

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

January 2020

President's Byline: Is Peace between Israel and the Palestinians Possible?



On January 28th, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu unveiled a new Peace plan for Israel and a future Palestinian state. It is the most detailed Middle East Peace plan to be suggested, but will it finally bring peace?

The Middle East Peace Plan: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Peace-to-Prosperty-0120.pdf>

This is the most detailed plan that has been suggested in recent history. It is 181 pages and gives a suggested map with borders of the two states, as well as outlines the things both sides must do for this plan to begin and stay in place. However, the question is will this plan work?

Peace plans have been made and agreed to by both sides in the past; Israel has given up land for peace before. The most recent land for peace exchange was when Israel gave the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. Shortly after the land was given, however, rockets from Gaza were fired into Israel. That sums up how all past peace deals have gone. The Palestinians abide by the deal long enough to get land from Israel, but once they get what they want, they attack it.

The reason every deal has always failed is that most people think the Palestinians just want land. All we have to do is look at history to show us that is not true.

From 1923-1947, England controlled the area that is present day Israel. Under English rule, Jews and Palestinians lived together in relative peace and thousands of Jews would move to the holy land. After World War II, most surviving European Jews wanted to go back to the homeland and make their own Jewish nation; Jews around the world wanted England to return the Jewish homeland back to them. The Palestinians, however, strongly objected to this.

In 1947 England decided the UN should decide what should happen to Israel, so the UN came up with a plan for the Palestinians and the Jews to each have nations of their own. The Jews happily agreed to the deal; however, the Palestinians and other surrounding nations disagreed, despite the Palestinians getting more land than the Jews. They just did not want a Jewish nation in the Middle East. That is why the Palestinians have broken every deal since Israel was created by the UN in 1948. As long as Palestinians don't want a Jewish nation, no deal will ever be permanent.

I have strong doubts this peace deal will work indefinitely. We can only hope that maybe after 72 years of losing to Israel, the Palestinians have been worn down. Perhaps they will agree to the new deal and stick to it. Although, as a Jew, I am doubtful that it will last.

Jennifer Groysman

president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

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Calendar of Events

**February Board Meeting
February 4th**

**Republican Women For-
um for District Judges
February 6th**

**February Meeting
February 18th**

**GPO Chair Debate
February 19th**

February Meeting

Next PRW Meeting:
Tuesday, February 18, 2020



Speaker: Lathan Watts
Director of Legal Communications for First Liberty Institute

Originally called Liberty Legal Institute, the organization was founded in 1972 as a division of Free Market Foundation. In 1997, Kelly Shackelford formed Liberty Institute as a nonprofit law firm specializing in religious liberty cases primarily litigated in Texas.

In 2009, Liberty Legal officially became Liberty Institute, quickly gaining renown as the premiere legal organization defending religious liberty beyond our Texas borders. In 2012, Liberty Institute expanded to become a nationwide organization, expanding litigation to all 50 states. In 2016, the organization's name changed to First Liberty Institute and now handles hundreds of religious liberty case each year through a growing network of elite, volunteer attorneys.

Today, as the largest legal organization exclusively dedicated to defending religious liberty, First Liberty Institute continues to lead the fight for religious liberty across every state and every generation of Americans.

Lathan Watts is the Director of Legal Communications for First Liberty Institute, responsible for all efforts to increase First Liberty Institute's profile in local and national markets. His focus is on expanding public awareness of First Liberty's mission, legal matters, and educational projects by coordinating communication with community leaders, influencers, policy makers, and the public at large.

Prior to joining First Liberty Institute, Watts served in various campaign and official staff positions for U.S. Congressman Jeb Hensarling, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, and Texas Governor Rick Perry. His executive leadership roles in non-profit organizations specializing in political affairs and community outreach contributed to the election of numerous members of the U.S. Congress, multiple state legislators, and governors. His work in and around the political process served him well in the four years he spent as a City Councilman in Lewisville, TX.

Watts received his Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi where he served two terms in the student senate one as President Pro Tempore. He received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Harding University, where he was a member of multiple honor societies and the University Concert Choir.

***** NOTE NEW 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, February 14th, 2020

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



January Meeting Photos





AMERICANISM REPORT

BY ANNE LOGAN, AMERICANISM CHAIR

Groundhog Day, February 2

If you have lived in Texas for any length of time you know our weather can vary from day to day, or sometimes even hourly. We have had 81 degrees one day and snow the next. Our days often start with the decision of whether we need to layer our clothes, take an umbrella or raincoat, use the sun screen, wear our capris or the fur coat.

We probably all have a favorite TV weather person but on February 2, we have an opportunity to hear from the famous rodent meteorologist Punxsutawney Phil. He will share his prediction for the arrival of spring. If he comes out of his hole and sees his shadow, he gets scared and runs back into his burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather. No shadow means an early spring.

Falling midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, February 2 is a significant day in several ancient and modern traditions. The Celts, for instance, celebrated it as Imbolc, a pagan festival marking the beginning of spring. As Christianity spread through Europe, Imbolc evolved into Candlemas, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be.

Germans expanded this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. The hedgehog was switched to the groundhog by the German settlers in Pennsylvania.

THE FIRST GROUNDHOG DAY

The first celebration of Groundhog's Day was on February 2, 1887 at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. A newspaper editor (Clymer Freas) belonging to a group of groundhog hunters called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog.

Freas said "Today is Groundhog Day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow." The groundhog was given the name Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary.

Other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada.

The movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray made Groundhog's day well know. Since the movie came out the attendance at Gobbler's Knob has grown to tens of thousands to witness Phil's prediction. Nowadays the festivities are presided over by a band of local dignitaries known as the Inner Circle.

Its members wear top hats and conduct the official proceedings in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect.

PUNXSUTAWNEY, PENNSYLVANIA

In 1723, the Delaware Indians settled Punxsutawney as a campsite halfway between the Allegheny and the Susquehanna Rivers. The town is 90 miles northeast of Pittsburgh and has a population of about 6,700.

The Delewares considered groundhogs honorable ancestors. According to the original creation beliefs of the Delaware Indians, their forebears began life as animals.

The name Punxsutawney comes from the Indian name for the location.

The name woodchuck comes from the Indian legend of "Wojak, the groundhog" considered by them to be their ancestral grandfather.



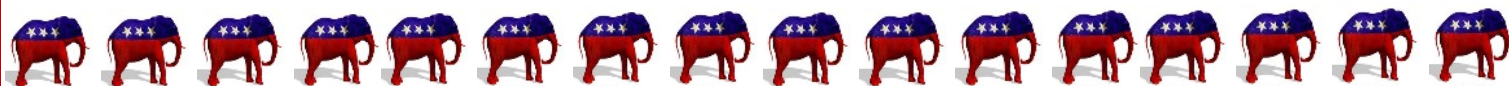
AMERICANISM REPORT

By Anne Logan, Americanism Chair

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Groundhog Day, February 2 -SIX FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

- Phil has seen his shadow 97 times, has not seen it 15 times. 9 years are unaccounted for.
- The National Climatic Data Center says Phil's prediction has been correct 39% of the time.
- According to groundhog.org, legend says that during Prohibition, Phil threatened to impose 60 weeks of winter on the community if he wasn't allowed a drink.
- After the release of *Groundhog Day* crowds as high as 30,000 visited Gobbler's Knob for the ceremony.
- Though groundhogs typically live only 6-8 years, lore suggests that Phil drinks a magic elixir every summer which gives him 7 more years of life.
- Groundhogs, also called wood chucks, typically weigh 12-15 pounds. They eat vegetables and fruits.
- They whistle when they're frightened or looking for a mate. They are sometimes called whistle pigs.



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS CHAIRMAN

DEBATE

PRESENTED BY
COLLIN COUNTY
YOUNG REPUBLICANS

Invitation

The Collin County Young Republicans are hosting a debate between the two candidates for RPT Chair: current chairman, James Dickey, and his opponent, Lt. Col. Allen West.

February 19 at the Frisco Collin College Campus Convention Center (NW corner of the campus).

It is free to attend but we are asking for donations to cover the room cost (which fortunately was reserved and paid for before the rate hike!). Anyone is welcome to attend so please forward to your members. We are asking that everyone RSVP as we need a valid headcount for the seating.

RSVP/reserve your ticket at collinyr.com/rsvp and please see attached flyer that can be distributed as you like.

Also, attendees may email their questions for the candidates to ccyrxt@gmail.com by February 11 - as my board will be reviewing all questions before the event to insure this is a balanced, fair, and unbiased debate. There will be opportunities to meet both candidates after the formal program ends.



