that rebate. Another plan, the House Plan proposed during the Regular Session, also included keeping the out-of-control appraisals from going up more than 5% each year. The Senate wouldn't agree to that plan. The Senate wanted to give a huge increase in homestead exemptions to those who qualify for homesteads. In negotiations with the Senate, we agreed to place part of that plan in with the House Plan. Unfortunately, raising the homestead exemption would only be a temporary fix as we would soon see any property tax savings negated by those ever-increasing appraisals. That plan would also leave renters and businesses to continue paying higher and higher property taxes, without any relief. Both the Senate and House plans had the "buy down" of the M&O school taxes, so that is what the Governor put on the call. Anything outside of that call is considered out of bounds and could very well face a veto. As we navigate the differences in what the Governor put on the Second Session Call and what the Senate wants (they continue to pass bills outside of the call's bounds), I'm not sure what will come out in the wash. I just know I'm ready to get a substantial Property Tax Relief bill done for you.

Last week I was honored to be appointed to serve on the [House Select Study Committee on Sustainable Property Tax Relief](#). It is our stated goal to find long-term answers, with the goal of eliminating the school M&O tax completely by 2035- but I'm hopeful that we can propose a plan that will get it done much sooner.

I've waited till now to mention some of the bills that I passed during the Regular Session, because during the Governor's veto period any of my bills could have been vetoed. I'm glad to report that none of mine got the red pen, but [77 bills by other authors did get vetoed](#).

In fact, twenty of my bills are going into law -some effective immediately, some on September 1- and an additional two bills were passed as part of other legislation. It was a very productive session for me.

Several of the bills I carried had to do with protecting our kids and elderly. [SB 1849](#) will take all the different "Do Not Hire" registries from the Texas Education Agency, our Juvenile Justice Department, Department of Family and Protective Services (CPS), and the Health and Human Service Commission (they look into allegations of abuse and exploitation of our elderly population) and create a search engine for all four of those different registries. This is the most expensive bill I've ever carried- it has a price tag of over \$8 million. We must make sure that those who are known to engage in abuse, neglect, exploitation or misconduct with children and elderly should not have access to them in the future. This is an investment in protecting others.

Also, along those same lines are [SB 1469](#), which will protect preschools from hiring those who have been accused of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and [SB 1471](#) which will allow our accredited private schools in Texas to have access to the FBI and TEA's Do Not Hire list, so that we don't "pass the trash" from our public schools to our private schools. All those who hire people to work with children need to know who has a background of predatory behavior. [SB 1192](#) will require that anyone who works for our Health and Human Services Commission pass a background check. We must ensure that those with access to such personal and sensitive information are trustworthy.



Legislative Report

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Our Adult Protective Services investigations of nursing or other facilities has a huge backlog, so two of the bills I passed deal with clearing that backlog through efficiencies in process: [SB 2261](#) and [HB 4696](#). These two bills do two of my favorite things: make government smaller by doing away with unnecessary red tape, and do a better job of protecting vulnerable Texans. Win/win.

Speaking of protecting others, [HB 1959](#) allows our peace officers to move their own children to a different school or district if they need to do so. Those who lay their lives on the line for us each day need to be assured that their own children are kept away from those who might target them because of their parent's work.

When it comes to election integrity, our mail-in ballots are vulnerable to wrongdoers. [HB 1299](#) makes it clear that only the voter may sign the carrier envelope of their mail-in ballot, and must do so with original ink on paper. The Democrats tried to call a point of order on this one, but they failed, and we did get this needed protection into law. I don't know about you, but my signature is out there (even at the bottom of this email) and I don't want someone else using a printer to put my name on a ballot by mail.

[HB 219](#) will require a mortgage lender to release your home's deed of trust when you pay off your loan. I was shocked to find that Texas had no such regulation, and that some bad actors in the lending community were not releasing those paid-off liens. They will now have 60 days to get that done, so that when you go to sell your property, you will have a clear title.

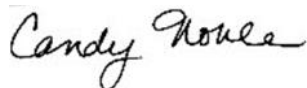
Speaking of homes, [HB 4077](#) will, upon a homeowner turning 65, cause them to automatically be enrolled in the additional homestead exemption to which they are entitled. Some counties were already doing this, but others required an application to receive that exemption. Every county must now, if they know the homeowner's age, auto enroll them when the owner turns 65. [SB 2355](#) is another property owner bill. It will streamline the binding arbitration process by allowing owners to apply for those property tax appraisal contests for binding arbitration to be done online, instead of in person, on paper at the local tax office.

When it comes to our tax dollars, we want to make sure that our money is being spent wisely. Each year almost half-a-billion dollars in Medicaid fraud is discovered by our Attorney General and Ombudsman offices. [SB 745](#) will now allow them to also look at and prosecute fraud in our other state healthcare systems: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Healthy Texas Women. I expect this bill to result in a great deal of tax dollars being recovered in the years ahead so that those who are truly needy will get the benefit of these programs, and not the shysters who find a way to make money off of our state's healthcare programs.

When it comes to cutting government red tape, I had three bills that do just that. [SB 65](#) eliminates an unfair sales tax on transcripts for our private Texas Universities. [HB 198](#) eliminates travel trailer inspections. [HB 3462](#) streamlines the Ombudsman programs at HHSC and allows them to do their work more efficiently and with less cost.

I could keep going, but I've covered enough for today, and we all have celebrating to do. May you have a wonderful Independence Day. May God Bless America!

Till next time....



Legislative Session Wrap Up

By Jennifer Groysman

The 2023 legislative session came to an end on May 30th. According to Robbie Hall, TX Federation Republican Women VP for Legislation and Texas Legislature Online, "The number of bills that passed the legislature was 1,246 (this does not include resolutions, joint resolutions or concurrent resolutions). The number of bills filed totaled 8,046 (again, excluding any type of resolution). The Governor vetoed 76 of the 1,246 bills. The rest have become law either with or without his signature." For a full list of bills that the Governor signed, the Governor vetoed or that became law without the Governor's signature, click <https://capitol.texas.gov/Reports/General.aspx>

and choose the relevant link.



