

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

June 2023

President's Byline



What is going on at the Department of Homeland Security? Border control agents say this is the worst border crisis they have ever seen. We had a record setting 83,000 people caught crossing the border illegally in just one week after the pandemic era Title 42 expired. Under Title 42, 60-65% of detained migrants were automatically expelled from our country without being offered asylum. Currently there is an estimated 150,000 migrants waiting to cross the US-Mexican border. Border patrol processing centers handle about 30,000 people every 2-3 days.

You would think our federal government would try to do something to help states of the Southern Border, but instead it seems like the federal government is making matters worse. On May 12th, the Center of Immigration Studies had officials on the other side of the border in Matamoros, Mexico who spoke with Mexican officials about what was happening on the Mexico side. They were told that large groups of migrants were being directed away from Texas DPS and the Texas National guard on directives from the Department of Homeland Security. Are you shocked? The Department of Homeland Security is coordinating with Mexican officials to avoid border security. This story was reported on May 13th by Sara Carter, a Fox news reporter that the department of Homeland Security is deliberately coordinating the movement of massive numbers of illegal migrants into the US.

The border town mayors of Laredo and Uvalde say they are overwhelmed. Dr. Victor Trevino, mayor of Laredo, said he has declared a state of emergency. He says the hospitals are overwhelmed and the local court system can't process this large amount of weekly illegal migrants. Don McLaughlin, mayor of Uvalde, said just two weeks ago they had 40 migrants found on a train dying from heat stroke. They had to use every ambulance in the city of Uvalde and surrounding towns. He said if they had an emergency in their own community, they would not have an ambulance available that day. Mayor McLaughlin also said there is a child detention center in their community that they have no access to. He is worried because the community sees buses going in and out with kids and they don't know where they are being sent and the DHS refuses to tell city officials where they are going or allow city officials to tour the Child Detention center in Uvalde. He claims over 85,000 children have come across the border and the government after processing them has no idea where they are. Mayor McLaughlin claims 85% of these children released into the United States by the Department of Health and Human Services disappeared. No one is checking in on them. Both mayors have been on multiple news networks. Unfortunately, no one really seems to care. These overcrowded Southern border facilities have also contributed to the highest number of detainee deaths, 7,200 adults since Biden took office.

The FBI currently defines human trafficking into two types. **Human Trafficking/Commercial Sex Acts:** *inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such acts are under 18 years of age.* **Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude:** *obtaining of a person(s) through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such persons by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).* Statistics show that 78% of human trafficking in the US comes from illegal border crossings. Record numbers of children and adults are being trafficked into the United States as a form of modern-day slavery. The Cartels are making a fortune off of people and fentanyl coming into the US. The biggest delusion the Left perpetuates is all of these people are upstanding citizens looking for a better life. They will not admit some are sold by their own families to the Cartels, others are gang members sent here to run the drugs and human trafficking rings inside the US. Some are farm slaves that grow legal marijuana but are illegally detained on farms by the Cartels to work the marijuana crops.

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Calendar of Events

Early Voting Ends June 6th

Election Day June 10th

**No Board Meeting
In July**

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

PRW Presidents Byline

Continued from Page 1

According to the CDC, over 100,000 Americans have died from drug overdoses in the past year. Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for adults and teens in the US. It accounts for over 70% of drug deaths. You would think with all this going on the DHS would be on their toes stopping the border crisis, but they aren't, because there is another threat far greater, they are working on.

The Department of Homeland security has a new situational awareness quiz to train their agents on how to recognize dangerous radicalized terrorist. It was found by America First Legal, that DHS lists pro-life moms as suspects in terrorism and violence prevention training guide.

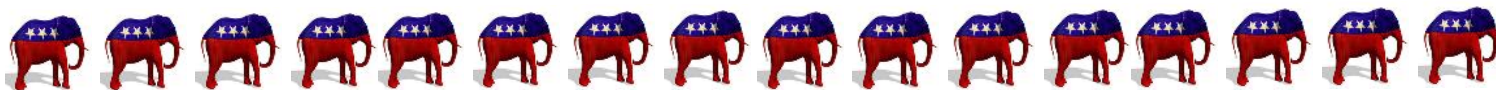
"This is Ann, a resident of Elkville in rural American. Ann has always been religious but since the death of her mother, she's become increasing devout. She is a regular in the small-town community, active in several groups. While she has always been protective of her four kids, she has become increasingly more concerned about the welfare of other children, including the unborn. "The document, obtained by American First Legal, then tells employees to consider ways to address the fictional Ann's behavior after she questions whether "the bible justifies violence in defense of life" during a prayer group meeting and calls the mayor of her small town a "baby killer" at a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Don't worry, they are also looking at American males who are fixated government conspiracy theories such as connections to child abuse and trafficking. *"You are Pete's friend Chris, sitting in front of your computer looking at Pete's social media posts. You've been friends online for a couple of years, and Pete has always seemed like a decent guy, but recently you've noticed changes in his behavior online that alarm you. You've even seen him post on some radical sites, some with violent tendencies. You can find the entire story in the May 12th, New York Post article. Please read it, it was enlightening seeing the Biden administration scenarios of middle class, normal Americans painted a terrorists.*

I hope you feel as reassured as I am by the Department of Homeland Security. Started March 1, 2003, to facilitate communication between government agencies. They don't even do their job of protecting this country anymore. While people on the terrorist watch list walk across the Southern border, they are looking at conservative political leaning American citizens, Pro-life protestor, Christians and painting them as radicals while allowing the Southern border to stay out control. It's time for Alejandro Mayorkas, the Chief of Staff for the Department of Homeland Security, to step down. It's also time to get the DHS working for Americans again, not against us.

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.

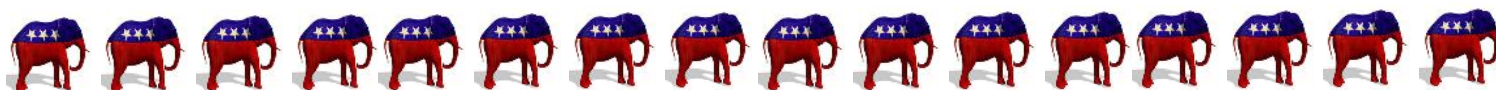
Keith's Army tours included Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader, Airborne Infantry Company Commander, Special Forces Detachment Commander and Special Forces Company Commander. His service took him to Europe, the Middle East, and the Pentagon, where he worked on the most sensitive military programs. He deployed 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 May Meeting Photos



RESIDENT PROGRESS

PTSD:

- At 3 months a 45% decrease
- At 6 months a 55% decrease
- At 9 months a 60% decrease
- At 12 months a 70% decrease

Depression:

- At 3 months a 27% decrease
- At 6 months a 31% decrease
- At 9 months a 36% decrease
- At 12 months a 40% decrease

Anxiety:

- At 3 months a 3% increase
- At 6 months a 8% decrease
- At 9 months a 35% decrease
- At 12 months a 10% decrease





Legislative Report



May 31, 2023

I want to share a bit of my heart and also my process in taking the hardest vote I've ever taken, and most likely ever will: the articles of impeachment for Attorney General Ken Paxton.

I prayed and agonized over this decision more than any other vote I've taken in the House. I've shed tears, lost friends, and been attacked both personally and as a legislator.

But I take my role as a legislator as a solemn oath before both God and the voters. I've never "walked" a vote (not shown up to vote) - even on difficult ones. I read all the bills before I vote. I ask questions and do my research. This vote was no different, and indeed resulted in many hours of research, asking questions and praying for wisdom and discernment. This was made even more difficult because of my admiration for the incredible leadership General Paxton has provided in fighting federal overreach.

Back in January, the Attorney General's office submitted a request for the state to use \$3.3 million in taxpayer funds to pay a settlement to "whistleblowers" who had formerly been some of the highest officials in the Attorney General's office. As with every exceptional item (things not provided for in the state budget, but for which we are asked to pay) those expenditures require scrutiny. Attorney General Paxton was invited to come speak to the Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee's [organizational hearing](#) on March 1 and share the good things going on in the agency, but he didn't show up. It was understood by many that the question of the \$3.3 million expenditure might come up in that hearing. He was also encouraged to appear in the House Appropriations Committee about the expense. He also declined that invitation.

It was the questions surrounding the \$3.3 million lawsuit settlement that sparked the Texas House General Investigating Committee's investigation -initiating the look into the background of the settlement. This process began back in March.

When we were presented with the Committee's [report](#) this past week, I read it thoroughly and watched the [testimony](#) in its entirety. I looked at all the information available. (If you want to take time to read the report, I do recommend it. If you only have time for a portion, I suggest that you begin on page 51.)

But getting to the question that we, the House, were asked to decide. It was not to prove criminal conduct. It was not to hold a trial.

Our task was to discern if there was enough information to ascertain probable Constitutional violations and harm to Texas, and if there was sufficient evidence to elevate this matter to the Texas Senate for trial.

In other words, our role was similar to a Grand Jury. The Senate is the Judge and Jury in this process. We had several days to look at the evidence. The questions outlined in the twenty [Articles of Impeachment](#) were detailed and voted on as House Resolution 2377.

It was my conclusion that there was sufficient evidence to warrant further examination by the Senate. It gives me no joy to say that. After carefully looking at all the evidence presented, I felt that I had an obligation to the citizens of Texas to vote in favor of House Resolution 2377.

There was much debate on the House floor about the process of that vote. Most, if not all, of those who voted against the Resolution did so because of the PROCESS, not because of the evidence presented in the reports. In other words, most of the debate was centered on IF we were conducting the process correctly, not about if the Attorney General engaged in conduct or actions in violation of the Constitution or harmed Texas.

If you are of a mind that I voted incorrectly and you have not yet read the report, I ask that you wait to come to a final conclusion after the Senate does their job. It may well be that Ken Paxton is exonerated. But until that time, the concerns that were raised were of such a grave and serious nature that the citizens of Texas deserve to know that the office of the highest law enforcement officer of the state is being run in such a way as to protect the innocent and promote the general well being. I, like you, look forward to all those answers being provided soon.

Voting for the impeachment process was the hardest vote I have ever taken. I am saddened, and I've mourned over the information that I learned along the way, but the line between right and wrong clearly appears to have been breached. Again, I'm so very grateful for General Paxton's work fighting against federal overreach. But ultimately, it is our job, all of us who are called according to God's purpose, to stand for right, no matter the personal cost, no matter the personal relationships involved. I fully and completely believe that it is in our state's best interest to pause and have the Senate look at all that evidence, hear from the witnesses (including the Attorney General) and make their determination.

Please join me in praying for everyone involved.

Candy Howle



Legislative Report

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May 26th, 2023

And then there were three.

Just three days left in the 88th Regular Legislative Session. On Monday we will Sine Die (Latin for “without day” or, in the Legislature’s case, adjourning without a day to return.)

I must admit that this week has been a mess. But it’s that way every session. The last bills set to be heard in both the House and Senate are in danger of the clock running out, and those who don’t like a bill try to make sure that the clock does just that: run out.

On Wednesday the last Senate Bills were heard and voted on in the House. The Senate’s rules are different, so they had longer to get House bills done. Some bills that pass match exactly from one chamber to the other, and those bills are on their way to the Governor. Other bills don’t match. If the author agrees with the version that came back from the other side of the Capitol, then we “vote to Concur”, and those bills go to the Governor.

The rub is when we don’t like what the Senate has done to a bill that originated in the House, or they don’t like what we’ve done to one of their bills. At that point a “Conference Committee” is formed on the contested bill and negotiations take place. Most of the time, an agreement is reached, and the five House members and five Senate members on that Conference Committee sign off on the resulting bill. Sometimes, no agreement can be reached, and a bill that has passed both the Senate and the House dies for lack of concurrence. Some really good bills die because the good is thrown out for the perfect.

I’ve mentioned this before, but it bears repeating: our Texas forefathers wanted government to be limited and designed our legislature to make it difficult to pass bills. We don’t want our government to have a magic wand and pass every bill someone likes or demands. Imagine if that could happen in Washington right now. Yikes. Therefore, we shouldn’t be surprised when a bill dies. Instead, we should be amazed when a bill actually gets passed.

So here are some of those amazing bills that passed this past week:

[SB 12](#) (Hughes/Shahen) will prohibit sexually oriented performances in front of children. I can’t believe we need a law for this (we’ve long protected children from adult entertainment places!), but here we are because some people think drag shows are appropriate for minors. This bill joins some great bills we’ve passed this session protecting children: prohibiting gender modification on minors, protecting public school libraries from pornography, background checks and affidavits for those working in preschools, private schools and public schools, and protecting minors when they are online. The session has been a big win for protecting our kids.