JAMES DICKEY
INCUMBENT



ALLEN WEST
FORMER CONGRESSMAN

Wednesday, Feb 19 at 6:30 PM

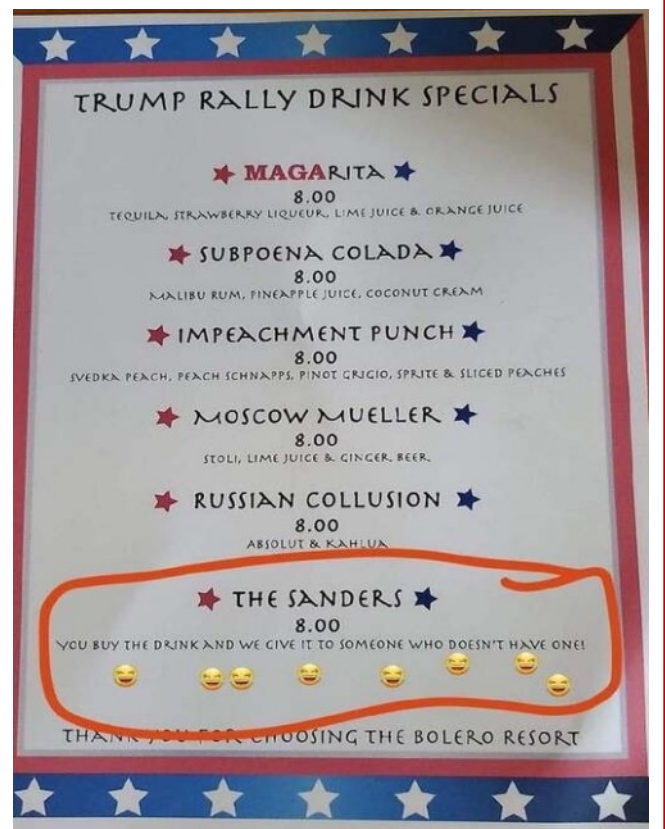
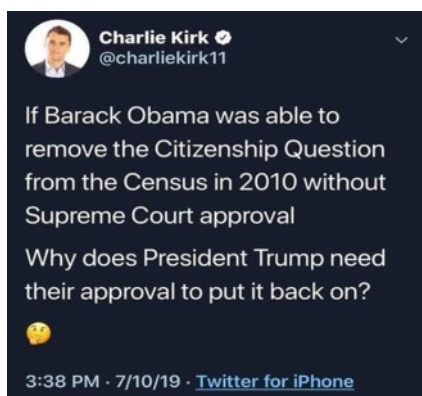
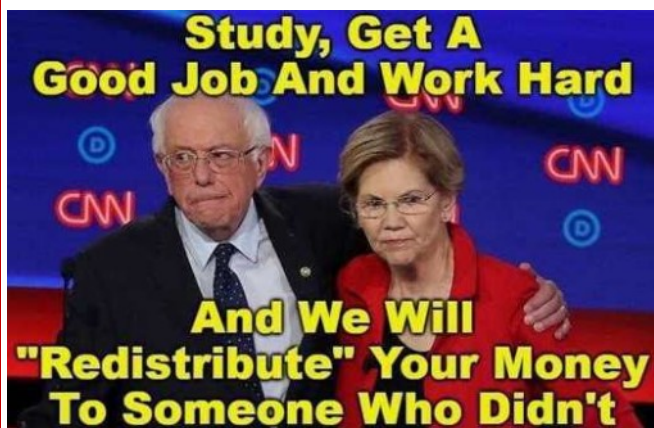
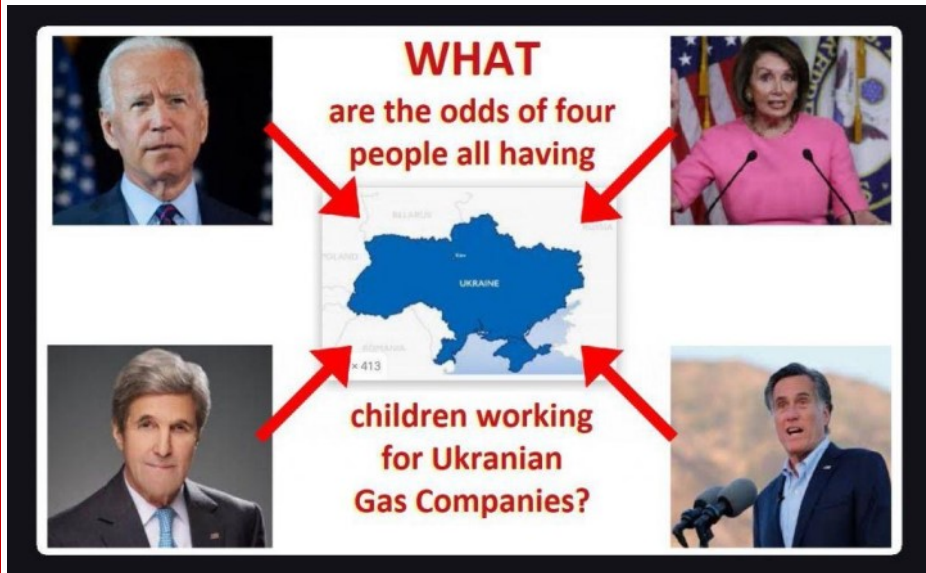
Collin College Frisco Campus
9700 Wade Boulevard, in Frisco

COLLINYR.COM/RSVP



Thursday, February 6th - Republican Women Forum for District Judges, hosted by several of our Republican Women's Clubs, at Cottonwood Creek Church, 1015 Sam Rayburn Tollway (just east of Stacy Road) in Allen at 6:30 PM (Social), 7:00 PM (Program).

Political Cartoons





Legislative Report

2020 State of the Union: What you need to know ahead of Trump's address

President Trump is slated to give his third State of the Union address – and his fourth speech to a joint session of Congress – amid a highly partisan atmosphere in Washington as his impeachment trial continues to roil the Senate.

The State of the Union is a custom in which the president normally gives an update on the economy, national security and other key points while laying out his legislative agenda and priorities for the coming year.

The State of the Union was originally just a written report that the president submitted to Congress, but in 1913 President Woodrow Wilson began the practice of making a public address to Congress in a tradition that continues to this day.

Controversy has surrounded Trump's previous State of the Union addresses: Last year, for example, the address was delayed until February amid a government shutdown. This year, it comes in the same chamber that voted in December to impeach him.

Below is a brief outline of some key facts to know before tuning in to the 2020 State of the Union address.

When is it?

Trump is slated to give his address on the evening of Feb. 4.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., sent Trump the formal invitation to give the address on Dec. 20 – just two days after the House voted to impeach Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. It will be only the second time in U.S. history where an impeached president will give a State of the Union address – the first given in 1999 by Bill Clinton.

The address will also take place one day after the Iowa caucuses, with Democratic presidential hopefuls vying to claim the first prize in the primary calendar. The four senators seeking the nomination – Democrats Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Michael Bennet of Colorado, and Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders – are expected to be in attendance at the State of the Union, as they are already required to be in Washington for the impeachment trial.

Where will it be held?

Following tradition, the State of the Union will take place in the chamber of the House of Representatives inside the U.S. Capitol building in front of the full House and Senate. Supreme Court justices and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are usually in attendance, along with various guests of the president and lawmakers.

Who is on the guest list?

The president's guest list has not been released. The White House usually invites several people to sit with the first lady in the House chamber.

Who is the Designated Survivor?

The White House hasn't said yet – though one member of the president's Cabinet in the presidential line of succession traditionally stays away from the Capitol to preserve the continuity of government in the unlikely case of catastrophe.

Here are ten facts about the State of the Union that you may not know.

1. *The U.S. Constitution requires the president to deliver a State of the Union address to Congress.* Article II, Section 3 stipulates: The president “shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.” Although the Constitution doesn't define “from time to time,” by tradition the president conveys that message once each year. The Constitution says nothing about when the president should deliver the information or how he should deliver it. Until 1934, the State of the Union message was typically delivered in December rather than January.

2. *President Franklin Delano Roosevelt popularized the use of the phrase the “State of the Union” address.* Before FDR took office, presidents had called their annual message to Congress just that, the “Annual Message,” even though the words “State of the Union” appear in the Constitution.

3. *For more than a century, the State of the Union was delivered to Congress in writing rather than in a speech before a joint session of Congress.* George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address—or “Annual Message” if you prefer—in person and in

Legislative Report

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New York. (It was the capital of the United States from 1785 to 1790.) John Adams did likewise during his one term in office. Thomas Jefferson, however, abandoned the in-person speech for the written message, perhaps because he wasn't a great public speaker. The practice of a written message persisted until 1913, when Woodrow Wilson revived the practice of giving a speech. Ever since FDR, presidents have almost always used speeches rather than written messages to fulfill their constitutional obligation to inform Congress about the State of the Union.