Legislative Report

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Robbie Hall wrote , “Bills that go passed which were of importance to TFRW were....

- SB 14 by our very own TFRW member, Dr. Campbell, stops irreversible gender modification procedures and treatments on children.
- HB 900 provides regulation for library materials sold to or included in public school libraries, in particular “sexually explicit material.” The bill was signed by the Governor on June 13th and is effective on September 1st, 2023.
- SB 1070 (the “ERIC” bill or “Alan Vera Memorial Act”) relates to the interstate voter registration crosscheck program which seeks to prevent duplication of registration in more than one state and to identify voters that have moved, been convicted of a felony, have died or are ineligible to vote for another reason. The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- SB 12 prohibits sexually explicit performances in the presence of a child. The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- SB 15 requires that participation in intercollegiate sports competitions be based on the student's biological sex. Last session a similar bill was passed for grades K-12. (HB 25 87(3)). The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- SB 1599 relates to ballots voted by mail. This bill adds requirements for ballots to be voted by mail that are returned at the polling place because the voter has decided to vote in person. It also adds procedures for applications for a ballot by mail that are defective. The bill became law by the operation of law and is effective September 1st, 2023.
- HB 1605 provides for the restoration of the State Board of Education's (SBOE) authority to set the percentage of the TEKs that instructional material must cover (a mistake, even if well-intended, that has taken 14 years to remedy).[2] While TFRW applauds this correction, TFRW got involved with this bill because as originally drafted, it transferred too much authority from SBOE to the Commissioner of Education and the Texas Education Agency. At TFRW's request, some amendments were added to the bill that are intended to correct this problem. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 13th and becomes effective September 1st, 2023. TFRW will continue to follow the implementation of this legislation by the Commissioner and the agency.
- HB 1243 provides for the increase in penalty for illegal voting back to a felony (was reduced to a Class A misdemeanor in 2021 session). This bill is very similar to SB 2 which was the subject of an Action Alert. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 13th and becomes effective September 1st, 2023. ”

This session was a win for protecting children and women's sports. We got some protections for our elections. The Governor has called a special session for property taxes. It is projected he will call session for school freedom and boarder safety.





AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



RETHINK INDEPENDENCE DAY – THE PRICE OF INDEPENDENCE

JULY 1, 2023

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, “When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Patriot - One who loves, supports, and defends one's country.

You've seen some of these quotes.

"Ultimately property rights and personal rights are the same thing." – Calvin Coolidge

"How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!" – Samuel Adams

"It is the manners and spirit of a people which preserve a republic in vigor. A degeneracy in these is a canker which soon eats to the heart



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer

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of its laws and constitution." —Thomas Jefferson (1781)

"It must never be forgotten...that the liberties of the people are not so safe under the gracious manner of government as by the limitation of power." – Richard Henry Lee

"That people who pay greater respect to a wealthy villain than to an honest, upright man in poverty, almost deserve to be enslaved; they plainly show that wealth, however it may be acquired, is, in their esteem, to be preferred to virtue." - John Hancock

"The freedom of speech may be taken away, and, dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the slaughter." — George Washington

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." – Abraham Lincoln

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under." - Ronald Reagan

"Freedom has cost too much blood and agony to be relinquished at the cheap price of rhetoric." - Thomas Sowell

"A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government." - Edward Abbey

"Engage on the battlefield you've been given or be left behind." – Brady Leonard, 'Someone tell the elites that the game has changed', June 25, 2023

You know the battle Americans face today. 'Government' is ruling We the People instead of representing us. Greed and corruption abound.

We must live by the Declaration of Independence, these quotes and more; we must stand for Independence. For too long many have wallowed in complacency. America is now on the brink of extinction. The spirit of independence has been lost to laziness and convenience, even entitlement. For decades schools have been failing to impart the historical battle for the Republic of America and the civics necessary to impart patriotism. We must be engaged and take seriously the necessity of pledging our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor. We know America is the world's last, best hope.

I highly recommend you read the article from the NY Times dated July 1, 1917 found at <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1917/07/01/96251561.pdf>.

Restoring American Why Memorial Day and Independence Day should be Back-to-Back, Washington Examiner

