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“This is a republic, not a democracy — Let’s keep it that way!”

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Hate One, Love the Other

Why do we hate the police and love the troops?

Police officers are no different than the military. What gives? Answer: It's communist group-think and class warfare.

During the Vietnam War, Americans hated the troops for killing innocents, though the innocents were infiltrated by hostiles. In Iraq and Afghanistan, we bombed the hell out of innocents, killing them by the score, and the media have been silent. We love the troops when the media loves the troops. Now, we hate the local police because the media tells us they're racist — without real proof — because American communists have conditioned us well in class warfare. It's sad that black Americans go along with this, but communists indoctrinate us as a collective. When we think in terms of class, race, and other forms of collectivism, we prove that we are conditioned. When the media not only tells us what to think, but does the thinking for us, we are on the very road to communism!

If we love the troops and hate the local police, then why not have the police become military and have the military fill in as police? Would we still love the troops when they do police work? Yes, unless the media then turns on them too.

LUKE MORELL
 Shiloh, Illinois

Unity

Many Americans, particularly those who believe there was fraud in the 2020 election, apparently do not understand the damage unhealthy opinions have on a society looking for unity.

Democrats and companies such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter have taken steps toward solidarity and, as a result, are faced with the difficult task of vigilantly monitoring language that they believe is subversive and tearing the country apart.

Note that whenever there is change — and preventing hurtful speech for the first time in this country is a significant change — there will be resistance.

Yet today, with the cooperation of significant communication companies in America, Congress is committed to making America's public square safe for everyone by attempting to properly regulate communication, while at the same time

allowing as much reasonable room for the First Amendment right of free speech.

The Democratic Party, with the assistance of social media and the mainstream media, is currently taking the lead to control many forms of damaging communication in America: newspapers, magazines, books, public meetings, rallies, art, music, movies, and radio. Viewpoints in any way threatening to civility will be restricted or eliminated from all media.

The success of this pathway toward unity has a rich history. "The Nazi Propaganda Ministry, directed by Dr. Joseph Goebbels, took control of all forms of communication in Germany: newspapers, magazines, books, public meetings, and rallies, art, music, movies, and radio. Events in any way threatening to Nazi beliefs or the regime were censored or eliminated from all media," according to literature in the Holocaust Museum.

A 2017 article in *Russia Beyond* noted, after the Bolsheviks took power in Russia in 1917, one of their first decisions was to limit free speech through censorship. The Soviet government signed the "Decree on Press," which prohibited publishing any articles criticizing the Bolsheviks' authority.

The Bolsheviks successfully stopped speech in the same way today's social media has successfully eliminated any speech not favorable to a Biden administration.

In 1921, the Soviet government created the "Glavlit," responsible for deciding if a book was to be published or banned. Today, publishers in America such as Simon & Schuster have taken on a similar role by canceling a book by Senator Josh Hawley because of his views and opinions.

As with big tech today, both Nazism's and communism's initial objective was to ban speech considered offensive. As a result, both Germany and the Soviet Union experienced the unification of purpose and the consolidation of opinions.

Much of the credit for world-renowned atrocities started with something so simple as the elimination of hurtful speech.

RICK HAYES
Sent via e-mail

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Reviews

4.5 ★★★★★



Joan Brown

★★★★★ July 10, 2017

I have had nothing but satisfaction and praise for this very unique organization



Allen Banks

★★★★★ March 30, 2016

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Biden Terminates Order That Kept China Out of America's Power Grid



peterschreibermedia/Getty ImagesPlus

On his first day in office, President Joe Biden revoked an executive order from President Trump that was aimed at keeping away from America's bulk power systems foreign countries and firms, especially entities tied to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

The change in direction was part of Biden's "Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis."

Section 7 of the Biden order, which also includes revocation of the Keystone XL Pipeline, features termination of climate-change and energy-focused orders enacted during the Trump administration.

Subpoint C states that "Executive Order 13920 of May 1, 2020

(Securing the United States Bulk-Power System), is hereby suspended for 90 days."