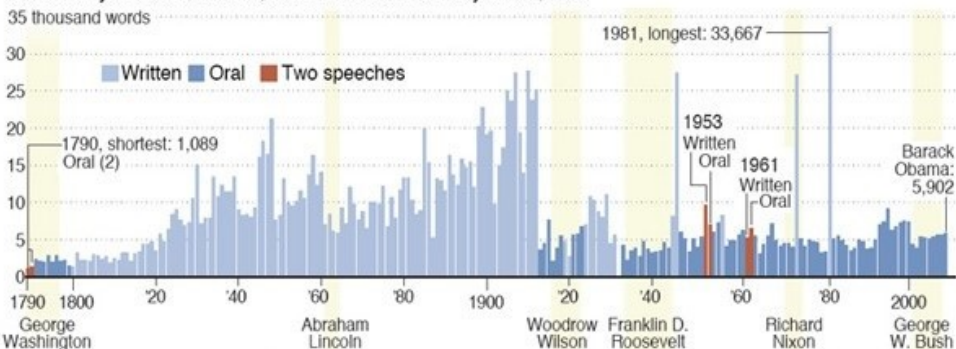
4. *Ronald Reagan began a tradition of not calling a president's first speech to a joint session of Congress a State of the Union address.* Presidents before Reagan had no qualms about giving a State of the Union address immediately upon becoming president. John Kennedy, for instance, gave a State of the Union speech on January 30, 1961, ten days after taking the oath of office. (That speech deserves the title of most alarming State of the Union address ever delivered. Kennedy said that he was speaking at an "hour of national peril," that "the American economy is in trouble," "our cities are engulfed in squalor," and "our supply of clean water is dwindling," but that "all these problems pale when placed beside those which confront us around the world" as "we draw nearer the hour of maximum danger." And to think that my parents' generation regards that time as the good old days.) Reagan, however, called his 1981 speech an "Address Before a Joint Session of Congress on the Program for Economic Recovery." All of Reagan's successors, including Trump, have followed that precedent and declined to call their first speech to a joint session of Congress a State of the Union address. George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush all called their messages "Administration Goals" speeches. Barack Obama and Trump both called their first speeches simply an "Address Before a Joint Session of Congress."

5. *During presidential transition years, Congress sometimes receives annual messages from two different presidents within a span of weeks.* Outgoing presidents can give a State of the Union address even if the incoming president is likely to do the same. Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter all delivered an annual message in their final weeks in office, though only LBJ and Ford did it as a speech to a joint session of Congress.

6. *Some presidents go short in their State of the Union addresses, some go long, very long.* Washington holds the record for brevity, using just 1,089 words in 1790. That's slightly longer than a typical newspaper op-ed. Among presidents since LBJ, Richard Nixon holds the record for shortest State of the Union speech. His 1972 address clocked in at a shade under 29 minutes. Carter holds the record for the longest State of the Union address. His 1981 address, which he (thankfully) delivered to Congress in writing rather than in person, ran 33,667 words. (That's the last time the State of the Union was delivered in writing.) Bill Clinton holds the record for the longest State of the Union address delivered in person, whether that is measured by the number of words (9,190 in 1995) or by the time it took to deliver (one hour, twenty-eight minutes, and forty-nine seconds in 2000). Obama's speeches averaged 6,824 words. His longest speech was 7,304 words in 2010. His shortest was 6,044 in 2016. (Obama's 2009 speech came in at 5,902 words, but he choose not to call that speech to a joint session of Congress a State of the Union address, though he could have if he had wanted to do so.) Trump's speech last February to a joint session of Congress, which again wasn't called a State of the Union address, ran 5,006 words and one hour and ten seconds.

Words used to address the nation

U.S. presidents have used official and unofficial State of the Union addresses to outline proposals for the country with as few as 1,089 words and as many as 33,667.



NOTE: President Obama and Ronald Reagan addressed a "joint session" of Congress. George H.W. Bush's 1989 and Bill Clinton's 1993 messages are called "Administration Goals" speeches and George W. Bush's 2001 speech is referred to as his "Budget Message."

SOURCE: Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project

AP

7. *The prose in State of the Union addresses has gotten simpler over time.* As the mode of delivering State of the Union addresses has shifted from writing to speaking and as the audience for the addresses has shifted from lawmakers to the country at large, their linguistic complexity has declined.

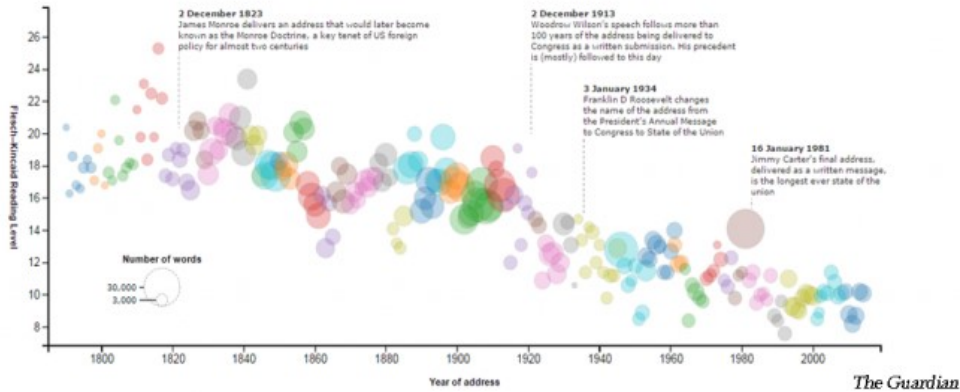
8. *Two presidents never delivered an Annual Message or State of the Union Address.* William Henry Harrison and James Garfield both died before they had the chance to deliver one, Harrison from pneumonia in 1841 and Garfield from an assassin's bullet in 1881.

Legislative Report

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The state of our union is ... dumber: How the linguistic standard of the presidential address has declined

Using the Flesch-Kincaid readability test the Guardian has tracked the reading level of every State of the Union



Doctrines in his annual message in 1823. Theodore Roosevelt added his corollary to the Monroe Doctrine in his annual message in 1904. FDR unveiled his “Four Freedoms” in his 1941 State of the Union address. And George W. Bush warned of the “Axis of Evil” in his 2002 State of the Union address.

9. Technology has expanded the State of the Union’s audience. Calvin Coolidge was the first president to have his State of the Union message broadcast by radio (1923). Truman was the first president to have his State of the Union message broadcast on television (1947). Bill Clinton was the first president to have his State of the Union message broadcast over the Internet (1997).

10. While most State of the Union addresses are only remembered by those who wrote them, the ones with a lasting impact have often tackled foreign policy. James Madison announced the Monroe

Important Upcoming Legislative Dates

Iowa Caucus—Monday, February 3rd

State of the Union Address—Tuesday, February 4th

Senate impeachment trial: Acquittal Vote Scheduled—Wednesday, February 5th

The Senate on Friday voted to block any witnesses from being called in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, a move that marked the beginning of the end of the third Senate trial for a president in US history.

Senate leaders struck an agreement to hold the final vote to acquit Trump on the two articles of impeachment at 4 p.m. ET on Wednesday, following a debate throughout the day on Friday about how to bring the trial to a close. The impeachment trial will resume on Monday.



Interested in Working the Election?

If you want to work this year, please respond to this email that you would like to work. I am attaching the training schedule so those of you who respond will already have this information. I always try to place workers at the vote center that is close to their home if at all possible. Please respond asap! Thanks!

Catherine Gibb
CatGibb65@gmail.com

January Meeting Photos



7 Big Moments in Democrats' Final Arguments to Remove Trump

By Fred Lucas, January 24, 2020 for the Daily Signal

In their final day of arguments that the Senate should remove President Donald Trump from office, House Democrats questioned the president's character and defended former Vice President Joe Biden.

The seven House Democrats who are impeachment managers, acting as prosecutors, used just over 21 of their allotted 24 hours before concluding their third day of arguments on the Senate floor. The Senate adjourned just before 9 p.m.

Trump's legal defense team is scheduled to begin counterarguments Saturday at 10 a.m., but is expected to use only a few hours of the allotted 24 hours and to continue Monday. The team includes White House counsel Pat Cipollone; Trump personal lawyer Jay Sekulow; constitutional lawyer Alan Dershowitz; and former independent counsel Ken Starr.

After each side presents its case, the Senate will vote on whether to call witnesses to testify. It takes a two-thirds majority, or 67 senators, to remove a president from office.

Here are highlights from Day 3 of the Democrats' arguments:

1. 'Imagine It Wasn't Joe Biden'

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., leader of the House managers, made an impassioned plea to the senators to put themselves "in someone else's shoes," in this case, those of Joe Biden.

"Let's imagine it wasn't Joe Biden. Let's imagine it was anyone of us," Schiff said, adding:

Let's imagine the most powerful person in the world was asking a foreign nation to conduct a sham investigation into one of us.