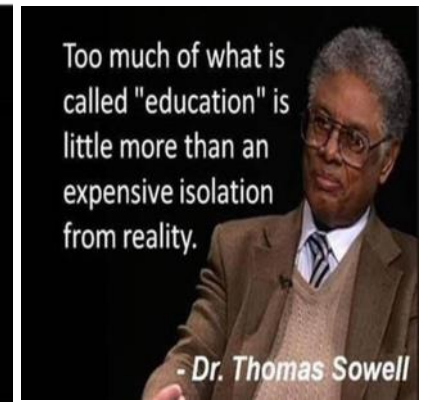
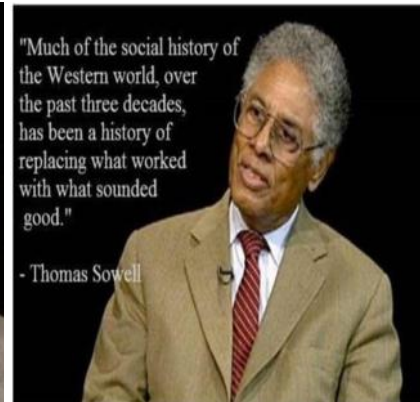
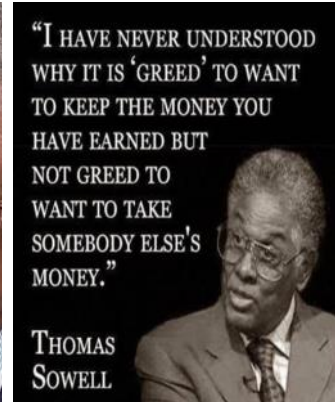
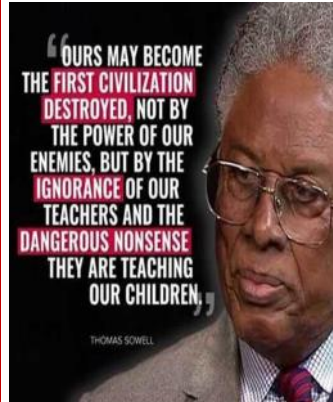
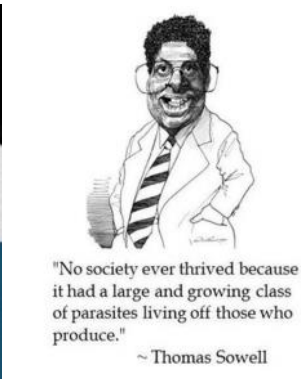
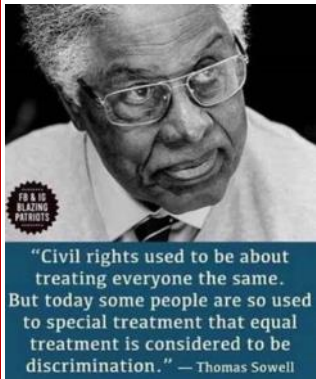
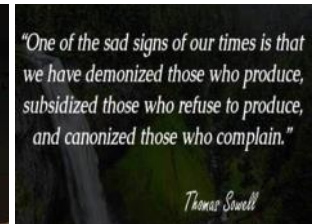
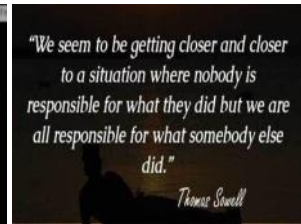
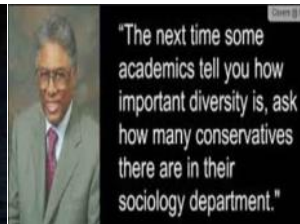
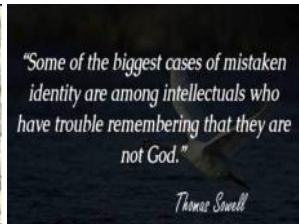
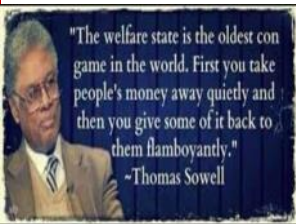
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/patriotism-unity/memorial-day-independence-day-back-to-back>

Resources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States)), <https://web.archive.org/web/20190622164753/http://technotes.whw1.com/all/78-differences-days-of-memorial-veterans-independence-and-labor#What-is-Independence-Day-in-USA>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20220809175630/https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1917/07/01/96251561.pdf>



Political Cartoons



The Clash of Truth and Power: Exposing the Underbelly of COVID-19 Censorship

Jan Jekielek, June 7, 2023, Updated June 20, 2023

The following is adapted from a speech delivered by Epoch Times senior editor Jan Jekielek at the “Academia’s COVID Failures” symposium at the University of Chicago on May 19, 2023.

Thank you for the wonderful introduction. I’m listening to these panels; it’s frankly hard to deal with how far we’ve fallen as a society.

I want to echo something that Dr. Scott Atlas said earlier, namely, that young people are our future. We need to support the young people. This is where the future lies.

I’m going to start with the First Amendment. The First Amendment reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

The First Amendment emerged in the aftermath of the American Revolution when the framers of the Constitution sought to establish a constitutional order that would guard against the oppressive rule they had fought against.

The framers understood that broad free speech rights meant that untruth would circulate, along with truth. But they recognized that this was a small price to pay in fostering a vibrant and free society, and that the benefits of protecting all speech, even that which was false or offensive, outweighed the risks of stifling ideas.

To this day, there is nothing like the First Amendment anywhere in the world.

Take the European Convention on Human Rights, for instance. It states that “everyone has the right to freedom of expression,” but also states that the “exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security ... for the protection of health or morals,” and so on.

Free Speech and Censorship

So what is free speech with restrictions? It’s censorship. Any restriction of free speech is censorship.

The word censor derives from the Latin word for the judges in ancient Rome who supervised public morality. And that is really the crux of it. It’s almost always an issue of morality—or power—when someone gives themselves the right to determine what someone else can and cannot say.

Without digressing too much into the legal minutiae, the essence of free speech in the United States is that you can say whatever you like short of shouting fire in a crowded theater and causing a panic.

The exact words used by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in *Schenck v. United States* in 1919 were, “The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic.”

The second part of this quote is often overlooked: causing a panic. Thus, saying things that turn out not to be true is OK unless its effects are so immediate as to cause a panic.

Applying this principle to COVID public health measures, it’s difficult to see what one could say that would be so immediate as to cause a panic. Saying something on Facebook is not capable of causing a panic. The immediacy of the crowded cinema is missing. There’s time to reflect, read, and make informed choices. In other words, whatever people say about things like masks or vaccines cannot be in breach of the First Amendment.

And yet all that went out the window when COVID arrived.

In fact, the origin of systematic government censorship efforts predates COVID. Those efforts began in 2017, driven in large part by a dislike of Donald Trump among the ruling elites.

In that sense, the beginnings of the government’s censorship efforts are really rooted in efforts to silence Trump and his MAGA movement.

There are many examples of this that have been documented by Twitter Files journalist Matt Taibbi over the past few months since Elon Musk opened Twitter’s internal emails late last year.

As we’ll see, understanding pre-COVID censorship efforts is very important for understanding COVID censorship. The two are directly connected.

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I'll discuss two examples here. First, there was a systematic effort to silence Trump supporters that started in 2017 and was driven by quasi-government forces.

Under this effort, entire censorship lists were drawn up to have people thrown off Twitter under the pretense that they were Russian disinformation agents, when in actual fact the people who were targeted were almost exclusively ordinary Americans who were simply sharing their views about this and that—usually people on Trump's side of the political spectrum.

One of the censorship projects was called Hamilton 68. Its purpose was to supposedly track Russian propaganda efforts on Twitter. It was created in 2017 under the auspices of the German Marshall Fund.

The German Marshall Fund is a group that was set up by the German government as a thank-you to America for the original post-World War II Marshall plan.

So, in a nutshell, the German government's initiative to foster better relations with America was turned into an initiative to censor Americans.

Twitter Files author Matt Taibbi found that Hamilton 68 had flagged 644 so-called Russian propaganda accounts for removal by Twitter.