The Trump order was made to ban, replace, and set new criteria on bulk-power system (BPS) electric equipment from a foreign country or foreign national that poses a national security threat. The policy "prohibited any acquisition, importation, transfer, or installation of BPS electric equipment by any person or with respect to any property to which a foreign country or a national thereof has any interest, that poses an undue risk to the BPS, the security or resiliency of U.S. critical infrastructure or the U.S. economy, or U.S. national security or the security and safety of U.S. persons."

Moreover, the Department of Energy was charged with identifying existing BPS electric equipment that violated the aforementioned prescription and "develop[ing] recommendations to identify, isolate, monitor, or replace this equipment as appropriate."

As of January 16, 2021, then-Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette issued a "prohibition order designed to reduce the risks that entities associated with the People's Republic of China pose to the Nation's BPS."

According to Biden's new executive order, Biden's secretary of energy and director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will determine the fate of America's BPS.

Once again, Joe Biden's China-centric approach to policy is shining through. His family is closely tied to Chinese business interests.

Canadian Lawmaker Ousted From Party for Questioning Lockdowns

The premier of Ontario, Canada, has kicked a provincial parliamentarian out of his political party for publicly questioning coronavirus lockdowns.

On January 15, Member of Provincial Parliament Roman Baber posted on Twitter an open letter to Ontario Premier Doug Ford imploring Ford to lift the lockdown orders that he has imposed to one degree or another since last spring. The latest order, issued January 14, "has effectively placed the province under a state of near-total lockdown," reported LifeSiteNews.

Baber opened his letter with these strong but accurate words: "The medicine is killing the patient."

"The Lockdown isn't working," he wrote. "It's causing an avalanche of suicides, overdoses, bankruptcies, divorces and takes an immense toll on our children. Dozens of leading doctors implored you to end the Lockdowns."

"The Lockdowns," he declared, "are objectively deadlier than Covid." He then cited statistics to back up his contention.

Hours later, Ford officially booted Baber from the Ontario Pro-



Twitter/RomanBaber

gressive Conservative (PC) Party, of which both were members, and banned him from ever running for office as a member of the party again.

"Mr. Baber's comments are irresponsible," Ford said in a statement. "By spreading misinformation he is undermining the tireless efforts of our frontline health-care workers at this critical time, and he is putting people at risk. I will not jeopardize a single Ontarian's life by ignoring public health advice."

Apparently that does not include advice such as the Great Barrington Declaration, a statement published October 4, 2020, and signed by over 50,000 medical and public-health scientists and medical practitioners that calls on governments

to end their lockdowns, which it says "are producing devastating effects on short and long-term public health."

Baber appears to have been unfazed by his ouster from the PC Party. After Ford announced it, Baber tweeted: "The Lockdown is grounded in false public health narrative, poor planning & bad data. While Doug only cares about re-election, Lockdowns are killing more than saving. I couldn't watch the suffering anymore. I hope I encouraged other professionals to speak out."

Switzerland to Hold Referendum on Government's Pandemic Powers



extravaganza/Stock/Getty Images Plus

In Switzerland, campaigners have gained enough signatures to force a national referendum on the government's power to impose lockdowns and other freedom-suppressing measures on the citizenry. The referendum would decide the fate of the 2020 COVID-19 Act, which was passed in late September.

The group *Freunden der Verfassung* (Friends of the Constitution) had garnered more than 90,000 signatures for the petition as of January 14, far in excess of the 50,000 needed to vote on the repeal. A vote is expected as early as June of this year.

Under Swiss law, the outcome of the vote will be legally bind-

ing. According to Friends of the Constitution, no other people are likely to be given the opportunity to have a direct say on their government's responses to the pandemic. "Swiss voters can vote on government measures to combat COVID-19. This right will probably not be granted to any other people in the world," said the group.

Friends of the Constitution has argued that the government is using the pandemic to enact sweeping reforms that are unnecessary, ineffective, and potentially even dangerous to the nation's population.

"The long term problems that will arise from this kind of approach will be grave. We are a movement that says crisis management cannot be done without the will of the sovereign — the people. You cannot govern without the people," said Christoph Pfluger, a board member of Friends of the Constitution.