For the past several sessions Texas has invested in programs that provide alternatives to abortions. This week, [SB 24](#) (Kolkhorst/Frank) passed the House and is on the way to the Governor. SB 24 codifies this program into law, as previously it only existed within the state budget. This solidifies our commitment to women in Texas having access to care and information when they are pregnant. I’m a proud Joint Author of this bill.

We also passed a couple of important bills concerning our Texas Public Universities. [SB 17](#) (Creighton/Kuempel) restricts the establishment and scope of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion offices at Texas universities so students and professors can truly concentrate on a first rate education in the various fields of study. By the way, it was reported in the debate on the House Floor that the University of Texas has more than 60 employees in the DEI office. [SB 18](#) (Creighton/Kuempel) reforms how public institutions of higher education grant tenure to employees. Both of these reforms will help our Texas universities focus on intellectual inquiry, academic freedom and intellectual diversity with the highest of standards in each of their individual instructional disciplines.

I’ve had a remarkably good session with my bills. Late Wednesday night my twentieth bill of this session passed and is headed to the Governor. For the over 240,000 owners of travel trailers in Texas, after [HB 198](#) goes into effect on September 1, we will have eliminated state inspections for you. You’re welcome.

If you are curious about the state budget for the next two years, you can read the report on [HB 1](#), but I must warn you that the document is 1032 pages long. Remember that the budget has several Constitutional limits, and we stayed within all those limits. I sure wish they had the same limits in Washington DC.



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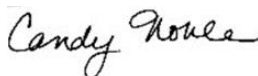
Another interesting bill that passed to the Governor this week is [HB 19](#). This bill will allow for a specialty court specifically set up to handle complex business disputes. These disputes can end up in District Courts for months (or years) before they are resolved, so this will help our Courts concentrate on other needed issues.

For all our retired teachers out there, [HJR 2](#) has now passed both the House and Senate and will be on the Constitutional Amendment ballot in November.

Some important issues are still up in the air as negotiations between the House and Senate are on-going these last few days. These include both school funding and educational savings accounts. Some of these issues may be resolved in the last hours of session, but others may well cause a Special Session. I'm not at all excited by that prospect.

I hate to end with this, but I must now tell you about something that gives me great personal sorrow. On Wednesday the Texas House General Investigating Committee held a [public hearing](#) concerning our Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. This investigation began back in March as a result of the \$3.3 million "whistleblower" settlement that the state was asked to pay. The transcript of that hearing can be read [here](#). Yesterday, the committee released the [Articles of Impeachment](#). Please pray for all of us as we navigate both the information and the decisions that will follow.

Till next time....



State Representative, District 89

Dear Friends,

Like many of you in the Allen area, our home and cars received extensive damage in Friday night's hail storm. This week, you will have many roofing contractors knocking on your door and trying to gain your business. Please be careful to do your due diligence with every contractor and refer to this [link at the Office of the Attorney General](#) to learn how to spot price gouging and more.

BIGGEST PROPERTY TAX CUT IN TEXAS HISTORY!

This week we passed [SB 3](#), the Property Tax Relief Act which is the largest property tax cut in Texas history. We have heard loud and clear from our constituents the need for property tax relief and I'm happy to say that we delivered with this monumental bill.

Highlights of SB 3:

- Caps annual appraisal increases to 5% for all property types (currently at 10%)
- Raises the homestead exemption to \$100,000 (currently at \$40,000) for all Texas homeowners and \$110,000 for Texas Seniors
- Injects an additional \$11.2 billion dollars into Public Education
- On average, this will result in the owner of a \$350,000 home seeing a savings of \$1325 in FY 2024 and \$1528 in FY 2025.

!

IMPROVING TEXAS' WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Texas House passed [Senate Bill 28](#) this week to help build Texas' water infrastructure for future generations. Aside from dedicating billions of dollars toward water infrastructure and security, this legislation also creates the Texas Water Fund if approved by voters in November. The Texas Water Fund will be used for:

- water or wastewater infrastructure projects;
- water projects that have all state or federal permitting completed;



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- the statewide water public awareness program; and,
- water conservation strategies.

PREVENTING THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS FROM ACCESSING FIREARMS

In the aftermath of the horrific shooting at the Allen Premium Outlets – in the heart of our community – I heard from many constituents to just “do something.” And while I understand their intent, we also have to do the right thing. We have to be careful to safely guard our Second Amendment rights while also trying to curb unnecessary and tragic gun violence. I believe that [SB 728](#) – unanimously passed out of the Senate back in March and by the House this week – is one of those bills and an important step we can take.

While this bill would not have changed what happened that day, I think we can all agree that it is essential to keep guns out of the hands of people with mental illness. SB 728 brings Texas in line with the Federal government standards for reporting juvenile mental health records to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for use in future federal firearm background checks. This legislation previously passed the Texas Senate with support from all Republican members. Importantly, this bill does not create a red flag law – it simply brings Texas in compliance with Federal law by providing pertinent information to DPS for use in a background check of people with juvenile mental health records. Likewise, it ensures a process to remove someone from the list who should no longer be there.

HUGE CONSERVATIVE WINS

We had a big conservative win this week. Aside from property tax relief, we also passed the Save Women’s Sports Act, [SB 15](#). This bill ensures fairness and the continued opportunity for Texas women to compete as collegiate athletes. SB 15 will preserve the opportunities provided by Title IX by preventing biological males from endangering female athletes, taking women’s spots on teams, breaking women’s hard-earned records, and unfairly putting women’s athletic scholarships at risk. You can watch my exchange with the opposition to this bill below starting at 3:54:10. https://tchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=80&clip_id=24913

We also passed [SB 12](#) which will restrict children’s exposure to sexually explicit performances. Specifically, this bill imposes a \$10,000 fine on businesses who allow children under 18 to be on the premises during a sexually oriented performance. It’s imperative that we continue to protect our kids’ innocence and I was proud to vote for this bill.

BILLS AWAITING THE GOVERNOR’S SIGNATURE

I’m proud to have five of my bills already passed through the legislative process and awaiting the Governor’s signature! [HB 1740](#) will allow all veterans, active military and GoldStar families free entry to our beautiful state parks. I look forward to Governor Abbott signing this soon!

The other bill I want to highlight is [SB 224](#), named the Deputy Darren Almendarez Act, who was killed when he encountered thieves stealing the catalytic converter from his personal vehicle at the grocery store. This legislation will help our law enforcement agencies and give them the tools they need to further crack down on the rising crime of catalytic converter theft.

TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

My office is now accepting applications for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP), an educational scholarship opportunity for a deserving Texas student aspiring to serve through military service. I am extremely honored to be able to play a small role in this process by nominating a deserving leader from our community.

In order to be considered for a TASSP award, a student enrolling in higher education directly from high school must meet two of the following four academic criteria at the time of application:



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- ✦ Be on track to graduate, or has graduated high school and complete the curriculum requirements of the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB);
 - ✦ Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
 - ✦ Achieve a college readiness score on the SAT (1070) or ACT (23);
- Be ranked in the top one-third of the prospective high school graduating class.

To learn more and how to apply, [please refer to this link](#).

All My Best,



May 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

Yesterday we adjourned sine die and wrapped up the regular 88th legislative session. It is an honor to serve the constituents of HD 67 on the House floor and a privilege I don't take lightly. We had a great session full of conservative victories and I'm proud of all that we accomplished. Unfortunately, there were some very important bills that didn't make it across the finish line and we must finish what we started. Late last night, Governor Abbott called a special session to begin immediately which will address property tax relief and border security. We didn't come this far to leave these important matters unfinished. Our constituents expect and demand results – and I plan to make sure we deliver.

We were able to pass many bills this session with the protection of our kids at the top of the list. If you had asked me when I ran for office back in 2012 if we would need to protect kids from harmful and permanent gender reassignment surgeries, I wouldn't have believed you. But that's exactly what we had to do this session. Despite liberal opposition, we passed [SB 14](#) which provides a common-sense prohibition on therapies and medical procedures to alter a child's gender before they are of legal adult age.

We also passed the Save Women's Sports Act, [SB 15](#). This bill ensures fairness and the continued opportunity for Texas women to compete as collegiate athletes. SB 15 will preserve the opportunities provided by Title IX by preventing biological males from endangering female athletes, taking women's spots on teams, breaking women's hard-earned records, and unfairly putting women's athletic scholarships at risk.

Additionally, I think we have all seen and experienced the dangers and addictive nature of social media among kids. In response, we passed [House Bill 18](#) – The SCOPE Act - which I was proud to support and co-author. Social media companies are pushing harmful algorithms, promoting scary and deceitful content and are harvesting our children's data. Simply put, this bill empowers parents and gives them the tools they desperately need to help protect their children online.

Lastly, we passed [SB 12](#) which will restrict children's exposure to sexually explicit performances and drag shows. Specifically, this bill imposes a \$10,000 fine on businesses who allow children under 18 to be on the premises during a sexually oriented performance. It's imperative that we continue to protect our kids' innocence and I was proud to vote for this bill.

School safety was a top priority for us this session and I'm pleased to report we made great strides on that front. We passed [House Bill 3](#) which delivers an innovative plan to secure our schools and protect our children. This legislation ensures at least one armed security guard at every school campus and invests an additional \$15,000/year to each campus for school safety measures. The roles and responsibilities of the Texas School Safety Center and the Texas Education Agency are also clarified so that school safety standards are properly enforced.

Additionally, [SB 838](#) requires each public school district or public charter school to install panic alarms in every classroom. Funding for this



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measure is provided through the School Safety Allotment.

Another priority the Texas House had this session was to fight the growing fentanyl crisis that we are witnessing in our schools and in our communities. [House Bill 6](#) will deliver swift punishment for fentanyl-related crimes in Texas, increasing the penalty for manufacturing or delivering less than one gram of fentanyl to a third-degree felony. The punishment increases from a 5 year to a 10 year minimum.

We passed legislation to rein in rogue district attorneys who have thumbed their nose at the rule of law. [House Bill 17](#), which I was proud to co-author, holds DAs accountable for their misconduct and provides an avenue for their removal.

While we are still working on the details of funding for public education, we did pass a much needed, and much deserved, cost-of-living adjustment and a 13th check for our retired teachers. You have my promise to be on the front lines to make sure that our hard working, active teachers also receive the increase in pay they deserve and I'm hopeful that Governor Abbott will add that to the call for the second special session.

During this legislative session we also made huge strides on keeping Texas a great place to do business, improved our water infrastructure to plan for the future, ended COVID mandates, banned sexually explicit literature from schools, and reformed our institutions of higher education.

Importantly, we passed a state budget that stays well below the spending limits while still addressing the needs of Texas. Specifically, we allotted:

- \$17.6 Billion to Property Tax Relief
- \$9.3 Billion for Infrastructure
- \$50.4 Billion to Public Education
- \$5.1 Billion to Border Security
- \$42.9 Billion for Public Health

This session I filed almost 80 bills and ended up passing the third most bills out of all the Representatives in the Texas House. I'm proud of the hard work of my dedicated Capitol staff who helped move these bills along and kept everything organized along the way. While I believe every bill I passed will make a huge difference in the lives of Texans, there are a few I want to highlight for you below.

- [HB 1740](#) will give free entry to our beautiful state parks for all active military, veterans and GoldStar families.
- [HB 1743](#) recognizes that Texans leaving the criminal justice system with no means to afford groceries and not receiving SNAP benefits in a timely manner leads to hunger and undermines their reentry. This bill will allow an upcoming discharged inmate to apply for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits at least 45 days but not more than 60 days before their release date.
- [HB 2658](#) was brought to us from a distraught constituent and will add both a conviction for solicitation of a minor and online solicitation of a minor to statute as grounds for the termination of parental rights.
- [HB 3186](#) will work to identify at-risk youth, including youth living with mental illness, substance abuse disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities and make a referral to early youth intervention services and authorize diversion for certain Class C misdemeanors that emphasizes accountability and responsibility of the parent and the child while promoting community safety.

This is by no means an exhaustive report of the substantive, critical legislation passed by the Legislature. In coming weeks, I'll be providing details on our work to improve grid reliability, ensuring patient rights facing end of life decisions, support for alternatives to abortion programs, and much more. In the meantime, I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and complete the task at hand. I look forward to working with my House and Senate colleagues to get the job done. Until then...