But when Matt looked at the list of names Hamilton 68 gave Twitter, he found that almost every single one of those accounts belonged to ordinary Americans. People like the editor in chief of Consortium News, Joe Lauria, or podcast host Dennis Michael Lynch.

Hamilton 68 took real opinions of real Americans and falsely declared those opinions part of a Russian disinformation operation.

Twitter very quickly realized that the purpose of the effort wasn't to silence Russian disinformation but to silence Trump supporters.

Twitter's then head of safety, Yoel Roth, emailed colleagues to say, "Real people need to know they've been unilaterally labeled Russian stooges without evidence or recourse, it's a major problem."

But Roth didn't win the argument. He was overruled by Twitter's director of communications, Emily Horne, who pushed back by saying that Twitter needed to be careful in pushing back against powerful D.C. interests.

Twitter then went ahead and restricted the flagged accounts, even though they knew that the Russian disinformation claims were false. That is how pernicious these censorship efforts are.

Threat of Government Retaliation

The fact is that there is always this cloud hanging over Twitter—and any other company like it—that if they don't do as they are told, there may be unwelcome repercussions coming out of Washington, D.C.

In this vein, the Twitter Files also revealed that the FBI played a big role in pushing social media companies to censor speech—from weekly meetings to directly asking for account takedowns. Social media companies even had to set up hidden web portals where FBI staff could flag accounts for take down.

So why did social media companies go along with this? I'm sure one part of it is ideology—a deep dislike of Trump. But there's also a lot of evidence in the Twitter Files that Twitter executives were very concerned about being regulated and that that was something they kept a very close eye on. In short, the threat of retaliation from Washington, D.C., strongly influenced Twitter's interactions with government actors.

The second example I wanted to mention is that in 2021, the Department of Homeland Security approached social media companies to—in their own words—"operationalize public-private partnerships between DHS and [the social media companies]."

This proposed public-private partnership was about policing "misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation," which in government lingo is referred to as "MDM."

The hook used by the Department of Homeland Security was that something needed to be done about MDM because it threatened homeland security.

This takes us right back to the slippery slope embodied in the European model of free speech, which I talked about earlier, whereby restrictions are allowed where national security, public safety, and so on are threatened.

This second example also illustrates the escalation. In 2017, it was merely Russian disinformation that supposedly gave rise to free speech restrictions. By 2021, it was homeland security in general.

And this takes us right back to COVID. While these censorship efforts preceded COVID, they were certainly spooled

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up to an industrial scale during COVID.

The justifications for free speech restrictions became “all of the above.” Russian disinformation, foreign actors, homeland security, public safety, public health, and so on.

And because the virus threat was more tangible than a Russian blogger, few people asked questions.

While Twitter’s Yoel Roth was reluctant to shut down accounts on the basis of a false Russian disinformation narrative, those kinds of hurdles were no longer a problem when COVID arrived. If it was in the name of COVID, anything went, no questions asked.

Facebook and Fauci Collaboration

In fact, in some cases, the government did not even have to ask. For instance, it wasn’t Anthony Fauci who reached out to Facebook. It was Facebook that reached out to Fauci.

On March 15, 2020, one day before “15 days to slow” the spread was announced, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg emailed Fauci to propose collaboration between Fauci and Facebook on putting out what Zuckerberg called “authoritative information from reliable sources.”

Fauci responded favorably, and so Facebook’s COVID censorship regime in coordination with Fauci was born.

That regime entailed “not allow[ing] false claims about the vaccines or vaccination programs which public health experts have advised us could lead to COVID-19 vaccine rejection.”

And it wasn’t just vaccines. Posts about hydroxychloroquine were also censored by Facebook, not because it was best practice, but because that was the government line supported by Fauci. The same happened with ivermectin.

Recall that getting the mRNA vaccines approved in fast-track mode was only legally possible if there were no other treatments available. It is no wonder then that government actors such as Fauci and social media giants such as Facebook made sure that even just talking about alternative treatments was effectively forbidden.

The censorship regime grew so quickly and so wide that preeminent epidemiologists such as Jay Bhattacharya were not only silenced for their views, but called “fringe epidemiologists”—by the head of the National Institutes of Health, no less.

What was it that Bhattacharya said that got him and his colleagues that label? It was the [Great Barrington Declaration](#), which, as we know now—and many knew back then—merely stated mainstream epidemiological doctrine. There was nothing fringe about it whatsoever.

But the label worked, and Bhattacharya and his colleagues Martin Kulldorff and Sunetra Gupta were ostracized from the scientific community and by the media.

Ironically, the Great Barrington Declaration is now widely accepted as the common sense approach to COVID. But when it mattered, the government, the media, and social media censored any mention of it.

We at The Epoch Times strongly rejected this and went in the other direction. We were among the first to give alternative voices a platform to be heard.

We had some experience with this from the Russia collusion saga, where we were also among the first media outlets to pursue the real facts and not the Washington, D.C., narrative. Everything we wrote at that time has now been vindicated by the Durham report, which was published earlier this week.

The same can be said with respect to COVID. We were the first to report on many stories that were being censored by the corporate media—lockdowns, masks, vaccines, and so on. I did not know Jay Bhattacharya and Martin Kulldorff before COVID. We got to know each other because they resisted the censorship, and Epoch was open to their ideas.

The Epoch Times also [produced a documentary](#) on the origin of COVID, which was first broadcast on April 7, 2020, just as Anthony Fauci had started pushing his natural origin narrative.

I’ve just rewatched our documentary, and looking back, we got almost everything right about the Wuhan lab. In fact, two days after we first broadcast the documentary, the director of Anthony Fauci’s stateside lab at Galveston, a man called James Le Duc, who also happened to have personally trained Wuhan lab staff, started privately discussing our documentary with colleagues. They were all very much aware that the pandemic likely started at the lab.

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So while Epoch was being chastised as a “conspiracy theory outlet,” the people at the center of the affair were privately discussing that Epoch was putting out the facts. It took years of FOIA litigation to obtain the emails of these public health officials, which is how we know that their private views were the opposite of their public views.