What would we think about it then? Would we think that's a good U.S. policy? Would we think he has every right to do it? Would we think that's a 'perfect' call?

In 2016, Biden, as vice president, threatened to withhold \$1 billion in U.S. aid from Ukraine unless the Eastern European nation fired Viktor Shokin, the state prosecutor who was investigating the Ukrainian energy company Burisma Holdings.

Hunter Biden, the vice president's son, held a high-paying job on the board of Burisma at the same time his father was the Obama administration's point man for Ukraine policy.

In a July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the two men briefly discussed Trump's interest in Ukraine's investigating the matter along with Ukraine's possible meddling in the 2016 U.S. election.

At the time, unknown to Zelenskyy, Trump had put a hold on \$391 million in congressionally approved military aid to Ukraine to counter Russian aggression, which he would lift in September.

Both presidents say there was no pressure on Ukraine to begin investigations.

During his argument Friday on the Senate floor, Schiff brought up former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, who Trump recalled to the United States on May 20, the day of Zelenskyy's inauguration. Yovanovitch continues to work for the State Department.

"Would you think he [Trump] was abusing the power of his office? And if you would, it shouldn't matter that it wasn't you," Schiff continued. "It shouldn't matter that it was Marie Yovanovitch. It shouldn't matter that it was Joe Biden. Because I'll tell you something; The next time, it just may be you."

Schiff warned that Trump likely wouldn't be loyal to his own Republican allies in the Senate if it didn't benefit him.

"Do you think for a moment, no matter what your relationship with this president, no matter how close you are to this president, do you think for a moment that if he felt it was in his interest, he wouldn't ask you to be investigated?" Schiff said.

"If somewhere deep down below, you realize that he would, you cannot leave a man like that in office when he has violated the Constitution. It shouldn't matter that it was Joe Biden. It could have been any of us. It may be any of us," he said.

Schiff later added, referring to the elder Biden: "Yes, he's running for president. He's still a U.S. citizen, and he deserves better than that."

2. Attack on American Character

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., said Trump's conduct represented an assault on the character of the country.

"There's a toxic mess at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and I humbly suggest that it's our collective job on behalf of the American people to try to clean it up," Jeffries said. "President Trump tried to cheat. He got caught, and then he worked hard to cover it up."

Jeffries went so far as to talk about impeachment in the context of the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, the Jim Crow era, and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"America is a great country. We can handle adversity better than any other nation in the world, but what are we going to do about our character?" Jeffries asked, adding:

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President Trump tried to cheat and solicit foreign interference in an American election. That is an attack on our character.

President Trump abused his power and corrupted the highest office in the land. That is an attack on our character.

President Trump tried to cover it all up and hide it from the American people and obstruct Congress. That's an extraordinary attack on our character.

Schiff later made a similar point.

"You don't realize how important character is in the highest office in the land until you don't have it, until you have a president willing to use his power to coerce an ally to help him cheat, to investigate one of our fellow citizens," Schiff said.

3. President Disparaged as 'Dictator'

Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., an impeachment manager who is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, called Trump "a dictator" who must be removed for not cooperating with the House's impeachment inquiry.

"President Trump is an outlier. He's the first and only president to declare himself unaccountable and to ignore subpoenas backed by the Constitution's impeachment power," Nadler said, adding:

If he is not removed from office, if he is permitted to defy the Congress entirely, categorically, to say that subpoenas from Congress in an impeachment inquiry are nonsense, then we will have lost, the House will have lost, the Senate certainly will have lost, all power to hold any president accountable.

Nadler, not mentioning that House Democrats didn't try to enforce their subpoenas through the courts, also said:

This is a determination by President Trump that he wants to be all powerful. He does not have to respect the Congress. He does not have to respect the representatives of the people. Only his will goes. He is a dictator. This must not stand. That is another reason he must be removed from office.

4. Military Consequences

Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo., a former Army Ranger, pushed that military role in buttressing Democrats' national security argument.

"This defense would be laughable if this issue wasn't so serious," Crow said on the Senate floor, in anticipation of an argument the president's lawyers will make. "No, the delay wasn't meaningless. Just ask the Ukrainians sitting in trenches now."

Crow suggested that former national security adviser John Bolton, who Democrats want as a witness in the trial, might have quit because of the hold on aid to Ukraine. "Ambassador Bolton could shed light on that himself if he were to testify," Crow said.

Schiff also noted, while on the Senate floor, the huge reliance Ukraine had on the United States, which provides 10% of the country's military budget.

"Withholding aid has real consequences on real soldiers and their families," Schiff said, adding the hold only "emboldened Russia."

Trump ultimately followed through on military aid to Ukraine to defend itself from Russia, while President Barack Obama did not, Trump's defenders note.

5. Drawing Roberts Into Case

Chief Justice John Roberts is presiding over the trial, as is his constitutional duty. Going back to his confirmation hearing, Roberts generally has said he only calls balls and strikes.

However, on Friday, Schiff broached the subject of having Roberts make the final decision on calling witnesses. Most reports indicate the 45 Senate Democrats and two independents will have a tough time getting four Republicans to join them for a majority to vote for calling witnesses.

Schiff cited Senate precedent from the 1868 impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson, which ended in acquittal. In that trial, Chief Justice Salmon Chase cast a tie-breaking vote.

"We have a very capable justice sitting in that Senate chamber empowered by the Senate rules to decide issues of evidence and privilege," Schiff told reporters. "So if any of these witnesses have a colorable claim that they wish to make or the president on their behalf, we have a justice that is able to make those determinations."

6. Prepping for Trump Lawyers

Crow said he was anticipating the arguments of the president's defense team, set to begin Saturday. "Now since we won't have an opportunity to respond to the president's presentation, I want to take a minute to respond to some of the arguments that I expect them to make," Crow said.

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The Colorado Democrat said the president's lawyers likely will say that Ukraine eventually got the \$391 million in security assistance from the U.S.

"Regardless of whether the aid was ultimately released, the fact that the hold became public sent a very important signal to Russia that our support was wavering," Crow said. "The damage was done."

Crow warned senators that the Trump defense team will "cherry-pick" evidence and advised: "Don't be fooled."

Ukraine received the \$391 million in military aid only after news broke of a whistleblower complaint about the Trump-Zelenskyy phone call, he said.

"The scheme was unraveling. He only released it after he got caught," Crow said of Trump.

Schiff dismissed the often-repeated line from Trump defenders that the president had sought to address corruption in Ukraine before delivering the aid. "He was not trying to end corruption in Ukraine," Schiff said. "He was trying to aim corruption in Ukraine at Joe Biden."

7. Making the Case for Obstruction

Trump's refusal to cooperate with impeachment investigators could set a dangerous precedent, Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., told senators, in arguing for removing the president from office for obstruction of Congress.

"All presidents after him will have veto power over Congress' ability to conduct oversight and the power of impeachment," Lofgren said.

"The House was not prepared to accept that, and that's why the House approved Article 2," she said, referring to the House's second article of impeachment.

Lofgren was a member of the House Judiciary Committee during the 1998 impeachment hearings of President Bill Clinton and a congressional staffer during the 1974 impeachment inquiry of President Richard Nixon.

Over two days of arguments, the seven House impeachment managers prosecuted the case for abuse of power against Trump. The first three hours of Friday's proceedings closed out their arguments for that first article of impeachment.

Just before 5 p.m., Democrats began arguing that the Senate should remove Trump from office for obstruction of Congress, charging that the president didn't cooperate with the House's impeachment investigation.

The House sent several subpoenas during the investigation. Cipollone, the White House counsel, wrote a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in October saying that the White House would not provide any documents or witnesses.

The letter asserted that the impeachment investigation was an attempt both to overturn the results of the 2016 election and to influence the outcome of the 2020 contest.

Republicans, criticizing the second impeachment article, say House Democrats didn't even attempt to enforce their subpoenas in court.

The House subpoenaed White House acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and various other officials, but not Bolton.

Still, Lofgren accused Trump of ordering nine witnesses to defy House subpoenas.

"In the history of our republic, no president ever dared to issue an order to prevent even a single government witness from testifying in an impeachment inquiry," Lofgren said.

"President Trump abused the power of his office by using his official power in an attempt to prevent every single person who works in the executive branch from testifying before the House," she said.

In fact, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which led the investigation, identified 17 current and former Trump administration officials who either were deposed behind closed doors or gave public testimony.

Trump made no attempt to cooperate with the House investigation, said Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, a former state judge.

"At President Trump's order, agencies and offices refused to produce documents in response to the committee's request," Garcia said. "They refused to allow individual witnesses to do so either."


"So let's recap. No documents. Zero, goose eggs, nada, in response to over 70 requests and five subpoenas."