All My Best,

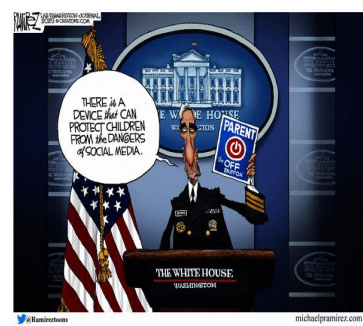


State Representative, District 67

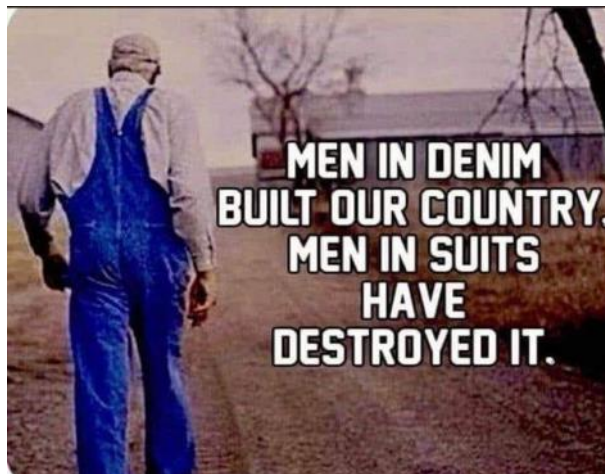
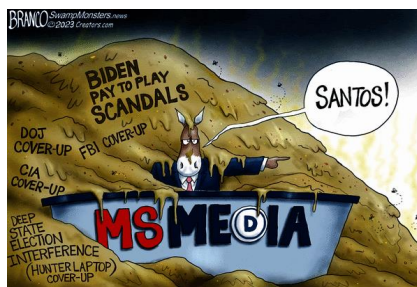
Political Cartoons



If you put 100 black ants and 100 red ants in a jar, nothing will happen. But if you shake the jar hard, the ants will start killing each other. The red ants will consider the black ants their enemies, and the black ants will consider the red ants their enemies. The real enemy is the one who shakes the jar. The same thing happens in human society. So before we attack each other, we should think about who is shaking the jar!



“First we overlook evil. Then we permit evil. Then we legalize evil. Then we promote evil. Then we celebrate evil. Then we persecute those who still call it evil.”



Approximately 40 years ago, Tom Jones wrote a song called "She's a Lady" despite the fact he's not a biologist.





Legislative Report

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE 2023

Gov. Greg Abbott calls immediate special session to address property taxes and border issues

Abbott noted many bills that were passed during the regular session, which ended around 6 p.m. Monday, but he added that “many critical items remain” and will require multiple special sessions.

BY **ALEJANDRO SERRANO** MAY 29, 2023 9:31 PM CENTRAL

Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) called an immediate special session Monday night, just hours after lawmakers completed the year’s [regular legislative session](#) without passing numerous key bills state leaders had identified as priorities.

Abbott said in a statement the special session officially began at 9 p.m. Monday and will be focused on property tax relief and border security. “Many critical items remain that must be passed,” Abbott said, which he asserts will require multiple special sessions.

Republican lawmakers had identified using a large part of the state’s budget surplus to lower property taxes for Texas homeowners and business owners as a priority, but [failed to reach an agreement](#). It appeared lawmakers were expected to return to work Tuesday, which the leaders of both chambers hinted at in closing Monday.

“We must cut property taxes,” Abbott said in the statement. “During the regular session, we added \$17.6 billion to cut property taxes. However, the legislature could not agree on how to allocate funds to accomplish this goal. Texans want and need a path towards eliminating property taxes. The best way to do that is to direct property tax reduction dollars to cut school property tax rates.”

The agenda for the first special session will focus on slashing property tax rates “solely by reducing the school district maximum compressed tax rate in order to provide lasting property-tax relief,” Abbott said in his statement.

Additionally, the agenda will focus on “increasing or enhancing” penalties for crimes involving smuggling people or operating a stash house.

Texas House names Ken Paxton impeachment managers; Senate trial will start by Aug. 28

Seven Republicans and five Democrats make up the board of managers who will handle the prosecution in the trial.

Author: Patrick Svitek and Renzo Downey (The Texas Tribune)

AUSTIN, Texas — ([THE TEXAS TRIBUNE](#)) The Texas Senate agreed Monday to start its trial of impeached Attorney General Ken Paxton no later than Aug. 28, shortly after the House named 12 members to prosecute the case.

The flurry of activity came on the last day of the regular legislative session and two days after it [voted overwhelmingly to impeach Paxton](#), alleging a yearslong pattern of misconduct and wrongdoing. Paxton has blasted the impeachment as a “politically motivated sham” and expressed hope the Senate will swiftly clear his name.

On Monday evening, the Senate unanimously adopted a resolution that laid out an initial timeline for the next steps. The Senate appointed a seven-member committee that will prepare recommendations on the rules of procedure for the trial and then present them to the full Senate on June 20. And then Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick can pick a date “not later than” Aug. 28 on which the chamber will convene as a court of impeachment.

A two-thirds vote is required in the Senate to remove Paxton from office.

Earlier Monday, the House named a Republican-majority board of managers to handle the prosecution, made up of seven Republicans and five Democrats. The group immediately left the House chamber to deliver the 20 articles of impeachment to the Senate.

“We will manage this process with the weight and reference that it deserves and requires,” state Rep. Andrew Murr, a Junction Republican and chair of the board of impeachment managers, said Monday at a news conference. “This is about facts and the evidence. It is not about politics.”

Joining Murr in leading the board of managers is Rep. Ann Johnson, D-Houston, the vice chair. Murr and Johnson are also the chair and vice chair of the House General Investigating Committee, which investigated Paxton and recommended his impeachment.



Legislative Report

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The other 10 managers are Reps. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth; Joe Moody, D-El Paso; Terry Canales, D-Edinburg; Jeff Leach, R-Plano; Oscar Longoria, D-Mission; Morgan Meyer, R-University Park; Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park; Cody Vasut, R-Angleton; David Spiller, R-Jacksboro; and Erin Gámez, D-Brownsville.

As for the Senate panel that will make recommendations on rules of procedure, it will be chaired by Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury. Its vice chair is Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, D-McAllen. The other five members are Sens. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe; Pete Flores, R-Pleasanton; Joan Huffman, R-Houston; Phil King, R-Weatherford; and Royce West, D-Dallas.

During his news conference, Murr said trial will feature witnesses testifying under oath who will be subject to questioning from the House managers and Paxton’s defense team.

“We understand it is a very deliberative process and will be handled in a thoughtful way to ensure that all parties are prepared for trial,” Murr said.

The managers were named after the House adopted a resolution creating the board by a vote of 136-4.

In introducing the resolution, Murr said it was “similar” to the one used in 1975 after the impeachment of a state district judge, O.P. Carrillo. The resolution, Murr said, “authorizes the employment of a board of managers so they can proceed with the presentation of the trial in the Senate.”

The vote to impeach Paxton on Saturday was overwhelming and bipartisan, with 121 of 149 members supporting impeachment. Almost as many Republicans as Democrats voted to impeach Paxton.

House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, was among those who voted to impeach Paxton. He briefly addressed the impeachment earlier Monday, saying from the dais that the impeachment was “necessary” and “just.”

On Sunday, [The Dallas Morning News reported](#) that the Office of the Attorney General had delivered documents to senators’ offices that outlined Paxton’s defense. That packet included a letter signed by Brent Webster, the first assistant attorney general who has taken over Paxton’s duties while he is suspended from office.

Johnson likened the delivery of that packet to attempting to interfere with a trial.

“We expect that this committee has been fully engaged in the process with the highest level of integrity that the individuals on the other side would realize dropping a binder on your potential jurors could be considered a tampering or attempting to interfere with a lawful process,” Johnson said, adding that she appreciated statements from Patrick and several senators saying they understood their duties in this process and honoring their sworn oaths.

Link to press conference announcing the impeachment managers.

[Texas House names Ken Paxton impeachment managers; Senate trial will start by Aug. 28 | khou.com](#)

White House and G.O.P. Strike Debt Limit Deal to Avert Default

By [Jim Tankersley](#), [Catie Edmondson](#) and [Luke Broadwater](#), Updated May 30, 2023

With the government on track to reach its borrowing limit within days, negotiators sealed an agreement to raise the debt ceiling for two years while cutting and capping certain federal programs.

President Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Saturday reached an agreement in principle to lift the debt limit for two years while cutting and capping some government spending over the same period, a breakthrough after a marathon set of crisis talks that has brought the nation within days of its first default in history.



Legislative Report

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Congressional passage of the plan before June 5, when the Treasury is projected to exhaust its ability to pay its obligations, is not assured, particularly in the House, which plans to consider it on Wednesday. Republicans hold a narrow majority in the chamber, and right-wing lawmakers who had demanded significantly larger budget cuts in exchange for lifting the borrowing limit were already in revolt.

But the compromise, which would effectively freeze federal spending that had been on track to grow, had the blessing of both the Democratic president and the Republican speaker, raising hopes that it could break the fiscal stalemate that has gripped Washington and the nation for weeks, threatening an economic crisis.

Mr. Biden urged the House and Senate to pass the agreement in a late-night statement issued by the White House, saying it would prevent a catastrophic default.

“It is an important step forward that reduces spending while protecting critical programs for working people and growing the economy for everyone,” Mr. Biden said. “And the agreement protects my and congressional Democrats’ key priorities and legislative accomplishments. The agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want.”

The president and Mr. McCarthy spoke by phone on Saturday evening to resolve final sticking points.

In a nighttime news conference outside his Capitol office that lasted just one minute, Mr. McCarthy said the deal contained “historic reductions in spending, consequential reforms that will lift people out of poverty into the work force, rein in government overreach” and would add no new taxes. He declined to answer questions or provide specifics, but said he planned to release legislative text on Sunday.

“We still have more work to do tonight to finish all the writing of it,” he said.

The plan was structured with the aim of enticing votes from both parties, though it has drawn the ire not only of conservative Republicans but also Democrats furious at being asked to vote for cuts they oppose with the threat of default looming.

Still, it gives Republicans the ability to say that they succeeded in reducing some federal spending — even as funding for the military and veterans’ programs would continue to grow — while allowing Democrats to say they spared most domestic programs from significant cuts.

The deal would suspend the borrowing limit, which is currently \$31.4 trillion, for two years — enough to get past the next presidential election.

According to a person familiar with the agreement, it also would impose new work requirements for some recipients of government aid, including food stamps and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. It would place new limits on how long certain recipients of food stamps — people under the age of 54, who do not have children — could benefit from the program. But it also would expand food stamp access for veterans and the homeless, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the package.

The tentative deal also claws back some unspent money from a previous pandemic relief bill, and reduces by \$10 billion — to \$70 billion from \$80 billion — new enforcement funding for the I.R.S. to crack down on tax cheats. It includes measures meant to speed environmental reviews of certain energy projects and a provision meant to force the president to find budget savings to offset the costs of a unilateral action, like forgiving student loans — though administration officials could circumvent that requirement. It also includes an enforcement measure that is meant to avert a government shutdown later this year.

The work requirements and the environmental review reforms were among the last details the two sides worked out on Saturday.

White House and congressional negotiators — working around the clock at the Capitol, in the White House and virtually — pushed the resolution nearly to the last minute, increasing pressure on lawmakers to accept a solution unpopular with activists on both the right and left. Economists and Wall Street analysts warned that a default would be devastating and potentially lead to a global economic meltdown.

To avert a default, the House and the Senate must pass the deal and send it to Mr. Biden for his signature. That promises to be a heavy lift for both Mr. McCarthy and [Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York, the Democratic leader](#), who must now cobble together a coalition of House Republicans and Democrats to push it through.

Mr. McCarthy has repeatedly said he believes a majority of his conference would vote for the deal, but it is not clear yet how many Republicans will back the compromise — and how many Democrats might be needed to vote for it to make up for G.O.P. defections.

The path also is likely to be rocky in the Senate, where quick action requires bipartisan support and conservatives have signaled they are unwilling to go along.



Legislative Report

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In a sign of their displeasure, House Freedom Caucus members were huddling to identify procedural tools to delay passage of the agreement or make the bill more conservative.

Republicans have refused for months to raise the debt limit unless Mr. Biden agreed to spending cuts and reducing future debt — risking a default to wield their leverage. The final agreement accomplishes their goal, but only modestly. A New York Times analysis of the spending caps at the center of the agreement suggests they will reduce federal spending by about \$650 billion over a decade, if spending grows at the expected rate of inflation after the caps lift in two years.

The cuts in the package are almost certainly both too modest to win the votes of hard-line conservatives and too stringent to win the votes of progressives in the House. Lawmakers in the House Freedom Caucus were privately pillorying the deal on Saturday night, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus had already begun to fume about it even before negotiators finalized the agreement.

Understand the Debt Limit Deal

Lifting the debt ceiling. The deal reached by President Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy would suspend the nation's debt limit until January 2025. This would allow the government to keep borrowing money so it can pay its bills on time.