Sadly, it was during this time that we were demonetized by YouTube—which is another indicator of the huge toolkit that tech giants have in controlling speech.

While I’m on the topic of YouTube, I can also share with you that we used to upload rough cuts of some of our upcoming shows on YouTube as a convenient way to collect comments from contributors. These videos were unlisted and not public. Only a few people had access. Yet when the videos talked about vaccines or masks, YouTube would take them down.

I don’t think we had a personal censor, it’s just that the algorithm scanned these videos, found that it contained certain forbidden words, and so they were taken down. That’s the pernicious impact of technology.

Agendas and Censorship

Which brings us back to the First Amendment. A hundred years of American jurisprudence has maintained that in a free society, speech must be free, even if it is untruthful.

As recently as 2012, Justice Anthony Kennedy—in *United States v. Alvarez*—affirmed: “The remedy for speech that is false is speech that is true. ... This is the ordinary course in a free society. The response to the unreasoned is the rational; to the uninformed, the enlightened; to the straight-out lie, the simple truth.”

If the Great Barrington Declaration was unreasoned and uninformed, well, then free speech would have exposed its defects.

But there were no defects, which is why it had to be aggressively suppressed instead. That is the lesson here. Speech is not suppressed because it is wrong; it is suppressed because it interferes with someone’s agenda.

So what was the agenda, and why did the government, the media, and social media rally around this one agenda rather than let alternative voices on COVID be heard?

There are, of course, many factors and many theories. Take Fauci, for instance. He had many reasons to push a false narrative on COVID. For one thing, he knew there was a strong likelihood that his funding of the Wuhan Institute of Virology had caused the pandemic in the first place.

But he had other reasons, too. Fauci’s entire career had been centered on discovering universal vaccines. This is why he was pushing gain-of-function experiments. COVID was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fast track an entirely new genre of vaccines and to do it on a global scale. Correctly pointing out that COVID was not particularly dangerous for large swaths of the population, or highlighting the existence of alternative remedies, stood in the way of Fauci’s universal vaccine ambitions.

But that’s just Fauci. Why did everyone else jump on the bandwagon, casting aside a hundred years of not only medical science, but also of hard-earned civil liberties?

I think to answer that, we have to go back to Trump. When I talked about the beginnings of the government censorship regime, I did not only do so for historical context, but also to show how Trump—specifically a deep dislike of Trump among the Washington, D.C., Beltway crowd—drove these efforts.

And I think it was that same motivation that drove many of the COVID censorship efforts. That’s not to say that there would have been no COVID censorship without Trump, but dislike of Trump was certainly the glue that allowed all of these various forces to coalesce.

When Trump said the virus came out of the Wuhan lab, there was an instant push toward the opposite narrative. When Trump said to try hydroxychloroquine, there was an instant push to outlaw off-label use of it. When Trump said to reopen the economy, the entire media complex aggressively pushed against that.

You get the point. Again and again, the forces of censorship were united by their dislike of Trump.

Supporting Truth

So how do we stop it from happening again?

One of the things that the pandemic starkly exposed is that there is a mechanism that can manufacture perceived consensus in our society,

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even when nothing near a consensus actually exists. It exposed that as human beings, many of us are susceptible to being influenced by that perceived consensus—journalists, scientists, government leaders, bureaucrats, and lay people alike.

We're susceptible to this "megaphone," as I like to call it.

The megaphone can influence us to dislike Trump, or dislike him more, or to dislike the person whom the powers that be anoint as the next Trump. It can influence us to be suspicious of, and even to demonize, so-called "fringe epidemiologists" or "the unvaccinated." It generates in us emotions that become deeply entrenched.

So what can we do?

We can set up and support parallel, truth-seeking organizations like The Chicago Thinker and The Epoch Times, like Hillsdale's Academy for Science and Freedom that Drs. [Larry] Arnn, Atlas, Bhattacharya, and Kulldorff started to foster truth seeking in science (it's amazing that I have to say that!), like the Academic Sanity Consortium that is organizing this event.

But I would argue that it's the censorship regime that has emerged as of 2017 that has particularly supercharged the megaphone.

The only immediate path is the legal path. Now is the time to set clear boundaries in stone, preferably by the Supreme Court.

That is why the case brought against the government by Missouri and Louisiana is so important. The case seeks a declaration that the government cannot get involved in policing speech. The declaration would block all federal government officials from collaborating, coercing, and colluding with media or social media companies to interfere with First Amendment rights.

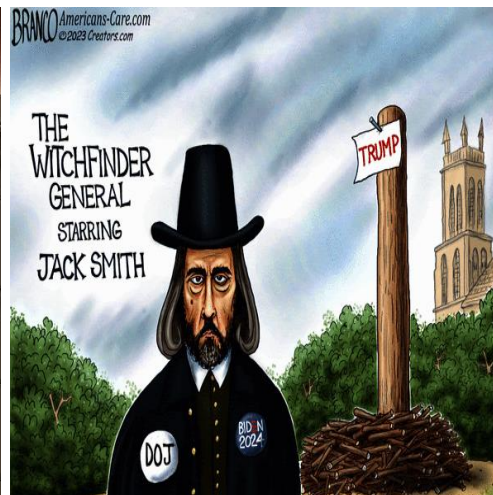
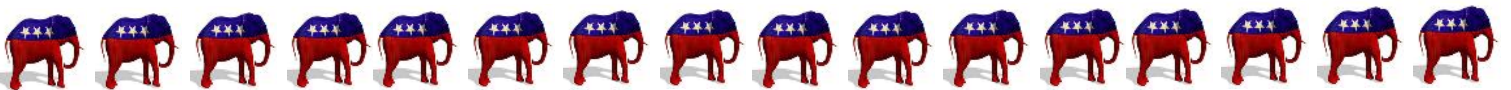
Although Missouri and Louisiana have won a string of victories, the case will likely end up in the Supreme Court—which we should welcome.

A strong declaration from the Supreme Court that these public-private censorship efforts we saw during COVID are unlawful is probably the best insurance we can hope for right now to prevent future abuses.