Garcia continued:

No attempt to negotiate. No genuine attempt to accommodate. Categorical, indiscriminate, and unprecedented stonewalling. Again, never in my time as a lawyer or as a judge have I seen this kind of total disrespect and defiance of a lawfully issued subpoena, and all on President Trump's orders.

This report was updated to include later developments.

Political Cartoons



"2.5% GDP IS NO LONGER ATTAINABLE"
 "1% GDP IS THE NEW NORM"
 "HOW'S TRUMP GOING TO BRING BACK JOBS, WITH A MAGIC WAND, OR SOMETHING?"

GDP JUST HIT 4.1%

OH CRAP

I JUST CAME BACK FROM 2025



DEMOCRATS ARE STILL TRYING TO IMPEACH TRUMP

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Educating Liberals
 @Education4Libs

From 1999-2014, Ukraine donated more money to the Clinton Foundation than any other foreign country.

Biden, Pelosi, Kerry, & Romney all have children working for Ukrainian gas companies.

And all of the people I mentioned want Trump impeached. Are you connecting the dots yet? 🤔

12:51 PM · 10/8/19 · Twitter for iPhone

LET THIS SINK IN...
BEFORE YOU VOTE IN 2020



DEMOCRATS VOTED TO **FINE AMERICANS** FOR NOT HAVING HEALTH INSURANCE...

BUT WANT TO GIVE IT TO **ILLEGAL ALIENS** FOR FREE.

I WON'T LET THEM REMOVE YOU...



...FROM THE VOTER ROLLS, BABY.

PATRIOT HUMOR

19 Arrests Later, a Texas Town Is Torn Apart Over Voter Fraud

By Fred Lucas, June 19, 2019, Daily Signal January 1, 2020

EDINBURG, Texas—The story that thrust a Rio Grande Valley city into the national spotlight is hardly a new anomaly, say residents such as Richard Monte.

“Down here, voter fraud is not all that unusual,” says Monte, a city planning consultant in a brown suit jacket, sitting with other activists at a table in Coffee Zone on McColl Road. “It’s unusual when they get prosecuted.”

Now, for this south Texas town, that unusual moment has arrived. A November 2017 mayoral election has been under scrutiny from local and state officials, and 19 arrests have been made over alleged voter fraud. The mayor—and winner of the 2017 election—was indicted earlier this month, along with his wife.

Only 8,400 votes were cast in the mayoral election, and Mayor Richard Molina’s final vote count was more than 1,200 votes ahead of the No. 2 candidate, 14-year incumbent Richard Garcia. From what’s known now, the election result couldn’t have been changed by the number of suspicious votes identified.

But Molina reportedly is the first elected official in Texas to face a felony charge under a 2017 statute against vote harvesting, casting the midsize city into the national debate over election integrity. The mayor denies the charges.

“Some people are unfortunate in that they are caught,” Monte tells The Daily Signal.

Fraud and Small Towns

Across the nation, officials made more than 60 formal findings of voter fraud in 2017 alone, according to The Heritage Foundation’s voter fraud database, and six of those cases were out of Texas. And 2018 saw more than 50 official findings of voter fraud.

“Many of the cases in our database are in small towns,” said Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow in the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation. “That’s because, one, those kind of races are often decided by a very small number of votes. So it’s easier to commit fraud when you don’t have to fake as many votes.”

“Second, it’s in small towns, particularly rural areas, where, particularly in areas that are economically not as well off as other parts of the country, [that] county and city government are the sources of jobs and contracts,” added von Spakovsky.

“So there is a big incentive in those smaller towns and smaller county governments for people to cheat in order to be in a position of power where they can distribute jobs.”

A federal judge overturned a mayor’s race in Florida’s Miami-Dade County in 1997 because of massive voter fraud that included phony registrations, noted von Spakovsky, who also served on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

“You find cases where it’s just an isolated voter taking advantage of the system,” von Spakovsky told The Daily Signal, “but there’s plenty of cases in our database where it is an organized conspiracy oftentimes involving an elected official who wants to ensure he is reelected.”

‘Shady Past’

Edinburg, filled with palm trees, Tex-Mex restaurants, and friendly people, is the Hidalgo County seat. Home to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and the Museum of South Texas History, it has a population of 77,000 as of the 2010 census.

Edinburg boasts parks as well as shopping plazas with box stores and fast-food eateries along streets such as Freddy Gonzalez Drive, Cano Street, and University Drive, where Edinburg City Hall stands.

A sign inside City Hall reads “PRISM,” which stands for “Professionalism and Transparency,” “Respect,” “Integrity,” “Synergy and Cross Training,” and “Maximization of Operational Performance.”

Just down University Drive is a nightclub called Sin.

Based on what prosecutors and some residents say, the nightclub’s name might better characterize the region than do the goals of integrity and transparency on the PRISM sign.

The reputation of the Rio Grande Valley, where the town of Edinburg is nestled, long precedes the mayor’s arrest.

The four border counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Zapata have had executive officials, top law enforcement officials, a county judge, and a sheriff either indicted or convicted of criminal charges.

That’s according to an editorial on Molina’s arrest in The Monitor newspaper in McAllen, Texas, about 12 miles away from Edinburg, which adds that various members of city councils, county commissions, and school boards also have faced corruption charges.

The U.S. Justice Department created a Rio Grande Valley Corruption Task Force in 2015, NPR reported, because the area was “steeped in corruption of every stripe: drug smuggling, vote stealing, courthouse bribery, under-the-table payoffs and health care fraud.”

The Molina voter fraud prosecution might be “selective,” suggests Fern McClaugherty, a licensed firearms instructor who was an unsuccessful candidate for City Council in 2017.

“We have a shady past,” McClaugherty said of the city, speaking with The Daily Signal during a meeting with fellow civic activists, including Monte, at the Coffee Zone.

This past, she said, includes what’s known in the region as “politiqueras,” who are paid by political campaigns or parties to turn out the vote. These local operatives visit nursing homes and adult day care centers, and sometimes entice homeless persons to vote by giving them cash or food.

At the suggestion around the table that election winners in the region “stole it fair and square,” someone jokingly corrected: “They buy it fair and square.”

‘Loud and Clear’

Molina won a four-year term as Edinburg mayor on Nov. 7, 2017, and decisively so.

“The people spoke loud and clear—1,240 votes,” Molina told The Daily Signal in a brief interview after a City Council meeting in late May at City Hall.

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By Fred Lucas, June 19, 2019, Daily Signal January 1, 2020

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Molina ran a reform campaign against Garcia, questioning city contracts and other matters under the incumbent mayor's leadership.

That winning margin over Garcia, first elected in 2003, was out of 8,400 votes cast in the three-candidate race.

"Insurmountable," Molina said. "If you do research on any of the elections previously, maybe a couple hundred votes determine the outcome of that election. That's the biggest margin of victory in the history of the city, four figures. It's never been done before."

"It's very obvious that people wanted change," Molina, the former Army veteran and 11-year Edinburg Police officer said. "There was an incumbent here that was here for 14 years, and people wanted a new face. The public wants me here. I'm not here because I want to be here. Nonpaying job. It's easier to walk away."

Edinburg's mayor and four council members don't draw salaries. Under the city's weak-mayor, council-manager form of government, the city manager oversees administration while the mayor and council oversee the legislative side.

Municipal elections are nonpartisan in this heavily Democratic area.

'Vote Harvesting Scheme'

On April 25 of this year, Molina and his wife, Dalia Molina, were arrested.

"Molina and his wife had numerous voters change their addresses to places they didn't live—including the apartment complex he owns," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office announced after the arrests, adding that Molina's "vote harvesting scheme involved the participation of paid campaign workers, among others."

Vote harvesting is when campaign workers collect and submit voter registration forms and absentee ballots by soliciting people.

Earlier this month, a Hidalgo County grand jury indicted Richard and Dalia Molina on one count each of engaging in organized election fraud and 11 counts of illegal voting. The indictment names nine co-conspirators.

Molina declined to speak with The Daily Signal about the criminal charges, citing the advice of lawyers. However, he noted that his margin of victory over Garcia far exceeded the number of questionable votes cast.

Ricardo Rodriguez, the Hidalgo district attorney who is prosecuting the case, declined an interview with The Daily Signal during a brief meeting at his office at the Hidalgo County Courthouse Annex, saying speaking about the ongoing case could pose legal problems.

Some of Molina's supporters, however, insist that the other side engaged in a similar voting scheme, and they suggest the prosecutor has a conflict. They filed their own complaints against presumed Garcia voters.

Molina's defenders also note that Rodriguez is the nephew of Terry Palacios, a law partner of the former mayor in the firm of Garcia, Quintanilla, and Palacios.