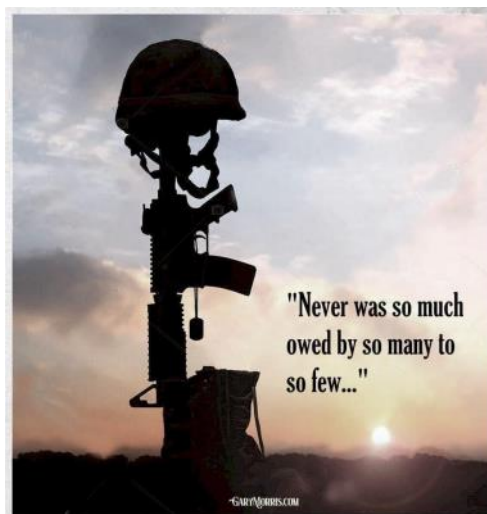
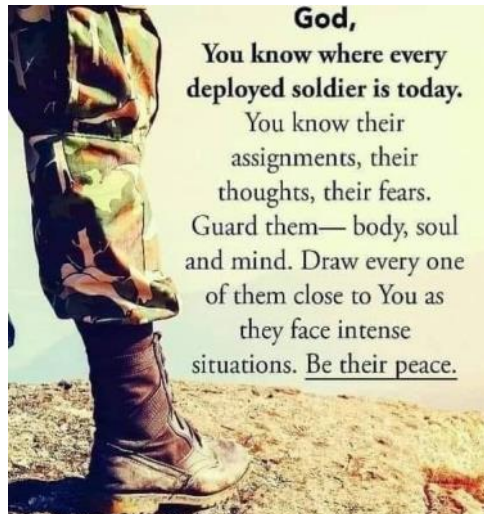
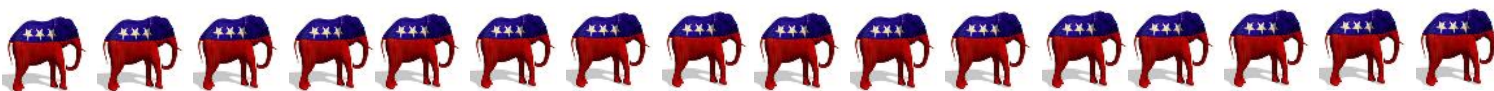
Spending caps and cuts. In exchange for suspending the debt ceiling, Republicans demanded a range of concessions. Chief among them are caps on some spending over the next two years. The deal also claws back \$10 billion in I.R.S. funding.

Food stamps. The bill would place additional work requirements on older Americans who receive assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, but it also would expand food stamp access for veterans and homeless people.

Student loans. The legislation would officially end Biden's freeze on student loan repayments by the end of summer. It would also prevent the president from issuing another last-minute extension, as he has done several times.

Environmental impact. Both sides agreed to new measures to get energy projects approved more quickly. The deal includes a win for Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, a Democrat who strongly supports fossil fuels, by fast-tracking the construction a contentious pipeline.

[Link to Press Conference announcing Debt Ceiling Agreement](#)





AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



MEMORIAL DAY – AMERICA’S MOST SOLEMN OCCASION

JUNE 1, 2023

The First 'Decoration Day

Back in 1996, [David Blight](#), a professor of American History at Yale University, was [researching a book](#) on the Civil War when he had one of those once-in-a-career eureka moments. A curator at Harvard’s [Houghton Library](#) asked if he wanted to look through two boxes of unsorted material from Union veterans.

“There was a file labeled ‘First Decoration Day,’” remembers Blight, still amazed at his good fortune. “And inside on a piece of cardboard was a narrative handwritten by an old veteran, plus a date referencing an article in *The New York Tribune*. That narrative told the essence of the story that I ended up telling in my book, of this march on the racetrack in 1865.”

The racetrack in question was the Washington Race Course and Jockey Club in Charleston, South Carolina. In the late stages of the Civil War, the Confederate army transformed the formerly posh country club into a makeshift prison for Union captives. More than 260 Union soldiers died from disease and exposure while being held in the racetrack’s open-air infield. Their bodies were hastily buried in a mass grave behind the grandstands.

When Charleston fell and Confederate troops evacuated the badly damaged city, those freed from enslavement remained. One of the first things those emancipated men and women did was to give the fallen Union prisoners a proper burial. They exhumed the mass grave and reinterred the bodies in a new cemetery with a tall, whitewashed fence inscribed with the words: “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

And then on May 1, 1865, something even more extraordinary happened. According to two reports that Blight found in *The New York Tribune* and *The Charleston Courier*, a crowd of 10,000 people, mostly freed [slaves](#) with some white missionaries, staged a parade around the race track. Three thousand Black schoolchildren carried bouquets of flowers and sang “John Brown’s Body.” Members of the famed 54th Massachusetts and other Black Union regiments were in attendance and performed double-time marches. Black ministers recited verses from the Bible.

Another recounting of the story: Three weeks after the Confederate surrender, an unusual procession entered the former camp: On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 people recently freed from enslavement, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops (including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry) and a handful of white Charlestonians, gathered in the camp to consecrate a new, proper burial site for the Union dead. The group sang hymns, gave readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the “Martyrs of the Race Course.”

If the news reports are accurate, the 1865 gathering at the Charleston racetrack would be the earliest Memorial Day commemoration on record.

And so it was, that upon a remarkable discovery in a dusty Harvard University archive in the late 1990s, historians learned about this Memorial Day commemoration, less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865, organized by a group of Black people freed from enslavement.



Video, <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-video> (3 ½ minutes)



Did You Know?

After the [American Civil War](#), a battered United States was faced with the task of burying and honoring the 600,000 to 800,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who had died in the single bloodiest military conflict in American history.

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.

More than 20 towns claim to be the holiday’s ‘birthplace’—but only one has federal recognition. For almost as long as there’s been a holiday, there’s been a rivalry about [who celebrated it first](#). Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois. They’re certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by General Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. Only one town, however, has received the official seal of approval from the U.S. government. In 1966, 100 years after the town of Waterloo, New York, shuttered its businesses and took to the streets for the first of many continuous, community-wide celebrations, President [Lyndon Johnson](#) signed legislation, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, declaring the tiny upstate village the “official” birthplace of Memorial Day.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The ceremonies centered around the mourning- draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, including one by General [James Garfield](#), children from the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



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It was a long road from Decoration Day to an official Memorial Day. Although the term Memorial Day was used beginning in the 1880s, it wasn't until America's entry into [World War I](#) that the tradition was expanded to include those killed in all wars.

In 1950, Congress passed a resolution requesting that the president issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe Memorial Day as a day of [prayer for permanent peace](#). See the image below for an excerpt of the proclamation from The Federal Register.

While Congress recognized Waterloo on May 17, 1966, and Johnson signed the Presidential Proclamation nine days later, it was New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller who first proclaimed the town as the "birthplace" on March 7, 1966.

In 1968, [Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act](#), which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May, not the fourth Monday as some believe. But Memorial Day didn't actually become an official federal holiday until 1971.

Despite the increasing celebration of the holiday as a summer rite of passage, there are some formal rituals still on the books: The [American flag](#) should be hung at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, then raised to the top of the staff.

President Bill Clinton signed the National Moment of Remembrance Act in 2000, which asks Americans to pause and observe a [National Moment of Remembrance](#) at 3 p.m. local time.

Below is an excerpt from The Federal Register of the proclamation of a Memorial Day prayer for permanent peace.



NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States of America, pursuant to the aforementioned resolution, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 30, 1950, and each succeeding Memorial Day, as a day of prayer for permanent peace. And I designate the hour beginning at eleven o'clock in the morning of that day, Eastern Daylight Saving Time, as a period in which all our people may unite in prayer, each in accordance with his own religious faith, for divine aid in bringing enduring peace to a troubled world.

I also request the agencies of the press, radio, television, and other media of public information to join in the observance of that day and of the specified hour by announcements and programs designed to unite the Nation in a universal prayer for permanent peace.

Traditions

Memorial Day traditions have evolved over the years.

- One sacred tradition of the Memorial Day is that the President places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to respect a minute of silence at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to honor those who have died while serving their country.
- For decades, presidents visited the revered site to pay tribute to all who died fighting for their country. In addition to laying a wreath at the tomb, the President delivers an address for the nearby amphitheater.
- By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.
- Many communities feature parades for service men and women as part of annual Memorial Day celebrations.
- Some people [wear poppies as a symbol](#) of the lives lost in service.
- National commemoration of the holiday at Arlington National Cemetery reflects the holiday's earliest tradition: gravestones of the interred are decorated with American flags, while a wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- [Flags are to be flown](#) at half-staff from sunrise until noon, and then raised to the top of the staff until sunset.
- Visiting cemeteries and memorials.
- Wearing a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war - a tradition that [began with a World War I poem](#).



AMERICANISM REPORT

by Ellen Leyrer



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Resources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>, <https://www.history.com/news/where-did-memorial-day-originate>, <https://www.history.com/news/memorial-day-civil-war-slavery-charleston>, <https://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-memorial-day>, <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/5-facts-about-memorial-day-and-meaning/2521561/>, <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/memday.pdf>, <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/memorial-day>, <https://www.usmemorialday.org/history-of-memorial-day>, <https://www.newsweek.com/who-created-memorial-day-origin-birthplace-1710454>, <https://waterloony.com/memorial-day/history/>, <https://www.airforcetimes.com/veterans/military-history/2019/05/27/the-real-history-of-memorial-day/>, <https://www.countryliving.com/life/a5445/history-of-memorial-day/>, <https://www.usmemorialday.org/history-of-memorial-day>, <https://www.usmemorialday.org/general-order-11>, <https://www.history.com/news/world-war-i-poppy-remembrance-symbol-veterans-day>, <https://www.history.com/news/american-civil-war-deaths>, <https://sofrep.com/specialoperations/waterloo-ny-is-home-to-the-nations-memorial-day/>



Engage to Support Conservative Values - Americanism

Ways to Engage

Be an advocate/activist

If you are not as engaged as you want to be, please consider what else you can add to your battle plans in this fight for America.

There are dozens of ways to make a difference. Now is the time for conservatives to get engaged. Being the silent majority is not working. Here are some opportunities to engage:

Contact your representatives, local, state and federal, and tell them your stand on the issues. They work for you:

- Call
- Write
- Email
- Visit in person
- Reach out to an SREC committee person

Gearing up for 2024:

- Precinct Chair – There are several vacancies, and this is a BIG opportunity.
- Volunteer for candidates - phone calls and block walking, having a sign in your yard
- Campaign
- Donate
- Become a Voter Deputy Registrar. You can register people to vote.

Be an election worker:

- Poll greeter (no training required)
- Election clerk, paid position (training is available)
- Election judge, paid position (training is available)

City positions are critical:

- School Board
- City Council
- Planning and Zoning

Other ways to engage and be informed:

- Attend other meetings – You'll learn more ways to engage. You'll be more informed, you'll be entertained, and you'll be encouraged and energized by being with like-minded people.
- Heritage Action for America – <https://heritageaction.com>
- Imprimis Publication (Free) - <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/>
- Texas Scorecard (weekday emails) - <https://texasscorecard.com/texas-minute/>
- Plano Citizens' Coalition - <https://planocitizenscoalition.org/>
- Texas Eagle Forum - <https://www.texaseagleforum.com/>
- True Texas Project - www.TrueTexasProject.com - also has an advocate option
- Heritage.org - <https://www.heritage.org/> - The World's Leading Think Tank for Policy Impact
- Election Integrity Network - <https://whoscounting.us/>
- Save Our Elections - www.SaveOurElections.com
- Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) – www.AMAC.us

Weaponizing Death

Victor Davies Hanson, May 11, 2023, Updated May 15, 2023

Commentary

Recently, there has been a spate of horrific murders.

The killers, whether committing mass shootings or single homicides, are hard to stereotype.

They can be clearly either mentally ill or simply innately evil. They can kill for revenge, for ideological purposes, out of hatred, for notoriety—or for no known reason at all.

They are probably left-wing and right-wing; white, black, and brown; young and old. While their weapons of choice are semi-automatic rifles, there are plenty of killers who favor handguns and even knives.

Unfortunately, these tragedies have increasingly become politicized.

Yet our media and politicians do not apply a common standard of reporting about either the victims, the killers, or the apparent motives and circumstances of the violence.

Instead, each horror is quickly analyzed for its political usefulness. Then, its details are selectively downplayed or emphasized, depending upon the political agenda at work.

A sad example was the terrible murder spree at the private Christian Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. A transgender male shot and killed six people, including three 9-year-old children.

Almost immediately, three media narratives emerged.

One, semi-automatic weapons, not the killer Audrey Hale, were mostly responsible for the massacre.

Two, the shooter's transgender identity profile played no role in the killing whatsoever.

Three, the public had no need to know of the contents of the shooter's "manifesto."

Why?

The media and authorities apparently assumed Hale's written rantings tried to justify the murders because of Christianity's supposed disapproval of transgenderism.

That censored reaction to the Tennessee shooting was quite different from another mass murder committed nearly six weeks later in Allen, Texas, by a former security guard, Mauricio Garcia.