Opponents of the campaign to do away with the COVID-19 Act argue that by the time the referendum is voted on, it's highly likely that the virus will be in retreat, thus negating any need for the reforms instituted during the pandemic.

But last year, they told us we'd have to stay at home for two weeks in order to flatten the curve, and look where we are now. Any argument that COVID-19 restrictions will not be needed because the virus will be under control by a specified time is ridiculous at this point.

YouTube "Thumbs Down" Show Myth of Biden's Popularity

If you go strictly by the numbers, new President Joe Biden, having supposedly garnered 81 million votes in the November election, should be the most popular president in American history — and by a wide margin. Unfortunately, his popularity on YouTube just after his inauguration told a different story.

YouTube, the video-sharing service owned by Google, gives users the opportunity to give either a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" on each video posted to the site. In the first few days of President Biden's administration, the supposedly wildly popular president's videos received thumbs down by a four-to-one margin over thumbs up.

Since the new administration took over the official White House YouTube channel on Inauguration Day, January 20, the site's administrators had posted 14 videos as of January 24. Each of those videos had significantly more thumbs down than thumbs up. This is odd for a brand-new president who is supposedly the most popular president in history by number of votes received.



As of January 24, the number of thumbs up for 13 videos featuring Biden and staff members was 71,000. The thumbs down numbered more than 313,000. The most viewed video was the first one, with more than 730,000 views. It features President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris being sworn in to office, and had re-

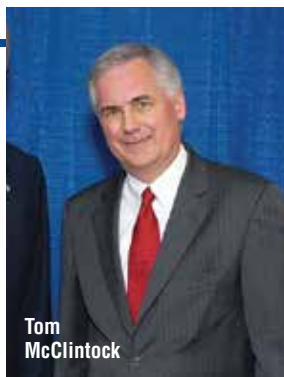
ceived 13,000 thumbs up compared with 66,000 thumbs down.

By way of comparison, a 23-second video of Donald Trump thanking law enforcement at the southern border, which was posted the week before Biden's inauguration, received more than 32,000 thumbs up compared with 4,000 thumbs down.

It's easy and quite possibly correct to blame the wide disparity between thumbs up and thumbs down for Biden's videos on disgruntled Trump supporters who are still feeling cheated out of an election they firmly believe they won. But if President Biden is so incredibly popular as to have received 81 million votes in November, shouldn't those angry Trump supporters be drowned out by the new president's admirers? ■

Congressman Slams Democratic Colleagues for Impeaching Outgoing President Trump

“Every movement has a lunatic fringe. Suppressing free speech is not the answer; holding rioters accountable for their actions is the answer.... I cannot think of a more petty, vindictive and gratuitous act than to impeach an already defeated president a week before he is to leave office.” *California GOP Congressman Tom McClintock claims that Trump merely delivered a typically partisan speech to followers on January 6 that did not contain incitement to riot and was not an impeachable offense.*



Tom McClintock

Flickr/FreddThompson

China's Communist Leaders Have an Effective Way to Stifle Dissent

“Chinese cities enforce a residential system.... By shutting the gates, you can lock in tens of thousands of people. Now, wherever they run into problems from the people, they are sure to apply this method. That would be impossible in Western countries.”

A former newspaper editor in China, Chen Min pointed to the lockdown of Wuhan last year as an example of forcibly controlling people in place.

Maybe Obama Should Also Be Impeached

“Should we impeach Barack Obama because, for 24 hours, he never lifted a finger to help those people under seige in Bengazi? Where does this stop?”

If impeaching Donald Trump after he left office can be justified, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) wonders where the process would not be employed.



Lindsey Graham

GageSkidmore

NRA's Bankruptcy Declaration Doesn't Mean the Pro-gun Organization Is Broke

“It has nothing to do with the NRA's financial posture which is very strong. It is simply a legal vehicle to use the protection of federal laws to escape the abuse by the New York authorities.”

As explained by former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr, the NRA is using the bankruptcy declaration as a “legal vehicle to move its venue out of New York into a state [Texas] that is not abusive toward the NRA.”

Canada's Alberta Province Will Suffer Due to Biden's Canceling of the Keystone Pipeline

“This is a gut punch for the Canadian and Alberta economies. It is an insult directed at the US's most important ally and trading partner on Day One of a new administration.”