'Pressured and Persuaded'

The criminal complaint against the mayor lays out a scathing picture of recruiting voters from Sept. 19 to Nov. 7, 2017, which was Election Day. The mayor has denied every allegation.

In Texas, it's a first-degree felony to engage in organized election fraud, under a bill passed by the state Legislature that went into effect on Sept. 1, 2017.

The law outlines what constitutes an offense committed "with the intent to establish, maintain, or participate in a vote harvesting organization."

Shortly after it went into effect, the criminal complaint alleges, Molina "aided, solicited, and encouraged" and "pressured and persuaded" persons who lived outside Edinburg to register illegally with an address inside the city so they could vote for him. One of the addresses is for an apartment complex the mayor owns, prosecutors said.

Most of the 19 arrested, including the mayor and his wife, were charged with illegal voting, a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Two were charged with making a false statement on a voter registration form, a Class B misdemeanor.

Documents from the Attorney General's Office identify "cooperating conspirator witnesses" whose identities are being shielded.

The most damaging information may have come from the seventh cooperating witness, who claimed to be part of a conversation in which Molina said his strategy was to falsely register some voters with city addresses.

This witness said Dalia Molina advised him or her to register at an Edinburg address and vote for her husband, which the witness did, according to the complaint.

The criminal complaint against the mayor's wife states that on Aug. 21, 2017, Dalia and Richard Molina first asked someone who later became a cooperating witness to make an address change. The complaint further alleges that she followed up Oct. 10 by giving "Person A" a blank voter registration form.

Mayor's Apartment Complex

Among those arrested were three sisters and their brother whose voter registrations show them living at a four-building apartment complex at 2416 E. Rogers Rd. The apartment complex is owned by Molina, according to a public announcement and additional arrest reports provided by the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Arrest reports note that investigators combed through motor vehicle information, school enrollment, and utility bills to determine that those arrested actually lived outside the city limits.

Residents who answered their doors at the apartment complex—located in a rural edge of Edinburg behind several manufactured houses—told The Daily Signal that they didn't live there in 2017. Some noted that the mayor or his wife collect their rent checks.

"I heard something about a scandal, but I can't believe he'd be involved in something like that," said Lewis, 72, a resident who didn't want to give a last name. "He won by a land-

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slide, from what I heard. Anytime somebody wants to bring down a politician or a preacher or whatever, they just come up with a scandal.”

One of the mayor’s supporters, who asked not to be identified, said it is a low-income complex. Residents rent from month to month, the supporter said, which is why it’s likely someone might have had a different address before or after registering to vote.

Little Blue House

Seven out-of-towners were registered to vote with the address of 409 E. Fay St., a small blue house not far from downtown Edinburg, authorities say. At least four were from a family whose home actually is in Alamo, Texas (about 12 miles away), and another was identified as a boyfriend, according to arrest reports.

The blue house appeared abandoned when visited by The Daily Signal, with boarded-up windows and an overgrown yard. A sign on a chain-link fence says: “For Sale by Owner.”

“They said they all live there,” Molina reportedly said in May 2018 of the seven voters registered with the 409 E. Fay St. address. “I don’t know; I don’t stay in the house with them every day.”

Six others registered to vote with different addresses inside city limits other than East Rogers Road and Fay Street, but didn’t live at those addresses, according to arrest reports.

In May 2018, Texas Ranger Chad Matlock interviewed a cooperating witness who admitted to changing his or her voter registration on Sept. 19, 2017, after Molina said the witness “was permitted to do so.” The witness then voted illegally.

Another witness, in an interview with the Election Fraud Unit’s investigator Sgt. John Waits, admitted to doing the same, falsely registering on Oct. 10, 2017, before illegally voting in the municipal election. This witness claimed he or she “would have never falsely changed” the registration if Richard Molina “did not solicit” the action.

This witness claimed to have received numerous text messages from Molina for several days before the election, as a reminder to vote.

Another witness said Molina “provided the address” to use on a voter registration form.

The Texas Rangers made the first round of arrests in May 2018, charging four individuals with illegal voting, including one they said registered to vote with the Fay Street address and another with the East Rogers Road address, but who actually lived outside the city.

In November 2018, a year after the election, the Rangers made another roundup of Hidalgo County residents mostly connected to the Fay Street and East Rogers Road addresses, charging them with illegal voting.

Of the 10 charged, three were not registered at either the East Rogers Road or the East Fay Street addresses.

Al Alvarez, a McAllen lawyer who represents one of the defendants in the case, is critical of the law that led to the prosecution.

“Historically in Texas, all cases about voting were misdemeanors because we want to encourage people to vote, not discourage them,” Alvarez told The Daily Signal. “It’s difficult to know where the law ends and politics pick up, but the people suspect.”

“Election cases usually don’t do very well,” he said. “Politics don’t change through prosecutions, they change through elections.”

The Investigation’s Start

After Molina’s victory, Mary Alice Palacios, a former municipal judge with connections to the defeated mayor, compiled information about voter addresses. She sent her complaint documenting addresses to the Office of the Texas Secretary of State, which referred most of the questionable registrations to the Texas Attorney General’s Office.

Palacios “alleges that multiple persons provided false information to register to vote and voted illegally,” the attorney general’s Law Enforcement Division said in a memo dated Jan. 22, 2018.

Palacios is the aunt of the Hidalgo county prosecutor involved in the case, Rodriguez. Rodriguez disclosed his connection with her to Paxton’s office, which primarily pursued the case through Waits. Texas Rangers in the state’s Department of Public Safety also investigated, according to the April 25 criminal complaint from Paxton’s office.

Molina has also reportedly called the investigation retaliation because Palacios had a \$300,000 insurance contract with the city that was cancelled when Molina was mayor.

Palacios returned a phone call from The Daily Signal, but declined to comment on the case while it is under investigation.

‘Wrong Case?’

Paxton, the attorney general, expressed appreciation in a press release for the district attorney’s “commitment to election integrity” in this and unrelated cases.

However, not everyone in Edinburg thinks the commitment is consistent.

Jerad Najvar, a Houston lawyer who has actively fought voter fraud, represents Molina in the recall matter. He contends that Paxton is pursuing the wrong case.

“Molina’s side filed the same complaints, but the attorney general wanted a big fish. This is a mayor of a reasonable-sized city,” Najvar told The Daily Signal.

Supporters of the mayor, including his wife Dalia, made complaints to Texas Secretary of State David Whitley about presumed Garcia voters. They provided motor vehicles records and land deeds as evidence that likely Garcia voters registered with Edinburg addresses were residents not only of nearby McAllen but also of Houston and San Antonio.

The Secretary of State’s Office received 12 complaints against Garcia’s campaign for recruiting nonresidents to vote in the city election. It determined six complaints had enough evidence to refer to Paxton’s Election Fraud Unit, spokesman Sam Taylor said.

“If there was not enough evidence to warrant an investigation, we didn’t refer,” Taylor told The Daily Signal.

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Asked about Molina's margin of victory, Taylor said: "I'm not aware that there were 1,200 illegally registered voters in the city; I believe [it's] far less."

Among the complaints against presumed Garcia voters, alleging they used phony addresses, including one complaint about Mary Alice Palacios.

The one about Palacios, the former judge who filed the first complaint against the Molina campaign, is one of the six complaints the Secretary of State's Office confirmed forwarding to the attorney general for investigation. It accuses Palacios of living outside the city but using another address.

"They are using prosecutorial discretion to allow prosecution of just one side of the aisle," Najvar said, referring to the case against Molina. "The incumbent Garcia and Palacios were law partners."

"The public sees through it. This is an effort to take back the power they lost in 2017," he said, referring to the mayoral election.

"I'm all for fighting voter fraud and I've done so in Hidalgo County," Najvar said. "Attorney General Paxton is going after voter fraud. That's fantastic. But Paxton has been jerked around on this by complicit local prosecutors."

Taylor, spokesman for the secretary of state, said the attorney general's office typically doesn't confirm or deny the existence of an investigation. So it doesn't comment on whether Garcia supporters also are under scrutiny.

Paxton spokeswoman Kayleigh Lovvom initially told The Daily Signal that someone from the office would address the matter, but the office did not respond to several follow-up calls and emails.

The Next Chapter

As the mayor, his wife, and those accused of voting after registering with fake addresses move toward a trial, the next chapter could be a recall election.

Robert Solis, a nurse anesthetist, says he isn't particularly political but started a petition drive to recall Molina because he thought Edinburg was getting a black eye.

"It looked bad on our city. I mean, we made The Washington Post, we made The New York Times, USA Today, Austin [American-] Statesman," Solis told The Daily Signal. "It's kind of embarrassing."

Solis and others have collected more than half of the nearly 2,200 signatures they need by June 21 to trigger a recall. They seek signatures at tables set up in the Echo Hotel and at public events such as a 5K race.