Within minutes of the identification of the shooter, the media blared that Garcia wore pro-Nazi insignia and was thus a "white supremacist."

Apparently, that narrative was deemed useful to promote the idea of white supremacist terrorists using their semi-automatic "assault" weapons to kill for right-wing agendas.

Yet second-generation Hispanic immigrants, whose parents do not speak English, are not likely "white supremacists."

The strained effort to make violent "people of color" into white right-wing killers is reminiscent of Trayvon Martin's death in 2012.

Then, the media reinvented the shooter, half-Peruvian George Zimmerman, into a "white Hispanic." He was transformed into a right-wing vigilante and racist who supposedly hunted down an innocent black teenager.

The media did not wish to portray Martin's death as a fight between a Hispanic and a black teen. Instead, it tried to refashion the shooting as "systemic racism"—to the point of doctoring the 911 tape and photoshopping Zimmerman's police photo to fit its false narrative.

Recently, an African American man named Deion Patterson lethally shot one and wounded four others in an Atlanta medical facility waiting room. His own politics, race, and type of weapon were apparently of little interest. So he was simply described as suffering from mental illness.

The media also did not wish to sensationalize either the profile or circumstances of another contemporaneous mass shooter, Francisco Oropeza. He executed five of his neighbors, including a young boy and two women.

Weaponizing Death

Victor Davies Hanson, May 11, 2023, Updated May 15, 2023

Continued from Page 19

Only later did we learn that Oropeza was, in fact, an immigrant in the country illegally who had been deported four times previously and returned each time through an open border.

Most recently, outrage grew over the homicide of Jordan Neely, a homeless man who frequented the subway and often threatened and occasionally attacked bystanders.

When a would-be good Samaritan and ex-Marine determined that Neely's latest threats to passengers were serious, he subdued him with a chokehold. Tragically, Neely died while being restrained.

A media circus followed. Neely was black. The former Marine who held him down was white. So activists and the media immediately cited the death as yet more proof of systemic racism.

The public was lectured that Neely was a talented impersonator who did professional street imitations of Michael Jackson.

The violent death of his mother, we were told, had traumatized him.

Released subway videos show him on the floor of the subway, thrashing about while the white Marine held him in a headlock.

Protests and demands for a murder indictment followed.

Then later, the inevitable skipped details trickled out, despite, not because of, media coverage.

Neely had been arrested 42 times, including for lewd conduct, with three convictions for violent assaults.

His forte was brutally punching random victims in the face, including a 67-year-old woman, and a 68-year-old Hispanic male.

The news stories also neglected to mention that a black passenger helped subdue Neely.

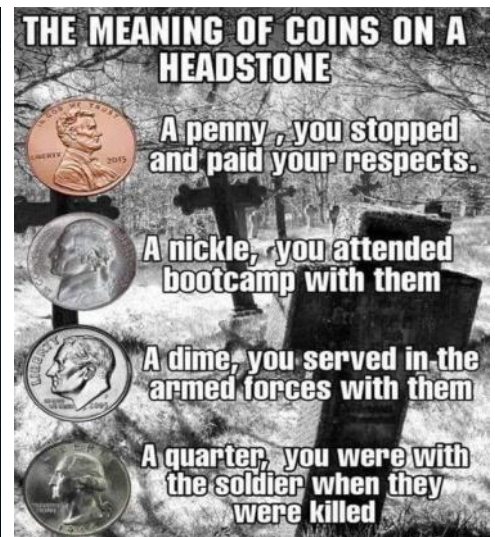
The public learned that there might be other, as yet unreleased, videos of Neely earlier threatening commuters.

Death is traumatic enough without searching for ways to gain political traction from it.

It is eerie how each tragedy prompts a desperate effort to spin narratives of a racist America, where only right-wing killers and vigilantes prey on marginalized people of color and those who are transgender.

Once these fables become "facts," then the media runs with their fables.

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



Why Biden Can't Use the 14th Amendment to Raise the Debt Ceiling

By Rob Natelson, May 16, 2023 Epoch Times, Opinion

Commentary

Some Senate Democrats are urging President Joe Biden to “use” the 14th Amendment to raise the debt limit by executive decree. For example, Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) stated:

“The 14th Amendment is not anyone’s first choice. The first choice is that the Republicans raise the debt ceiling because the United States government never, ever, ever, ever defaults on its legal obligations. But if Kevin McCarthy is going to push the United States over a cliff, then it becomes the president’s responsibility to find an alternative path.”

As a former law professor and a senator for more than 10 years, Warren almost certainly knows that keeping the current debt ceiling doesn’t cause default. It merely forces the government to run a balanced budget—something the government should be doing anyway.

And all Warren needs to do is read the 14th Amendment to learn that it gives the president no power to “use” it to create more debt.

Not Raising the Debt Limit Just Means Balancing the Budget

The debt limit is a law restricting how much the federal government may borrow. The current law says \$34.4 trillion. If Congress refuses to change the law, it will remain at \$34.4 trillion. Borrowing more than that is illegal. So the government will have to pay its debt obligations out of current revenue.

Could the federal government do that? Sure.

Current revenue is about eight times current interest payments. (In other words, debt service is about 13 percent of revenue.) Obviously, there’s enough money coming in to pay existing debt while retaining most government services. Of course, the feds would have to trim other parts of the budget. I’m sure readers have many suggestions on that score.

These facts are no secret. Moreover, they’re buttressed by experience: We have reached earlier debt limits on many occasions, but there has been no default. Mostly what happens is a few federal facilities close. (When that happened last time, the feds closed Rocky Mountain National Park. No problem: The Colorado state government took over the job.)

Still, every time we approach a new debt limit, unscrupulous politicians and their media propagandists claim we’re at risk of default. This is so patently false that we can only conclude that what concerns them isn’t default but something else.

What is that “something else”? That people might learn they really don’t need all that exorbitant federal spending. That they might decide they like the budget being balanced.

The 14th Amendment

The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868, soon after the Civil War. It’s the longest amendment ever adopted, because it addressed a multiplicity of issues. One reason for the amendment was to ensure that future Congresses, even if dominated by members from former Confederate states, would honor the Union Civil War debt.

The amendment has five sections. Sections 4 and 5 are relevant to our discussion. Here’s the pertinent language:

“Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law ... shall not be questioned ...

“Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.”

Notice what this language says:

- The validity of U.S. public debt shall not be questioned. This means that the federal government may not use any pretext for refusing to pay off debt instruments, such as savings bonds and Treasury bills.

Why Biden Can't Use the 14th Amendment to Raise the Debt Ceiling

By Rob Natelson, May 16, 2023 Epoch Times, Opinion

Continued from Page 21

- The amendment grants Congress the power to pass laws to ensure our debt obligations are met.

Now notice what this language doesn't say:

- It doesn't say the government must borrow more to pay off existing debt; Congress may meet its obligations from existing revenue.
- It doesn't say Congress must change legal limits on borrowing.
- Although it grants power to Congress, it grants none to the president—other than to enforce the laws enacted by Congress. This is because the Constitution requires that the president “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed” (Article II, Section 3). One of those laws the president must enforce is the national debt limit.

This Isn't a Mere Technicality

The principle that a government's financial powers are lodged in a representative legislature rather than the executive is central to our political system. Many people died for that ideal.

When, in the 17th century, King Charles I exercised financial powers without the approval of Parliament, it led directly to the English Civil War. The king lost that war and his head (literally).

Then, in the 18th century, King George III and a Parliament not representing Americans tried to tax Americans. This led directly to the American Revolution. Again, the king lost. He did keep his head, but he lost all his power within the United States and most of it within Britain.

Biden would be wise to consult these precedents.

The fact that people such as Warren should even mention the possibility of the president's violating the law and unilaterally taking on more public debt tells us what we need to know about them.

The Makings of Calamity

One of the talking points among those who want to raise the debt limit is that failure to do so would be a “calamity.” Or so claims Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. From experience, we know this isn't true.

But here's a real recipe for calamity: Imagine that to pay current debt without cutting spending, Biden tries to sell debt instruments on his own authority. (Call them “Biden Bonds.”) When the Supreme Court strikes down this autocratic edict (as it has struck down several of Biden's other autocratic edicts), what then would be the effect on United States credit?

And since people in the bond market are risking their own money as Warren and Yellen are not, how many of them would be willing to purchase Biden Bonds? And if they refused to do so, what would that do to U.S. credit?

How Can We Avoid This in the Future?

For more than 50 years, a super-majority of the American people have favored a constitutional amendment forcing the federal government, except in rare cases, to run a balanced budget. That would stop the feds from piling up more and more debt.

In 2017, I wrote (admittedly, a first draft) of such an amendment. It isn't overly technical. It merely says this: Before Congress may raise the debt limit—in other words, before it runs a budget deficit—Congress must get the approval of a majority of the legislatures of states containing a majority of the U.S. population ([pdf](#)).

There are two principal reasons we don't have a balanced budget amendment: Congress refuses to propose one for the states to ratify, and apologists for the national oligarchy have been misleading Americans about the procedure for proposing an amendment through a convention of states.

Eventually, Americans will get fed up with the delay and force their state lawmakers to call a convention. Let's hope it will not be too late.

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

Early Voting Begins Tuesday, May 30th for the Joint General and Special Election Runoff

Hello Everyone,

Please see the below information for Early Voting for the Joint General and Special Runoff Election.

This election is very important. By voting for **Cathie Alexander** and **Jay Saad** for Collin County Board of Trustees, we ensure Collin College continues to provide academic excellence to community at large. Why is this so important? Because **Cathie Alexander** and **Jay Saad** are running against Democrat activist not people interested in being on the Collin College Board of Trustees to continue improve Collin College. They are bringing with them the usual Democrat baggage.

Scott Coleman, Place 2 is running on a lie that has been debunked many times. He is claims he will use college funds wisely and accuses the Collin College Board of Trustee of wasting money by firing teachers unnecessarily. What he didn't say is they were removing bad professors who were failing to do their jobs. He claims the faculty doesn't feel supported, what he really means is Democrat faculty members are dismayed they have not been able to focus on Democrat school changing polices that have nothing to do with education. He has laundry list of money raising things for the Democrat activist polices that only some staff want that will not help students.

Stacey Donald, the Place 3 incumbent, has spent her last term at Collin College not standing for the flag, pushing transgenderism over academic excellence and not voting for common sense academic improvement because she focused on bathroom polices her entire term. At one debate a few weeks ago, she said her goal this year was to attract more Hispanics, so she can get federal funding to pay for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. Adults seeking higher education at Collin College don't have time for her activist policies where everything she focuses on has to do with your sex and race. This is Collin County where people move to escape this type of money wasting, partisan Democrat behavior you see in Dallas.

Both Stacey Donald and Scott Coleman are being funded heavily by the Democrat party of Dallas. They are outspending our candidates and focusing on DEI polices. In May, the nation sent a big message to Budweiser and Target. It's time we do the same for Collin College, let's keep crazy, unhinged Democrat polices out of the classroom. Please share this email, we need to keep Collin County strong!