Thank you.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

Jan Jekielek is a senior editor with The Epoch Times and host of the show "American Thought Leaders." Jekielek's career has spanned academia, media, and international human rights work. In 2009, he joined The Epoch Times full time and has served in a variety of roles, including as website chief editor. He was an executive producer of the award-winning Holocaust documentary film "Finding Manny."



Enough of Pride—It's a Sin

Roger L Simons, June 23, 2023

Commentary

I support gay rights but oppose the endless Pride celebrations and Pride Month.

This isn't just because of the recent display on the White House lawn that made us the laughingstock of the world—or a good portion thereof.

That event was the unfortunate apotheosis of a movement that surfaced in 1970 with the first Gay Pride Liberation March, more justifiable then as a protest against discrimination. Twenty-nine years later, the first Gay Pride Month was declared by Bill Clinton in 1999.

It's now 2023, making it 53 years of such events in all parts of our country and in many other nations that have imitated us.

But this isn't just about gays or the LGBT, etc., crowd. For the record, I oppose all Pride Months for whatever group you pick—black, white, green or heliotrope, Irish, Greek, Italian, or Singaporean.

And I'm certainly not the first to do so. In 2005, Morgan Freeman had the following exchange with Mike Wallace on "60 Minutes":

"You're going to relegate my history to a month? I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."

When Wallace asked Freeman how to end racism, his answer was straightforward.

"Stop talking about it. I'm going to stop calling you a white man," Freeman said. "And I'm going to ask you to stop calling me a black man. I know you as Mike Wallace. You know me as Morgan Freeman. You wouldn't say, 'Well, I know this white guy named Mike Wallace.' You know what I'm sayin'?"

I sure do know what you're "sayin'," Morgan. (Unfortunately, the zeitgeist forced the great actor to walk back some of his intelligent analysis.)

Black Pride, Gay Pride, White Pride, it's all the same—wrong. Very wrong.

Pride is a sin, one of the Seven Deadly or Capital Sins, which are greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony, sloth, and pride.

While this list of sins—of which I and most other people are guilty at one time or another—comes from the Catholic tradition, they are mirrored in many ways by most of the world's great religions: Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, other Christian faiths, and so forth.

The seven sins connect directly to the Ten Commandments in ways I needn't explain to readers here. The writings of Falun Gong leader Li Hongzhi also contain many similar teachings, notably about pride and its karmic dangers.

Most interesting, pride is considered the worst of the sins. Wikipedia (which, admittedly, we must always read with care) has this to say:

"Pride has been labeled the father of all sins and has been deemed the devil's most essential trait. C.S. Lewis writes in *Mere Christianity* that pride is the 'anti-God' state, the position in which the ego and the self are directly opposed to God:

"Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind. Pride is understood to sever the spirit from God, as well as His life-and-grace-giving Presence."

Wow. Back in the '60s, in some marijuana smoke-filled room, one might have said, "Heavy ..." Ironically, as I recall, most of us then loved Lewis. His Narnia books were popular, even on the left. Little attention is paid to him now by the same people.

The gay and black movements both are currently in their Jacobin phase in the schema of the French Revolution—not practicing beheadings, but with censorship and coercion, which are the intellectual and emotional equivalents. Causes that began as righteous became extremist and nonsensical. Pride events are rammed endlessly down our throats in a manner that almost seems designed to promote intolerant reactions, to prove that we were sexist or homophobic all along, even when we weren't.

The similarities with the Black Lives Matter movement are extraordinary. You're a racist even if you think that you're not, even if you marched with Dr. King.

No one has ever accused me of being particularly religious, and I haven't been. But if you are bragging, acting with hubris, as the ancient Greeks termed Pride, you are doing, as Lewis explained, the devil's work.

The good news is that it won't succeed. It contains the seeds of its own demise in one of the best-known of all biblical proverbs: "Pride goeth before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall," later shortened to "Pride goes before the fall." We've known it all along.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

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Constitutional Minute Series

By Jennifer Groysman

Understanding Federal Supremacy

By: [Mike Maharrey](#) | Published on: Jul 31, 2014

The Supremacy Clause stands as one of the most misunderstood and abused provisions in the Constitution.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.— Article VI, Sec.2

Most lawyers, academics and politicians read this to mean that the federal government does whatever it wants, and the people and the state governments unquestioningly submit. Thomas Jefferson disagreed.

The several States composing, the United States of America, are not united on the principle of unlimited submission to their general government.

Absolute federal supremacists tend to completely ignore three key words in the Supremacy Clause – “In pursuance thereof.” The clause does not read, “This Constitution...and any old act Congress decides to pass...shall be the supreme law of the land.” Only acts within the scope of the federal government’s delegated powers rise to the status of supreme law. Acts outside of those powers constitute usurpation. They are, by definition, null, void and of no force.

Hamilton expressed the limited scope of federal supremacy in *Federalist 33*.

If a number of political societies enter into a larger political society, the laws which the latter may enact, pursuant to the powers intrusted [sic] to it by its constitution, must necessarily be supreme over those societies and the individuals of whom they are composed....But it will not follow from this doctrine that acts of the large society which are not pursuant to its constitutional powers, but which are invasions of the residuary authorities of the smaller societies, will become the supreme law of the land. These will be merely acts of usurpation, and will deserve to be treated as such. Hence we perceive that the clause which declares the supremacy of the laws of the Union, like the one we have just before considered, only declares a truth, which flows immediately and necessarily from the institution of a federal government. It will not, I presume, have escaped observation, that it expressly confines this supremacy to laws made pursuant to the Constitution.

The Constitution limits federal supremacy to those objects falling within the general government’s delegated powers and not one iota beyond them.

St. George Tucker wrote the first extended, systematic commentary on the Constitution shortly after ratification. For nearly half a century, it was one of the primary sources for law students, lawyers, judges and statesmen. His commentary on the supremacy clause is worth considering.

It may seem extraordinary, that a people jealous of their liberty, and not insensible of the allurements of power, should have entrusted the federal government with such extensive authority as this article conveys: controlling not only the acts of their ordinary legislatures, but their very constitutions, also.