Solis, leader of the recall effort, said he is familiar with allegations against both sides, but would like to see the city make a new beginning.

"I know the people that I have talked to on both sides, mainly on the recall side, really want to push, hopefully, somebody new, somebody not involved on either side, somebody that can bring new leadership to Edinburg," Solis said.

Recall efforts are not unusual at the municipal level in Texas or nationally, and public officials frequently weather the storm, according to data from Ballotpedia, a nonprofit that tracks election information.

"In 2018, Ballotpedia covered 206 recall efforts against 299 officials" nationally, Dave Beaudoin, news editor at Ballotpedia, told The Daily Signal. "Recall attempts targeting 150 officials did not make it to the ballot."

"Of the 123 officials whose recalls made it to the ballot," Beaudoin said, "77 were recalled and 46 survived the attempt. Ten other officials resigned before their recalls could go to a vote. That year had the largest percentage of recalls approved at the ballot since our tracking began in 2012."

Mayors accounted for 13% of the [recall efforts](#) across the country in 2018, down from 19% the year before.

The mayor's office contends it's business as usual.

"Day-to-day operations are not affected at all," city spokeswoman Cary Zayas told The Daily Signal, talking about the case against Molina. "The mayor remains the mayor. ... He has been very much accessible at all times."

"He's at the meetings," Zayas said of Molina. "He's conducting business, he's going to groundbreakings. He's carrying on with business as usual because he denies any wrongdoing, No. 1; and No. 2, there is no reason why he shouldn't."

Monte, the planning consultant, said he worries that a recall election for Molina at this stage is "putting the cart before the horse."

"Whether you believe the mayor is guilty or not, I think that we need to wait for the process," Monte said. "He has been arrested, but he has not been tried. He has not been found guilty. There is already a recall. It's politically based in reference to other people that wish they were mayor or want to be mayor, rather than anything else."

Other Edinburg residents have differing views.

"If the mayor committed voter fraud, he should pay a price," Sara Reyes, 47, told The Daily Signal outside a shopping center in Edinburg. "He should stay clean. This is why people don't trust politicians."

Abel Rocha, 46, said Molina "seems like a good man." "I'll leave it up to God," Rocha said in an interview near the same shopping center. "If he committed a crime, or it ends up he did something wrong, he'll be punished." Joseph Schubert, 51, had a more decided view.

"I've heard people talk about it, but the mayor won in a landslide," Schubert said in a parking lot interview. "I think some people are just sore losers."

Fred Lucas is the White House correspondent for The Daily Signal and co-host of "The Right Side of History" podcast. Lucas is also the author of "Tainted by Suspicion: The Secret Deals and Electoral Chaos of Disputed Presidential Elections." Send an email to Fred.

POLITICAL CARTOONS

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...

BIDEN BLACKMAILED UKRAINE WITH A BILLION IN TAX DOLLARS TO DROP AN INVESTIGATION INTO HIS SON, AND DEMOCRATS WANT TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT TRUMP SIMPLY FOR ASKING IF IT WAS TRUE?

THE BEST COMMENTARY AND MEMES ARE AT THE PATRIOT POST - PATRIOTPOST.US

This is Eric Ciarella, aka "whistleblower" aka Schiffs daughters boyfriend. Now we understand, its another piece to the puzzle.



Adam Schiff is one sick, crooked politician



Philip Schuyler

@FiveRights

Two facts:

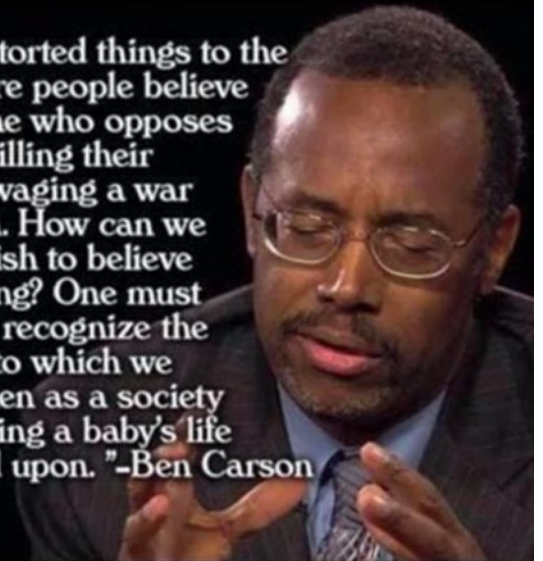
- 1. The only valid reason to oppose voter ID is that you plan to cheat.
 - 2. Every Democrat in Congress opposes voter ID.
- What more do you need to know about the party?

WHEN DONALD TRUMP AND OUR MILITARY DEFEAT TERRORISTS:



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"We've distorted things to the point where people believe that anyone who opposes mothers killing their babies is waging a war on women. How can we be so foolish to believe such a thing? One must be able to recognize the depravity to which we have sunken as a society when valuing a baby's life is frowned upon." -Ben Carson



Impeachment drives 1,000 GOP candidates to run for House

By Paul Bedard, Opinion
January 22, 2020, Washington Examiner

Pennsylvanian James Bognet had been around local and presidential politics for a long time before landing a dream job as a senior vice president at the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

"I was really honored to get a chance to work in the Trump administration," said Bognet, 44, a veteran of several campaigns, including those for former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

"It's really cool for a small-town kid from Hazleton, Pennsylvania," added Bognet, who worked with the White House on President Trump's manufacturing agenda.

But like many Republicans inside and out of the administration, the Democratic drive to impeach Trump angered him, and he started watching his hometown Democratic congressman, Matt Cartwright, to see if he would vote against Trump.

"There's no way Matt Cartwright is going to vote for impeachment. That is suicidal. He represents a Trump plus-10 district, he can't do that," reasoned Bognet, quietly "boiling mad" but prevented from publicly venting because of Hatch Act rules governing government employee speech.

But Cartwright did vote to impeach, prompting political predictor Charlie Cook to move his seat, Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, into the "toss-up" category.

Twenty-one days later, Bognet resigned from his job and made plans to run in the GOP House primary in April to unseat Cartwright, citing impeachment as his motivation.

"I can now lend my voice, my passion, and my efforts to defending our President from a never-ending witch hunt, and return to my hometown of Hazleton, in the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, to take direct personal action fighting to make sure that the House of Representatives will not continue to wage political war on President Trump during his second term in office," he said in his resignation letter shown below.

He's not the only one.

According to Minnesota Rep. Tom Emmer, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, impeachment has helped to push about 1,000 Republicans to file to run for House seats this year.

"I think that they are one in the same," he said of his success in building an army of candidates and the influence of impeachment on their decisions.

In an interview, he said that impeachment "intensity" has raised the overall political intensity to an Election Day level, and Republicans are responding, giving him an incumbent or challenger candidate in 384 of 435 House districts, nearly 40 above expectations at this stage of the year.

"I believe it is the intensity that is causing people to stand up and say, 'It's time to serve.'"

And that intensity is very diverse, beating his goals of turning the GOP House caucus into one that looks like the party's base that includes women, veterans, and minorities.

The NRCC's candidate recruitment numbers show it:

- Total women filed — 190.
- Total veterans filed — 196.
- Total minorities filed — 155.

"The majority is well within reach," said Emmer.

As he's started to campaign in Pennsylvania's 8th District, which includes Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton, Bognet senses more support for Trump and the GOP.

In a stop at Hazleton's Swing Club, the local Italian club, some high school friends gave him and the president a sign of support. "I had a number of guys come up and say, 'I know that you've always been a Republican, and we've argued because I'm a Democrat, but I can't stand it anymore. I'm a Trump supporter. I'm voting for Trump this time. I didn't vote for him last time.'"

Documenting the Virginia Crackdown

By David Lanza, *The American Thinker*, December 30, 2019

Recent elections in Virginia have placed the Virginia government within arm's length of widespread gun confiscation. Around eighty-four counties and cities throughout the Commonwealth have pledged to ignore and resist these measures. Some Virginia elected officials have called for the National Guard to carry out such confiscation, which would imply the arrest and disarmament of local officials who get in the way. Governor Northam has stopped short of adopting such an idea, but he will not rule it out. Additional stories indicate that the government will disable internet and telephone access to affected areas during the crackdown. The prison budget has been increased in anticipation of gun-related arrests.

While the idea of soldiers engaged in gun confiscation is not yet a reality, the proposal itself should alarm every sane person in this country. Elected officials want to send large numbers of uniformed soldiers in combat gear and armored vehicles through residential streets in search of American citizens and their lawful possessions. The hyperbolic political debates of recent years notwithstanding, government oppression has not yet reached the levels displayed by Stalin, Hitler, or Pol Pot. But the Virginia gun confiscation discussion begins to come close. The use of military tanks in residential streets for the purpose of overwhelming law-abiding citizens (and local police) would equal the oppression of Tiananmen Square or the 1968 Prague crackdown.