CANDIDATES WHO WILL SUPPORT FAMILIES

- STRONG FAMILIES
- QUALITY EDUCATION
- PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
- LIMITED GOVERNMENT
- OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

VOTE EARLY MAY 30- JUNE 6
ELECTION DAY JUNE 10

Pat. and partner by the Collin County Conservative Republicans

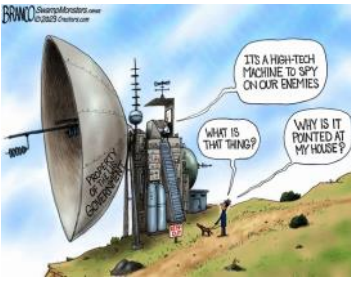
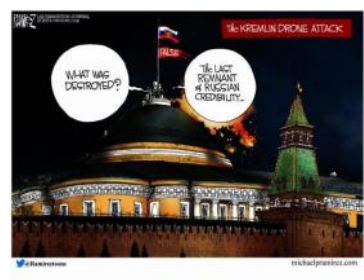
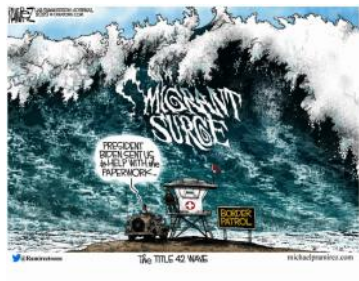
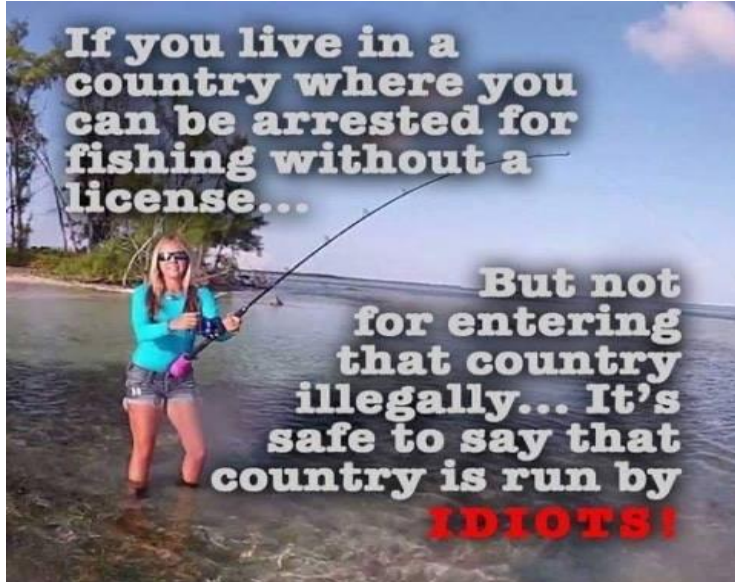
JAY SAAD
COLLIN COLLEGE
TRUSTEE, PLACE 2
(INCUMBENT)

CATHIE ALEXANDER
FOR COLLIN COLLEGE
TRUSTEE, PLACE 3

Tuesday, May 30	Open: 8:00 AM	Close: 5:00 PM
Wednesday May 31	Open: 8:00 AM	Close: 5:00 PM
Thursday, June 01	Open: 8:00 AM	Close: 5:00 PM
Friday, June 02	Open: 8:00 AM	Close: 5:00 PM
Saturday, June 03	Open: 8:00 AM	Close: 5:00 PM
Monday, June 05	Open: 7:00 AM	Close: 7:00 PM
Tuesday, June 6	Open: 7:00 AM	Close: 7:00 PM

Election Day: Saturday, June 10, 2023 | Open 7:00am - Close: 7:00pm

Political Cartoons



A rock in bad hands killed Abel. A rock in good hands killed Goliath. It's not about the rock.

The End of Education as We Know It? (Part 2 of 2)

By Matthew John, April 4,, 2023

6 things you can do to combat ChatCPT's impace on learning

The new artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot known as ChatGPT is poised to have an outsized effect on the educational landscape, for better or for worse.

Which outcome it will lead to is largely in the hands of parents, educators, and—ultimately—our children, and how they respond to it.

To ignore it is to do so at one's own risk.

Cheating is now exponentially easier, quicker, and less costly; and also far lower risk, as ChatGPT's output isn't very traceable, and the software meant to combat such things has much catching up to do. (Even the makers of ChatGPT, OpenAI, find that their best tool for detecting AI writing is only able to spot it [26 percent of the time.](#))

All of this hasn't been lost on students. One [recent survey](#) revealed that more than 1 in 4 K–12 teachers have caught students cheating with ChatGPT. In [another survey](#), of college students, 30 percent—nearly 1 in 3—admitted to having used it on an assignment.

So what can you, as a parent or educator, do to help keep the popular bot from undermining your kids' development as writers, thinkers, and future citizens? Here are six possibilities.

Ban or Block It

This will probably be the default course of action for many institutions, in due course. [New York City's public schools](#) led the way, banning ChatGPT in January 2023. Others across the country have followed suit, with more surely to do the same, as the ramifications of the new technology are fully felt.

Banning it isn't as easy as one might imagine, however. Suppose the chatbot's website is blacklisted by a school's firewall. That's a good start, as it means no access through the campus internet portal.

But internet access is far more ubiquitous than in decades past, and so that pesky bot is everywhere your child's smartphone goes, too. What's to prevent a student from accessing it, say, in the cafeteria, hallway, or bathroom, away from prying eyes and off the school network?

For a ban on school grounds to really reach full impact, it means collecting smartphones and other devices with internet capability. While some schools have no-device policies (with independent schools leading the way), the majority don't, and implementation adds what for many would be a large layer of a logistical nightmare.

Parents can do their part and at least look after their own kids by using parental controls, filters, and specialized software on devices. Just as important as mobile devices, of course, are the internet setup you have at home and how any personal computers are configured. Common Sense Media offers [helpful advice](#) on how to configure things, and what tools you might utilize for the task.

If you've covered your part on the home front, that's half the battle. And if your child's school isn't doing its part, your voice and concerns as a parent are important to express.

Have That Talk About the Birds and Bots

The bees can wait. The bots can't.

Even if your child is in elementary school, it isn't too early to have some important conversations about the responsible use of technology and the ethics of using AI tools.

While almost every child knows by a certain age that cheating is wrong, with ChatGPT, the lines can become blurred. It can do many helpful and productive things, after all, and it can serve as a resource or tool for studying and learning. Many educators are trying to tap into this side and teach kids to use it constructively.

But the problem is that it's a slippery slope, and one is never more than just a few clicks (or "prompts," more accurately) away from letting the chatbot do all the thinking—or essay writing—for you. It's easy to have a moment of weakness, or panic, that leads to a very bad decision. And even at its best, as a research tool or study aid, the tool might very well foster dependency.

If you're looking for an analogy, I think it's never been more appropriate to invoke the phrase "playing with fire."

All of these are things that should be talked about. And that's true every bit as much if your household (or school) opts to block

The End of Education as We Know It? (Part 2 of 2)

By Matthew John, April

Continued from Page 25

ChatGPT. It's important for children to know the "why" of the decision, and understand that it's a reasoned move that has to do with their best interests.

Perhaps the greatest teachable moment of it all is the chance to foster moral reasoning, virtuous decision-making, and personal responsibility.

Children who are fortunate to have adults nurturing these values and traits in them will be infinitely better prepared for handling the temptations of today's chatbots—or whatever it is next coming down the tech pipeline.

Make a Pledge of It

Some high schools and colleges require new students to take an honor pledge. Such a rite a passage could provide a defense against the lure of technology and the temptation to cheat. (Biba Kayewich)

Talk may be cheap, as they say. So why not go one step further and consider implementing—at the school level—an honor code? In days past, many institutions prided themselves on such things and made honor pledges and the like a defining part of character-centered education.

Examples of these still abound, and at multiple age levels. Haverford College, in Pennsylvania, has been carrying on the tradition of [its honor code](#) for more than 125 years, and it's still going strong. At the secondary level, St. George's School, in Rhode Island, begins each academic year with [an honor code ceremony](#) in the school's chapel, with students signing their name into an honor book as a pledge of fidelity. Breakout discussions follow to help internalize it all.

Rites of passage and traditions such as these provide a powerful buttress against the lure of technologies and tendencies that might cater to our lesser whims.

When implemented at the schoolwide level, they become part of the culture of a place, and a shared value, or practice, of the entire community. They can provide a behavioral norm that's in everyone's best interest. Doing the right thing becomes just what you do, even when nobody's watching.

Provide Strategic Professional Development

One [recent survey](#) by Study.com found that 72 percent of teachers haven't received any form of faculty guidance on how to handle ChatGPT. That means the majority of teachers are having to go it alone, professionally, on this one.

While the topic is certainly the stuff of lunchtime chats, casual conversations, and ad hoc troubleshooting, these are no substitutes for administrative guidance on the matter. School leaders need to provide training and perspectives—and ideally, a position—on handling the technology if faculty are to respond as thoughtfully as possible and, more importantly, all be on the same page.

If students are using it as widely as believed, it's tantamount that school resources be marshaled to prepare teachers to deal with the problem—and quickly.

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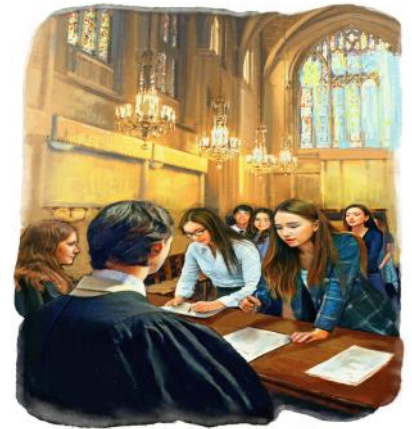
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Make Smart Pedagogical Moves

A flipped classroom decreases the chances of cheating while increasing the teacher's opportunities to give feedback to each student. (Biba Kayewich)

There's a lot that teachers can do, in terms of lesson planning and teaching methods, to offset the potential of ChatGPT causing dam-



The End of Education as We Know It? (Part 2 of 2)

By Matthew John, April

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age. These needn't be seen as concessions, however. There are well-founded pedagogical moves that many might want to explore, anyway, if new to them.

One move is to consider “flipping” one’s classroom to some degree. That means, in simplest terms, assigning what would normally be in-class direct instruction (e.g., “lecturing”) as out-of-class assignments. Students would watch a video clip, at home and in their own time, of the presentation and come to class ready to engage in discussion, role plays, and work related to what was taught in the video. This would include doing writing work, for example, in an English class.

This also has the advantage of freeing up teachers to engage with students, one on one or in small groups, and provide individualized feedback in real time. It allows the instructor to take on more of a “coach” type role—for instance, circulating and helping students to implement key points for constructing an opening paragraph, or solving a quadratic equation.

This also can result in some really terrific energy in the classroom, as pens are whirling, keys are clicking away, and focused conversations are happening. Everyone’s on task, doing actual work. It can build a great amount of student confidence, as nobody is ever apt to be stuck for long. I’ve personally loved being able to help get young essay writers out of “writers block” with on-the-spot tips, prompts, and encouragement.

(For the many English teachers who’ve embraced a writing workshop model, as in the above description, ChatGPT is about as frightening as a fly on the wall.)

While this might have sounded onerous for the educator a few years ago when the “flipped” movement was getting a lot of buzz, in a post-pandemic era, it’s old hat for many. Or at least, not a huge leap. Abundant resources are there to support the transition. Check out the website modernclassrooms.org for resources, videos, and research supporting the approach.



Even if one doesn’t go all the way in flipping things around, a little tinkering can go far. To illustrate, for a social studies paper, initial research could be done as a class in the library, as several of my colleagues like to do. (It’s a great chance to teach and model information-gathering skills, apart from a nice change of scene!)

That can be followed up with hashing out an initial thesis statement in class, along with doing a first outline there. (I often like to see this done on good old-fashioned paper, as it’s more tangible and allows for rich markup from peers or the teacher on the spot.) One can also do other forms of pre-writing in class, which allows the teacher to guide students through it and see their work in real time. Again, this by default makes everything transparent.

You can also go a step further by allotting time in class for constructing opening paragraphs or even writing much of the first draft—perhaps even, again, on paper.

All of this not only builds confidence in students and gives them valuable practice and time on task, but also makes their thinking visible. To help students get the most out of it,

I like to give feedback at each stage of the writing process; peer feedback is great, too.

With these creative approaches and others like them, ChatGPT should have far less appeal to students. By the time they hit that second paragraph of the first draft, they’re off and running, on their own two feet.

Benchmark It

Here’s one last suggestion for those wishing to go the extra mile, and for those who are still leery about the specter of the bot (which perhaps your school has yet to ban).

In the first week of school, have students write an essay, in class and by hand, as a baseline or “benchmark” assessment. It doesn’t matter so much what the topic is, though it might be wise to have it mirror the type of writing students will be doing in your class later on (e.g., persuasive, narrative, etc.). It could spill over to a second class if need be.

The point is to capture a sample of where the student is at and what their work looks like, left to their own (non-electronic!) devices. File it away, and should the need ever arise, you’ll have a reference point for what the student’s unadulterated work looks like. It can be surprisingly helpful.

Think of this as an old-school plagiarism detector. It may not be AI-powered, but it’s apt to be just as good, if not better.

Matthew John is a veteran teacher and writer who is passionate about history, culture, and good literature. He lives in New York.



Try this: Trump's popularity and national fatigue with leftist outcomes -- transgender beer, rampant crime, invasion of illegals -- and America has enough and gives Trump more votes than the other guy in 2024 -- obvious to all. Then, the election is stolen!

The Trump campaign focuses on not getting screwed with ballot harvesting -- blind to the dozen other forms of fraud coming their way.

This is where the multilayered, 20-years-in-the-making, voter fraud swamp comes out from the deep with everything they have. A first step is to rally at the Spy Museum to get all [the players](#) on the same page.

The Trump team focuses on ballot harvesting. Behind them is the hapless Republican National Committee building a new, just-in-time [year-round voter integrity group](#) engineered to miss over 90% of the institutional voter fraud our collaborative teams found in 2021 and 2022.

What about the other dozen ways leftists have in place today to tilt the scales?

Election fraud infrastructure is layered and multifaceted -- it's not simply about mail-in ballots.

Voter registration time-series data shows the active intercession of governmental election commissions altering data, illegally changing voter rolls, and giving non-government, leftist actors [illegal access](#) to voter rolls during elections -- thus rigging elections.