The most satisfactory answer seems to be, that the powers entrusted to the federal government being all positive, enumerated, defined, and limited to particular objects; and those objects such as relate more immediately to the intercourse with foreign nations, or the relation in respect to war or peace, in which we may stand with them; there can, in these respects, be little room for collision, or interference between “the states, whose jurisdiction may be regarded as confided to their own domestic concerns, and the United States, who have no right to interfere, or exercise a power in any case not delegated to them, or absolutely necessary to the execution of some delegated power.

That, as this control cannot possibly extend beyond those objects to which the federal government is competent, under the constitution, and under the declaration contained in the twelfth article (Tenth Amendment), so neither ought the laws, or even the constitution of any state to impede the operation of the federal government in any case within the limits of its constitutional powers. That a law limited to such objects as may be authorized by the constitution, would, under the true construction of this clause, be the supreme law of the land; but a law not limited to those objects, or not made pursuant to the constitution, would not be the supreme law of the land, but an act of usurpation, and consequently void.

Guest GOP Elected Official Article



LT. GOV. DAN PATRICK: STATEMENT ON THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 1 AND SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

June 28, 2023

"Homeowners, teachers, and businesses get a giant victory! Homeowners will see their school property taxes decrease by a whopping 43%."

AUSTIN – Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued this statement today following the passage of Senate Bill 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 1, Property Tax Relief, both by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston:

"I have been fighting for property tax relief since before I held elected office. I have been clear that I will not leave Austin without property tax relief targeted at homeowners through an increased homestead exemption to provide them as much relief as possible. Homeowners need property tax relief right now.

"SB 1 delivers the largest property tax cut in Texas history by combining the power of the homestead exemption and compression for homeowners. Additionally, SB 1 provides meaningful relief for businesses through compression and increasing the threshold before businesses are required to pay franchise taxes.

"With under 45 days until the school year begins, the time is now for the Senate to provide Texas teachers with much-needed supplemental payments. The Senate added a provision to SJR 1 to make sure Texas teachers get the supplemental payments they need for the next two years.

"The Texas Senate will continue to fight for homeowners, teachers, and businesses. We look forward to working with the House to pass property tax relief and supplemental payments for teachers in the coming weeks."

SB 1, by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, increases the homestead exemption to \$100,000, provides property tax compression to decrease school property tax rates, decreases the rollback rate for school districts from 2.5% to 1.75%, further decreasing school property tax rates, and doubles the threshold before businesses must pay franchise tax to \$2.47 million, eliminating the tax for 67,000 small businesses. SB 1 also eliminates the no-tax-due filing requirement, saving businesses both time and money. Overall, SB 1 will provide a 43% decrease in homeowner school property taxes on average.

SJR 1, by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, is the constitutional amendment to approve the homestead exemption. SJR 1 will provide a supplemental payment for teachers of \$2,000 for every full-time Texas teacher. If a teacher teaches in a district with less than 20,000 students, they will receive an additional \$4,000, to help close the salary gap between urban and suburban teachers and rural teachers. Voters will make the final decision on increasing the homestead exemption and providing supplemental payments for teachers by approving the constitutional amendment in November.]" June 28, 2023



Political Action Hours

By Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



From July 2021- June 2023 Plano Republican Women turned in 23,217 hours to our parent (TX Federated Republican Women) and grandparent (National Federated Republican Women) organizations. We also made 1097 political phone calls.

The member with the most campaign hours for this time period is **Cathie Alexander** with 2817 hours.

The member you made the most phone calls is **Candy Maxey** with 527 calls.

Both ladies names have been submitted to TFRW and NFRW for a chance to win awards. Good luck ladies.

Even though we are on summer break, you can still submit your hours at <https://planorepublicanwomen.org/political-action-hours-1>



What counts as **Political Activity Hours**

- **Attending Political Meetings**
 - Political Events & Fundraisers
 - County or State GOP meetings
 - School Board or City Council meetings
- **Travel**
 - Any time you spend traveling to and from political events and meetings.
- **Legislative Advocacy**
 - Time spent calling, writing, about legislative issues
- **Campaign Activities**
 - Block walking, sign waving, phone banking, digital work
 - Running for office
- **Election Support**
 - Election Judge, Election Clerk, Deputy Voter Registrar
- **Appointed or Elected Service**
 - Prep time, travel time, and attendance at meetings you were appointed or elected to serve at any level

Any political activity you do that is not for your primary job counts!





PRW PATRONS



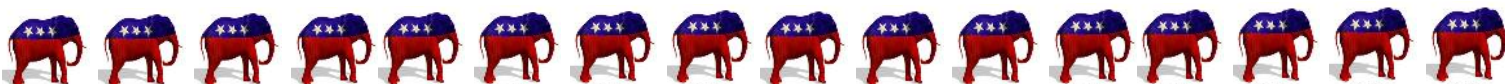
Many Thanks To Our Club Patrons



These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.

**Debby Arrant
Sara Billingsley
Catherine Gibb
Gerry Hudman
Donna Krauss
Cleo Marchese
Helen Mellor**

**Lisa Babb
Nuray Fuller
Jennifer Groysman
Madelon Issaef
Lori Lofye
Lynn McCoy
Virginia Sturm**



Membership Update



Currently accepting Renewals and New Memberships for 2023!

Membership dues can now be paid by credit card. on our website, at the meeting (via cash or cheque) or can be mailed to the PRW Post Office Box.

The Membership form is included in the newsletter, printed copies are available at the meetings.