Democrat regimes have previously been willing to endure political backlash from the temporary use of military force against civilians. Waco and Elián González bear witness to this recent history. The proposed Virginia gun confiscation would be far more widespread, with more enduring consequences.

The real issue is how the citizens of Virginia and the rest of the country should respond. It is safe to assume that other state governments are watching to see how far they can go when mere constitutional rights get in their way. Nearby governors might even contribute their own troops to help Governor Northam. A proper response would deter politically minded governors in other states and might even invite the federal government to intervene to protect individual rights before the Virginia crisis escalates. Widespread discussion of this response now might even deter Northam from this military mobilization.

Any such military action would produce shocking imagery, but do not expect the story to tell itself. The images and the facts will be heavily censored — the same way that every other worthwhile story is censored by the MSM. What few images do get through will be overwhelmed by endless MSM commentary that blames law-abiding citizens for this military intervention. The MSM will run stock footage from old school shootings for comparison, thus reminding the viewers what the governor claims to be fighting. They might even claim that the confiscations are necessary to fight "global warming."

If you want the real story to reach America and the world, you must film it and spread the story yourself. Do not rely on social media, smartphones, or other internet-based communication — just in case the stories about internet censorship turn out to be true.

For an example of the best response, we should look to Prague, 1968. The Soviet crackdown at that time involved tanks rumbling through the streets of many Czechoslovakian cities. The Czech citizen response is a model for at least a short-term response among the people of Virginia now. When the Soviet tanks made their first appearance on August 21, 1968, the head of a Prague film school immediately gathered his students and distributed cameras and film. He told the students that he did not know why there were tanks on the streets and that they might even be witnessing the beginning of World War III. But he instructed them to take as many pictures and movies as they could and see to it that the film got out of the country to the rest of the world.

This use of citizen photography was very effective, as the record it created generated a backlash that softened the crackdown and united the citizens. The best description of these events appears in the 1988 movie *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. If you have any desire to understand the events that we may be about to experience, watch this movie. It will help provide a model for action. But do not simply watch the movie on Netflix. Get the DVD with the director's commentary. This commentary tells the story of the photographs: how the student photographers, during the chaos, would hand their film to tourists on the sidewalks with the request that the tourists take the completed film back to their home countries for development and distribution. The viewer sees this strategy dramatized by the actors in the movie. The strategy is not clear without the commentary. The strategy worked, as the movie-makers later found these images in countries all over the world. Museums, schools, libraries, and media outlets throughout western Europe and North America ended up with pieces of the story recorded on film. The world saw the horror firsthand as a result of these student photographers. *The Unbearable Lightness* movie was made possible because of the contraband photographs and footage. Clandestine audiences in Moscow eventually saw *Unbearable Lightness* (with its contraband footage) in the final years of the Cold War.

Today, we have an advantage that the people of Prague did not have. We have advance warning. We can obtain cameras in advance — cameras not dependent on the internet and that cannot be disabled remotely by the government-compliant tech giants. We can plan now on how to spirit the film and memory cards away. Virginia shares large borders with neighboring states, each with many possible exits. Once safely out of Virginia, the film or memory cards can be e-mailed to your entire mailing list and shared on social media — and reshared repeatedly in the event of tech-giant censorship.

Documenting the Virginia Crackdown

By David Lanza, The American Thinker, December 30, 2019

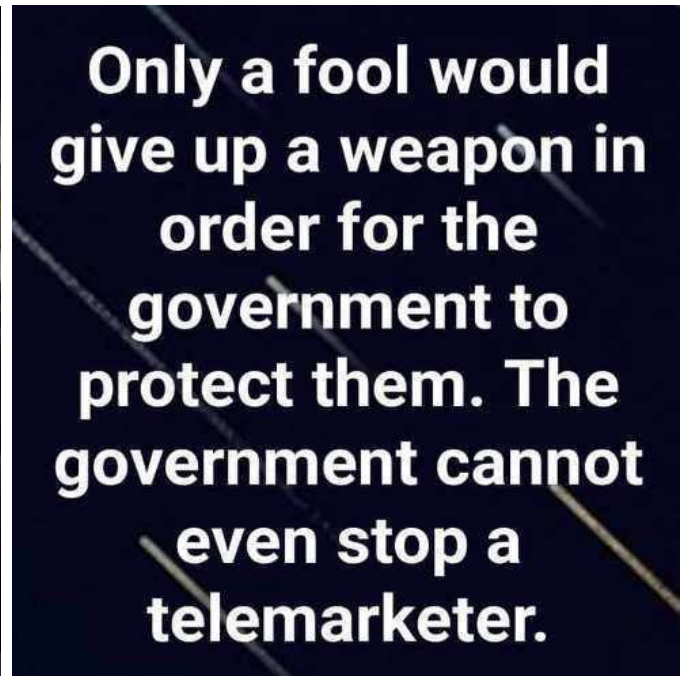
We can plan our targets for photography now, including likely locations for (1) troop movements, (2) arrests, and (3) the checkpoints and long lines that inevitably accompany government crackdowns. We can film local police as they are confronted and overwhelmed by the military. Take and distribute many pictures. It takes volume to make the news. It takes volume to make history. We can tell this story our way instead of depending on the government-compliant media.

But there are caveats. Do not expect the soldiers to stand down or disobey orders. Do not shoot at soldiers. You cannot win that way. The media are looking for citizens to blame for escalating the violence. Regardless of your political affiliation, you will be labeled an extremist who attacked "the troops."

Virginia will not be a free state for some time. They let felons vote just for the sake of maintaining socialist control. The best that we can do now is take our lumps, film the atrocities, and shame the rest of the country into avoiding this kind of notoriety.

Read more: https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/12/documenting_the_virginia_crackdown.html#ixzz69ibmfrkk

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District 70




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JUDGE
2010 BLOOMDALE ROAD, SUITE 30014
MCKINNEY, TEXAS 75071
(972) 548-5660 • Fax (972) 548-5664 • 469@co.collin.tx.us
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GREG WILLIS
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COLLIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
2100 Bloomdale Rd., Ste. 20004
McKinney, TX 75071
www.collincountyda.com

gwillis@collincountytx.gov 972.548.4330

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JIM SKINNER
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Collin County Sheriff's Office
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972.547.5100 Office
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www.collincountytx.gov/sheriff




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@collincountytx.gov



Duncan Webb
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2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071
(972) 548-4631 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4631
jdwebb@collincountytx.gov • www.collincountytx.gov

Susan Fletcher
CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN
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sfletcher@collincountytx.gov Jack Hatchell Administration Building
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Cell: 972.345.8730
Fax: 972.423.9587
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Frisco, Texas 75034
P: 214.472.2100 F: 214.472.2150
www.solidcounsel.com



Jerry Madden

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FIFTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

GEO. ALLEN COURTS BLDG.
600 COMMERCE, SUITE 200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-4568

214-712-3401
FAX 214-745-1083
LANA.MYERS@5TH.TXCOURTS.GOV



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COLLIN COLLEGE

Collin County Community College District
3452 Spur 399, Suite 400
P.O. Box 8021, McKinney, Texas 75070
P 1972.758.3800 M 1972.345.1965
F 1972.758.3807
fmoses@collin.edu | www.collin.edu



kw DEREK V. BAKER
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FEI-FEI CATHERINE FANG, CPA
Certified Public Accountant

方菲菲 會計師
CATHY FANG C.P.A.

6300 Stonewood Dr. Suite 308
Plano, TX 75024

email: fcfang@hotmail.com
Tel: (972) 769-8588
Fax: (972) 769-0788



Pam Little
Member
State Board of Education
District 12

632 Merlot
Fairview, TX 75069
(972) 342-6697
pam.little@tea.texas.gov

Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
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BILL WHITEHILL
JUSTICE
COURT OF APPEALS
FIFTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

GEO. ALLEN COURTS BLDG.
600 COMMERCE, SUITE 200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-4568

214-712-3400
FAX 214-745-1083



ANGELA TUCKER
JUDGE
199TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 10030 • McKinney, Texas 75071
(972) 548-4415 • Fax (972) 548-4465
Email: atucker@co.collin.tx.us



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Cleo Marchese, 1st. VP Programs**Lisa Babb, 2nd. VP Membership**

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Let me get this right...

May 2019 – Iran attacks oil tankers in the gulf.**June 2019** – Iran shoots down US drone.**July 2019** – Iran seizes British oil tanker.**Sep 2019** – Iran attacks Saudi state run oil co.**Dec 2019** – Iran attacks US bases in Iraq.**Jan 2020** – US airstrike in Bagdad kills an Iranian commander.**Jan 2020** – People and the media say that President Trump is trying to start a war. ... SMH

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