Current technology employed by Trump and the RNC cannot see any of it -- as we proved in the Kari Lake election.

Our team found active voter commission interference in the data in Arizona and Wisconsin elections. Both swing states.

United States Government agencies are undermining federal elections.

Members of our team interviewed U.S. Postal workers in Illinois and Wisconsin -- learning they regularly collect loose mail-in ballots for Democrat operatives -- by the tens of thousands. They toss returned Republican-area ballots into the trash. They actively work with leftist organizations to make sure only leftist-area ballots are in play.

Organizations like ERIC collect the names of 16-year-olds [to be registered](#) the day they turn 18. This information is out of reach for Republicans -- but leftists can use it years before new voters appear on the rolls. States like Texas, shamefully, still use ERIC. Virginia courageously just [checked out](#).

If Trump is the nominee, we know he is blind to most of the institutionalized voter fraud which will overwhelm him regardless of winning vote margins in seven swing states.

Trump historically surrounds himself with mediocre people, who in the clutch disappoint, fail, or betray him. These mediocrities advised Trump to ["out-ballot harvest"](#) the leftists. One day, we may learn who was Trump's "Fauci of ballot harvesting." We will remember her name.

Trump defines ballot harvesting as a get-out-the-vote campaign for Republican ballots. What about all the other ways leftists employed in 2020 and 2022 to win more ballots than votes?

Leftists define ballot engineering as manufacturing the ballots needed, monitoring election commission data in real time, and filling in the ballots required to win. Illegal real-time visibility to election commission data helps a lot. The RNC ignores all these illicit but effective techniques, then litigates after the steal. There's a big difference between the two strategies.

The Trump team rousts the rurals, evangelicals, those few hundred thousand listless registrants who appear in the query: "who is on this state's voter roll and didn't vote last time?"

Trump's organization hears from pastors that hundreds of thousands of evangelicals stayed home. Perhaps they did. Maybe Trump's team can convince churches to collect their ballots and call the more recalcitrant ones.

This may get Trump more ballots than he would receive without the activity. It is absurd to think this changes the 2024 election outcome.

The leftists play a different game. They have a ballot-harvesting enterprise at an industrial scale -- funded for over a decade by Leftist NGOs.

In every swing state, we found from 5% - 18% of the voters with "anomalies." People 1,000 years old. Registered at a restaurant. Living in a place with no bedrooms. Registered at a hotel -- and voting from there -- for the last five years. Voters registered in an apartment building in 2016 that was constructed in 2020. 67-year-olds voting every year -- from a frat house!

This anomalous army is visible, but not to Trump -- he is stuck with the useless RNC voter rolls.

Take any large population county in any swing state. Compare its voter roll against the corresponding property tax roll. You would think the voter rolls are from a different state than the property tax rolls -- which are the most secure, pristine store of information about what stands



on a piece of dirt. Take multiple copies of voter rolls on different dates, compare every record against the rest, and watch leftist-area registrations swarm 150 days up to the election -- registrants disappearing afterward. Watch 41,000 inactive voters vote, then become inactive again a few weeks later.

We do it daily with Fractal technology. We collect these on our [Undeliverable Ballot Database](#).



There are not enough evangelicals on the planet, nor enough Republicans who did not vote in 2022, to fill the gap between what Leftists will pile onto the ballot stack from collected loose ballots and what Trump can find in churches or riding tractors.

If Trump magically finds the [winning margin](#), the swing state election commissions can -- again -- produce whatever ballots are needed to keep their state slightly out of reach. Or they will change print settings in Republican voting precincts -- again!

Courts and district attorneys will ignore challenges. The media has a narrative for election fraud denial -- just like 2020 and 2022.

Trump is blind to the interwoven, myriad election fraud schemes -- he only heard about the mail-in ballot thing. His campaign blissfully grasps the tool mediocrities would come up with -- try to out-ballot-harvest the pros.

The outcome, as the data shows, is predetermined -- just like 2020 and 2022.

The more successful Trump is, the more he brings out GOP marginals in the seven swing states, the more the leftist fraud infrastructure digs into its endless batch of illegally collected ballots to stop him.

It will be obvious Trump won -- just like Kari Lake. The crime will be too big to hide. Most people will see in stark contrast -- important elections are rigged!

Many Americans missed the importance of the Kari Lake election and why it is a harbinger for 2024.

The Kari Lake election showed leftists will take an election won by a MAGA Republican -- probably by 5-7 points, and shut it down with election commissions screwing with printer settings, changing zip codes days before the election -- and nobody but Kari does anything about it.

Kari Lake's election was stolen by several means -- ballot harvesting may not have been the most significant.

The Kari Lake election shows there is no constraint -- no pushback, no matter how egregious the leftists act. Republicans, moderates, no-labels types, and Chardonnay moms bend over and take it -- let's "just move on, let's focus on the future."

Kari Lake's election is a one-state example of what leftists have in store for Trump in 2024.

When 2024 is stolen -- in broad daylight, with everyone seeing the crowds, the excitement, the late-breaking polls -- then leftists surprisingly win, again with some damaged leftist candidate who barely campaigned -- something will happen.

Most Americans will get it -- finally!

The picture one sees daily of hooded youths carrying loot, in plain sight of the police or security, from the convenience store, the Target, the high-end boutique, with nobody intervening, becomes the picture of American national elections.

In 2024, the story morphs from Trump to the culmination of 20 years of metastasizing election fraud -- finally too obvious to ignore.

It is the Kari Lake thing writ large -- and important elections as Americans once knew them -- are history.

A great question awaits this outcome. What happens when Americans grasp important elections are fake? What will they do?

Jay Valentine led the team that built the eBay fraud detection engine. His team currently manages the largest real-time U.S. election database in existence with over 1.7 billion records and the [Undeliverable Ballot Database](#).

He can be contacted at [Omega4America.com](#), and his Twitter is [@Omega4America](#)

Image: Pexels, [Vitezslav Vylicil](#)

Constitutional Minute Series

By Jennifer Groysman

The Constitution, Congress and Government Debt

By: Judge Andrew Napolitano Published on: May 13, 2023

What would you do if you were driving a vehicle and came upon a traffic light that had both red and green lights on? Most rational folks would stop. After all, the red means “stop and stay stopped until the red light goes off,” and the green means “you may proceed with caution.”

An analogous dilemma faces President Joe Biden today as he attempts to spend money that Congress has ordered to be spent, but which the government does not have, and in place of which it cannot legally borrow.

The big-government mentality that has been running Washington, D.C., since the days of Woodrow Wilson has mismanaged the government into \$31.4 trillion in debt. This number is so vast that — with interest rates rising — the annual interest payments to the owners of that debt will soon consume more than half the revenue collected in taxes.

That will barely leave enough for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security; and all other government expenditures — from defense to the courts to the post office — will need to be funded by higher taxes or debt.

What is Biden to do? Here is the backstory.

After the states won the Revolutionary War and ratified the Constitution, money in the U.S. consisted largely of gold and silver coins issued by the feds and promissory notes backed by gold and silver issued by banks. The Constitution — in order to prevent the type of government debt now confronting Biden and deter the central management of the American economy — conspicuously permits Congress and the states to coin only gold and silver as money, but not to issue paper.

This was the standard until the War Between the States when the Lincoln administration issued \$450 million in paper money, called “greenbacks,” with which it paid its bills and imposed a personal income tax. Neither was authorized by the Constitution. The greenbacks soon caused severe inflation and eventually became worthless.

Prior to the war, the federal government subsisted on tariffs, excise taxes, fees for services and assessments to the states. In 1860, its annual budget was less than \$60 million. During the war, it was spending \$1 million per day. By 1865, its debt had ballooned to about \$3 billion.

How to pay back \$3 billion in 1865?

As the Southern states were reentering the Union — forced as they were to ratify the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments as preconditions to Union reentry and the removal of federal troops from their streets — they soon found themselves extracting money from their residents to repay the lenders who helped the feds finance the war against them.

The congressional Republicans, who had stripped the Supreme Court of jurisdiction to hear appeals on Reconstruction, anticipated judicial resistance to this, so Congress crafted a clause in the 14th Amendment that prohibited anyone from challenging the federal debt that the states would soon collectively be assuming.

The clause reads, “The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law ... shall not be questioned.” Unpacking this clause, we see two underlying values.

Obviously the phrase “shall not be questioned” is not intended to curtail the freedom of speech of persons — as that is a natural right largely immune from governmental interference — but rather the official acts of the states and the judiciary. Stated differently, when the feds assessed the Southern states for their share of the interest on the federal debt, those states could not challenge that assessment in court because the debt they were paying was for a war that had been waged against them. A fair reading of the debates on the 14th Amendment in Congress and elsewhere clearly manifests this congressional concern.

The second underlying value from the clause is that the public debt of the federal government must be “authorized by law.”

Now back to Biden’s red light/green light dilemma.

Big-government types, corporations, banks, the military industrial complex — those who have enriched themselves on federal government largesse — as well as most folks in Congress, academics like Harvard Professor Laurence Tribe and Biden all read the 14th Amendment to embody a legal principal that permits endless debt without express authorization because it “shall not be questioned.”

Yet, such a reading is not only not countenanced by history; it is not even fairly derivable from the plain language of the amendment. In its plain English words, the amendment permits the federal government to incur debt — not to pay all invoices, not to keep the American economy afloat, not to permit politicians to keep campaign promises, not even for emergencies — but only when authorized, not by the president, but “by law.”

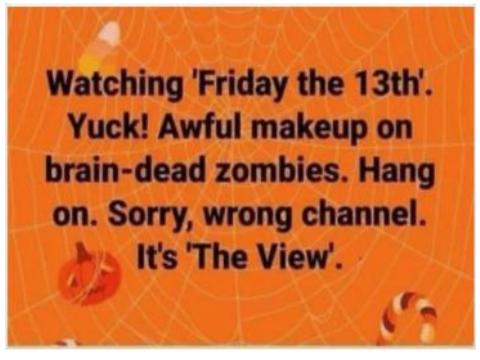
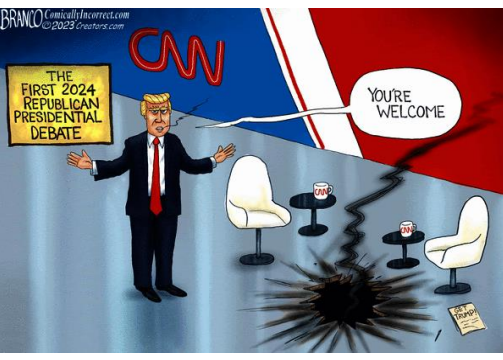
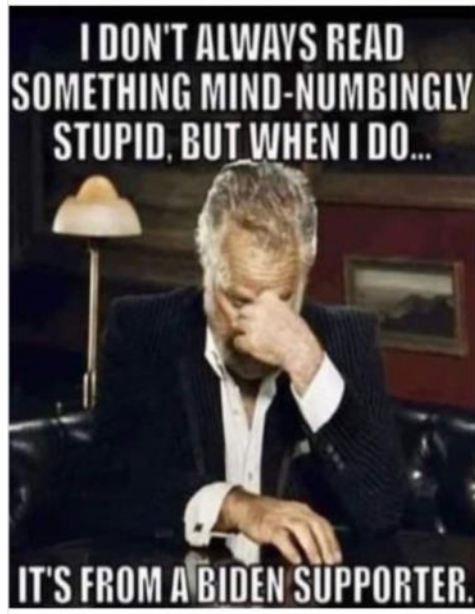
Congress — controlled as it has been by the big-government mentality for the past 100 years, still saddled with debt from World War I, congenitally incapable of living within its means, insidiously reckless enough to incur bills but not raise the money with which to pay them — nevertheless has not authorized by law any debt beyond what is currently on the books.

So, can the president incur debt that is not authorized by law? No. Can he choose which federal laws to enforce and which ones to ignore? No.

When two statutes conflict — thou shalt spend, thou shalt not borrow — can the president decide what the laws mean and how they should be applied? Of course not. He is only the president; he is not the judiciary. Since 1803, it has been the exclusive charge, duty and competence of the judicial branch to say what the laws and the Constitution mean — not Congress and not the president.

Whomever has an unpaid bill to the feds should simply sue them. This will force the courts to resolve the red light/green light dilemma. It might even embarrass Congress into fiscal sanity. But don’t hold your breath waiting for that.