Memberships:

- \$40 Full Active Single Membership (PRW receives \$15, TFRW and NFRW receive \$25)
- \$45 Full Active Membership with Spouse
- \$25 Associate Membership – for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs
- \$20 Young Affiliate (young woman, age 10-17)
- \$140 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)
- \$145 Patron Member with Spouse


Check out the Frequently Asked Questions on our website:
<http://www.planorepublicanwomen.org/frequently-asked-questions.html>

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Court Administrator, Shannon Reynolds • Court Reporter, Stephanie Hunn
Bailliff, Shane Capps



Susan Fletcher
CONSERVATIVE
REPUBLICAN
Collin County Commissioner Pct. 1

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McKinney, TX 75071



Cheryl Williams
Commissioner, Precinct 2

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SHERIFF

Collin County Sheriff's Office
4300 Community Avenue
McKinney, Texas 75071
972.547.5100 Office
972.547.5303 Fax

sheriffskinner@collincountytx.gov
www.collincountytx.gov/sheriff



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Justice Court Precinct 3, Place 2

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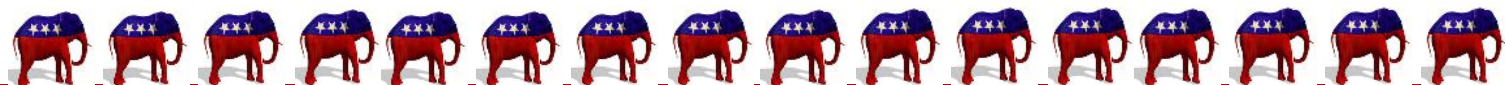
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Plano, TX 75086-0358

Anthony Ricciardelli
Council Member
Place 2

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plano.gov


Shelby Williams
Council Member
Place 5



Rick Smith
Elect - Plano City Council Place 8

"The Neighborhood Candidate"
rick@rickforplano.org

Rick For Plano
P.O. Box 261194
Plano, TX 75026
214-707-4575



James "Jimmy" Angelino
Defense Counsel


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www.jamesangelino.com

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Frisco, TX 75034
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President

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MATT CARPENTER
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PRECINCT 1

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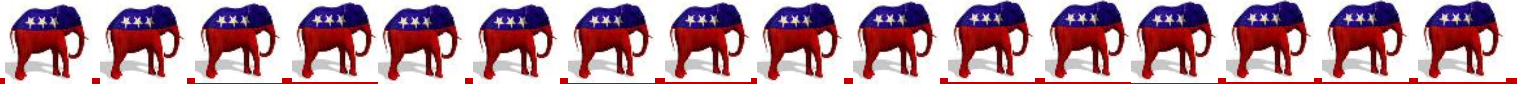
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GREG WILLIS

CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COLLIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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McKinney, TX 75071
www.collincountyda.com

gwillis@collincountytx.gov

972.548.4330



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E-Mail: jwillis@co.collin.tx.us



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(972) 548-5674 Fax

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Stacey Samples, Coordinator
Major Pearson, Court Officer
Tanner Feast, Court Reporter
www.collincountytx.gov



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Officers and Birthdays

PRW OFFICERS for 2023

Cleo Marchese, President

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Jessica Bartnick, 1st. VP Programs

Lisa Babb, 2nd. VP Membership

RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Debby Arrant, 3rd VP Awards

Catherine Gibb, 4th VP, Ways and Means - 214-929-0857

Semida Voicu, Recording Secretary

Sheila Patterson, Corresponding Secretary

Lynn McCoy, Treasurer



July

Birthdays

Member Birthdays:

Sally Bartz 7/25

Helen Mellor 7/27

Donna Bailey 7/30

Associates & Sponsors Birthdays:

Barnett Walker 7/4

Tracey Self 7/14

Diana Dees 7/30

Jim Skinner 7/30



Please mail this form with your check made payable to PRW:

Plano Republican Women
P. O. Box 940461
Plano, Texas 75094

CORPORATE CHECKS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year: 2023

Memberships:

_____ \$140 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)

_____ \$145 Patron Member with Spouse (includes Full Active Membership with Spouse)

_____ \$40 Full Active Single Membership (PRW receives \$15, TFRW and NFRW receive \$25)

_____ \$45 Full Active Membership with Spouse

_____ \$25 Associate Membership - for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs

_____ \$20 Young Affiliate (young woman, age 10-17)

Additional (Optional):

_____ \$10.00 Magnetic PRW Name Tag _____ \$4 Mail Delivery of the annual PRW Membership

TOTAL: _____ Check #: _____

PRW Membership Directory

Please provide the information to be included in the PRW Membership Directory

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____
Street City Zip code + 4

Phone numbers: (home) _____ (Office) _____ (Cell) _____

Email* _____ Precinct# _____ Birthday (month & day) _____

Associate Member Spouse Email* _____ Birthday (month & day) _____

* Email is used for newsletters and other PRW announcements

The information requested below is required by the Texas Ethics Commission:

Occupation _____ Employer _____



Plano Republican Women
P.O. Box 940461
Plano, TX 75094



Plano Republican Women

meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month
(except June, July & December)

Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway

Plano, TX 75074

11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program

Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

You do not have to have lunch to attend,

But please RSVP to

rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org



I would like to submit this in honor of our country on this Fourth of July.

I Will Fly the Flag

I will fly the flag
Because it is a symbol that all
are created equal.
That all may express their opin-
ions without fear,
That each one may pursue their
chosen occupation.

I will fly the flag
Because of all who fought for
this flag that I may worship as I
please—
Or choose not to worship if I
please.

I will fly the flag
Because I love this beautiful
country—all of it!
Hot, dry dessert, high mountain
ranges,
Verdant valleys, meadows of
wildflowers,
Rich fertile plains that feed our
nation,
The cooling rivers and lakes.

I will fly the flag
For all those who have come
from all over the world to call
this country home.
The rich mix of this melting pot
blending into a beautiful nation.
The various ethnicities of our
people, each one bringing spe-
cial gifts.

I will fly the flag
For all who offer their lives to
make the world a better place.
Our leaders, our military, our
priests and pastors, our healers,
Our teachers, the men and
women who serve as firemen
and policemen to keep us safe.

I will fly the flag
For families who love each other
and find a safe place to raise
their children, and a comfort-
able place to grow old.

I will fly the flag
Because it reminds me that I
have a responsibility to serve
others and to make this country
a better place to live and work,
And in so doing, make this
world a better place.

I will fly the flag
In honor of this country.
Not because we are perfect,
But because we are still striving
to be better.
Not because we are better than
other countries,
But because this country has so
much to share.

I will fly the flag
And give thanks to God and ask
His blessing on all it stands for.
This beautiful part of the world,
The wonderful people who live
here,
The freedom to work and speak
as we please,
The opportunities open to all.

I will fly the flag!

SUSAN JONES
INDIANA