Political Cartoons



Guest GOP Elected Official Article



Office of the Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott Announces Immediate Special Session Agenda

May 29, 2023 | Austin, Texas | [Press Release](#)

Governor Greg Abbott today announced special session #1 and [issued a proclamation](#) identifying agenda items for the Special Session that begins at 9:00 PM on Monday, May 29. Governor Abbott issued the following statement:

"I will soon be signing laws that advance our state and the future of all Texans, including laws that:

- End COVID restrictions and mandates;
- Provide more than \$5.1 billion to secure the border and fund the Texas National Guard, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the border wall;
- Designate Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations;
- Prosecute fentanyl deaths as murder;
- Protect women's sports and female collegiate athletes;
- Focus community colleges on preparing Texas students for high skill careers;
- Increase electric power generation to secure the Texas power grid;
- Hold rogue district attorneys accountable;
- Protect children from life-altering gender mutilation;
- Ban illegal DEI hiring practices in our colleges and universities;
- Add \$1.4 billion to make Texas schools safer;
- Require armed security at all schools;
- Provide access to mental healthcare for students at all schools; and
- Require regular safety checks of school buildings.

Despite these major achievements, more must be done for the people of Texas. Many critical items remain that must be passed. Several special sessions will be required. To ensure that each priority receives the time and attention it deserves to pass into law, only a few will be added each session.

Special session #1 will focus only on cutting property taxes and cracking down on illegal human smuggling.

We must cut property taxes. During the regular session, we added \$17.6 billion to cut property taxes. However, the legislature could not agree on how to allocate funds to accomplish this goal. Texans want and need a path towards eliminating property taxes. The best way to do that is to direct property tax reduction dollars to cut school property tax rates."

Special Session #1 agenda items include:

- **PROPERTY TAXES:** 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.
- **BORDER SECURITY:** Legislation solely for the purpose of increasing or enhancing the penalties for certain criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house.

[View the Governor's special session proclamation.](#)

The Ideas That Formed the Constitution, Part 22: Public Education

Rob Natelson, March 10, 2023, Updated May 1, 2023

Commentary:

This is the last in the series on “The Ideas That Formed the Constitution.” It applies the lessons of the series to how we educate our young.

The U.S. Constitution is America’s highest secular law—“the supreme Law of the Land” (Article VI). It structures the central government, regulates American federalism, and protects individual rights. Its study should, therefore, be a component of the education of every American citizen.

Indeed, for exercising American citizenship, knowing the Constitution is actually more important than studying, say, subsequent U.S. history. And it’s far more significant than many of the other subjects that consume time in public school classrooms.

Understanding the Constitution requires much more than discussing free speech or reading charts with titles such as “How a Bill Becomes a Law.” The Constitution benefited from ideas extending back thousands of years. Most of the thinkers profiled in this series lived during classical antiquity. Those who came later, such as John Locke and Baron Montesquieu, themselves learned from classical wisdom—as well as from subsequent English and European history and from the principles of the Anglo-American legal system.

Finally, the framers who drafted the Constitution and the ratifiers who converted it into law were educated through curricula that centered on classical antiquity.

Begin at the End

Early in my career as a teacher in institutions of higher education, I was taught a basic principle of pedagogy: “When planning a lesson—or a curriculum—begin at the end.”

This means you must start by defining what you want your students to know and be able to do. Once you establish your goal, you work back from there.

Thus, if a goal of American education is to produce good and knowledgeable citizens, then educators must teach students to understand the Constitution properly. And to understand the Constitution requires that students know the foundations upon which the document was constructed. That, in turn, requires significant attention to classical antiquity, as well as to later developments and ideas.

Let me be clear: I’m not suggesting we should simply replicate the education of the Founding Era. I don’t think an education centered on Latin-language classics is appropriate for most students—although it may be appropriate for many future leaders.

K-12 Education

In view of what I’ve just stated, all students, at some point before graduating high school, should:

- Participate in classes in which students read the entire Constitution aloud, clause by clause; the teacher should insert explanations, context, stories, and illustrations as the reading proceeds.
- List the thinkers profiled in this series and their general contributions to the American system of government.
- Identify one or more constitutional contributions made by each of the following American Founders: John Adams, John Dickinson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, George Mason, Gouverneur Morris, Edmund Randolph, George Washington, and the three Connecticut delegates to the Constitutional Convention. (This is the subject of my next Epoch Times series.)
- Identify at least three words or phrases the Constitution uses in ways not common today.
- Explain the Constitution’s division of powers and responsibilities between state and central governments, and understand the reasons behind that division. As explained earlier in this series, knowing those reasons requires some familiarity with classical history, the American

The Ideas That Formed the Constitution, Part 22: Public Education

Rob Natelson, March 10, 2023, Updated May 1, 2023

Continued from Page 34

experience within the British Empire, and the constitutional debates of 1787–1790.

Know the major provisions in the original Constitution and the reasons they were composed as they were. (One benefit: Citizens aware of the numerous factors the framers balanced in working out our presidential election system might be less vulnerable to shallow proposals such as the “National Popular Vote.”)

- Recite the general content of each of the 27 amendments and the principal reasons and historical facts behind each one. (One benefit: Citizens aware of the history behind the 14th Amendment are less likely to be misled by claims for constitutional privileges advanced by modern special interest groups.)

I’m aware that many interest groups compete for school time and that there are few expressions more common than “This ought to be taught in school.” I submit, however, that few subjects now taught are more imperative to the survival of American independence and freedom than America’s basic law.

Canceling marginal subjects can make space available. Our public schools spend inordinate amounts of class time on issues of dubious long-term value, such as some of the social studies topics listed in a 2009 analysis of elementary school textbooks. Can anyone reasonably assert, for example, that studying “life and celebrations in Kenya” should displace studying the governmental system in which one lives and votes?

Legal Education

In the previous essay in this series, I alluded to the book titled “The Shame of American Legal Education,” authored by the late Scottish scholar Alan Watson. Part of the “shame” is how the Constitution is mistaught in law school. You can get a hint of the deficiencies by reflecting on a common joke among law professors: “I don’t have my students read the Constitution; it only confuses them.”

I never thought that joke was funny. When I taught constitutional law, each class read the entire document aloud, with students taking turns until we got through all of it, while I interjected with observations and answered questions.

Producing lawyers, and therefore judges, who thoroughly understand our Supreme Law should be a top priority for all law schools. But reforming legal education will be even more difficult than reforming K-12 schooling.

This is true for several reasons: First, the degree of constitutional literacy appropriate for an attorney is higher than for the average citizen. Second, law professors tend to be poorly educated in history, classics, and language, and they can’t teach what they don’t know. Third, constitutional law professors usually have only minimal familiarity with major fields of law that influenced the Founders (such as real estate, contracts, agency, and trusts). Fourth, most of them either haven’t practiced law or haven’t practiced for very long. Finally, the far-left tilt of legal academia creates positive incentives for disregarding, or even misrepresenting, the Constitution’s true meaning.

The Immediate Solutions

The immediate solutions aren’t perfect, but they will have to do. They rely on constitutional education by private, charter, and home schools; in civic meetings and citizen classes; and in mass media outlets such as talk radio, podcasts, videos, and The Epoch Times. Those outlets will have to undertake the work that the public schools and law schools should be doing, but aren’t.

I have written the foregoing series as one contribution to this effort.

Read prior installments here: [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#), [sixth](#), [seventh](#), [eighth](#), [ninth](#), [10th](#), [11th](#),

[12th](#), [13th](#), [14th](#), [15th](#), [16th](#), [17th](#), [18th](#), [19th](#), [20th](#), and [21st](#).

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

Political Action Hours

By Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



The election is not over. Collin College Board of Trustees has a runoff.

Jay Saad (Place 2) and, one of our own members, Cathie Alexander (Place 3) are each running against Democrats.

Early Voting is Tuesday, May 30th to June 3rd (8am to 5pm). Monday, June 5th and Tuesday, June 6th (7am-7pm).

Election Day is Saturday, June 10th 7a - 7p. Election details can be found at [Election Information \(collincountytx.gov\)](http://Election Information (collincountytx.gov))

Since Jay and Cathie are Republicans and each are running against Democrats,

Plano Republican Women can happily endorse both Jay and Cathie.

Please reach out to these candidates to see how you can help them.

Cathie's website is <https://www.cathieforcollin.com/>

Jay's website is <https://electjaysaad.com/> (214) 802-2208

Also, remember to go vote for them and bring a friend.

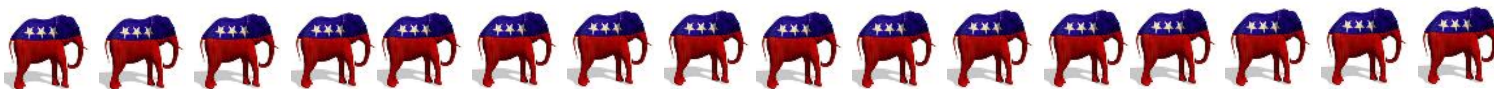
Your time voting and travel to and from the polls counts as hours.

Remember, to turn in your hours and calls to me every month. You can turn them online at our website www.planorepublicanwomen.org.

I encourage all of our members to get out and work to elect the Republican candidate of their choice.

Remember any work you do for candidates counts as Political Action Hours.

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



Poll Greeters Needed For The Special Runoff Election

Hello ladies,

Poll greeters are desperately needed for the Special Runoff Election, please see the below dates. If you can volunteer as a poll greeter please contact, Sharron Albertson at sjalbertston@gmail.com

As you all know this Special Runoff Election for Cathie Alexander and Jay Saad for Collin County Board of Trustees is incredibly important. We need cheerful poll greeters to sway the voters.

- Monday, Jun 05
- Tuesday, Jun 06
- Saturday, June 10th

Cleo Marchese
PRW President





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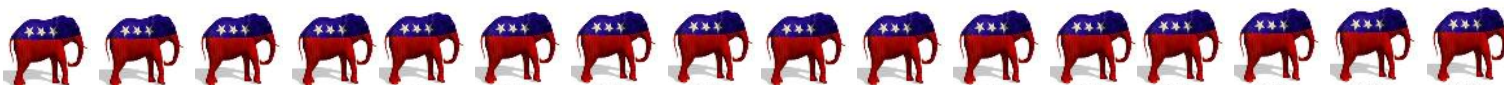


These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.

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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. You can use this QR Code to pay directly on the website. 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



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

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DISTRICT 67

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512-463-0544 · 512-463-9974 (FAX)
JEFF.LEACH@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US



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Member
State Board of Education
District 12

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pam.little@tea.texas.gov

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sfletcher@collincountytexas.gov
972.548.4676 office
972.567.4162 personal cell

Jack Hatchell Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192
McKinney, TX 75071




Cheryl Williams
Commissioner, Precinct 2

2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192, McKinney, TX 75071
Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4626 • Cell (214) 471-3126
Email cdwilliams@collincountytexas.gov



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Collin County Sheriff's Office
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Plano, TX 75086-0358

Anthony Ricciardelli
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Place 2

Tel: 972.941.7107
Cell: 972.345.8730
Fax: 972.423.9587
aricciardelli@plano.gov
plano.gov



City of Plano
1520 K Avenue
Suite 300
Plano, TX 75074

P.O. Box 860358
Plano, TX 75086-0358

Tel: 972.941.7107
Cell: 469.367.1320
Fax: 972.423.9587
shelbywilliams@plano.gov
plano.gov

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James "Jimmy" Angelino
Defense Counsel

Law Offices of James Angelino
www.jamesangelino.com

670 N Preston Road
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(972) 989-7758
jmaddeninsurance@aol.com

428 Valley Glen Drive
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DISTRICT OFFICE
604 S. Watters Rd., Ste. 100
Allen, Texas 75013
972-908-3424 • Fax: 972-908-3361

angela.paxton@senate.texas.gov

GEORGE B. FLINT

Partner
george.flint@solidcounsel.com
P: 214.472.2183 C: 214.773.9500

2600 Network Blvd, Suite 400
Frisco, Texas 75034
P: 214.472.2100 F: 214.472.2150
www.solidcounsel.com




Abraham George
Chairman

2963 West 15th Street
Suite 2981
Plano, Texas 75075


(972) 312-9959 Office
(469) 569-0273 Cell

chairman@collincountygop.org
contact@abrahamgeorge.com
collincountygop.org



GREG WILLIS
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COLLIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
2100 Bloomdale Rd., Ste. 2000A
McKinney, TX 75071
www.collincountytada.com


gwillis@collincountytx.gov 972.548.4330



ANGELA TUCKER
JUDGE
199TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 10030 • McKinney, Texas 75071
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Debra Harvenek	6/4
Laurie Guillot	6/8
Cathy Fang	6/9
Donna Ratkowski	6/9
Donna May	6/11
Evelyn Wechsler	6/18
S Cindy Stachiw	6/19
Marty Rimbey	6/25
Susan Bushey	6/28

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Janet Smith	6/6
Matt Shaheen	6/8
Jeff Leach	6/10
Brook Fulks	6/18
Beth Webb	6/24
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HONOR THE TEXAS FLAG; I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THEE, TEXAS, ONE STATE UNDER GOD, ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.





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