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney angrily condemned President Biden's cancellation of the pipeline project whose completion would boost the economies of both his province and Canada itself. The partially built Keystone project was designed to carry Canadian crude oil to Nebraska, where it would be transferred to already built lines that carry oil to U.S. refineries on the Gulf of Mexico.

CNN Anchor Hurls Huge Insult at Americans Who Voted for Trump

“If you voted for Trump, you voted for the person who the Klan supported. You voted for the person who Nazis support.”

During questioning by fellow CNN anchor Chris Cuomo, Don Lemon doubled down on his smear of all Americans who voted for Trump.

Mexico's President Tells Biden He Will Miss Trump

“I must mention that we do have a very good relationship with the now president of your country, Mr. Donald Trump. Regardless of any other consideration, he respects our sovereignty.”

One of the last foreign leaders to congratulate Joe Biden on his victory, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador took the occasion of a telephone call to America's new president to express his wish to have little interference from the United States in matters dealing with his country. ■



Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Flickr/TheWhiteHouseArchived

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



RESTORING ELECTION INTEGRITY



No matter who one thinks won the 2020 presidential election, the widespread vote fraud — such as dead people and minors voting — makes plain that new voting procedures are needed.

by Kurt Hyde

Traditional American elections — those from the mid-1800s until the mid-1900s — were among the most trusted elections in the world. This was in no small way due to the fact that America’s elections were open to the public. At that time, every aspect of American elections, except the marking of the voters’ secret ballots (where secret ballots were used), was open to the public. There was no need to apply ahead of time to ask for permission to be an election observer. Any member of the public was welcome to walk in during any phase and observe the process. The only requirement was that the person observing was not allowed to be disruptive.

In the 2020 election, credible witnesses have come forward and even signed affidavits for attorneys such as Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell saying that election observers were refused access to witness vote counts and other processing of absentee ballots; that they saw some absentee ballots that had never been folded (which casts doubt that they were ever placed into envelopes as absentee ballots should be); that electronic voting machines changed voters’ selections; that ballots were cast using the names of people known to have moved to other states; that observers were told to leave the building because of a water leak and then some of the election workers stayed behind, with surveillance videos capturing what appeared to be those election workers processing ballots that came from under a table; that there were sudden unaccountable spikes of vote totals for Biden; and other problems.

Many allegations will never be proved or disproved by judicial proceedings because the lawsuits and accompanying affidavits were disregarded by courts, not based on merit but on “standing” — basically having the right to sue. The U.S. Supreme Court stood aside and declined to hear the case of *Texas v. Pennsylvania, et al.*, which documented “voting irregularities that resulted from Defendant states’ unconstitutional actions” — not just in the case of Pennsylvania but in three of the other contested states as well.

Kurt Hyde is an election integrity expert, studying and investigating historical and current election methods and procedures.

In the present election, data analysis shows (backed by TV recordings) that vote counts for President Trump often actually went down as the night progressed.



Rampant vote fraud noted: Protesters across the country rallied in support of President Trump under such slogans as “Count All Legal Votes” and “Stop the Steal.”

Whether or not one believes the claims of fraud, the fact that the system is so ill-designed that such accusations can be credibly made indicates the system needs to be changed. Otherwise, almost assuredly America will see a situation where those who feel cheated might stop voting or perhaps even act aggressively based on frustration and rage.

America’s election laws, and consequently America’s elections, have gone a long way downhill, especially in the last 50 to 100 years. It’s time to turn it around and restore traditional American election integrity.

Specific Changes in Election Laws and Procedures That Are Needed

- **Reinstate paper ballots:** In the 2020 election, there were numerous affidavits by electronic espionage experts alleging electronic vote manipulation. As well, many

vote checkers have claimed that they literally saw computer screens change votes from Trump to Biden and that they complained about it on election day. Among the evidence of fraud were numerous suspicious bumps in vote totals for Biden and votes repeatedly taken away from President Trump, to an extent that ruled out chance or simple reporting errors.

One way to limit electronic manipulation is through moving to paper ballots. In many voter precincts, voting is done on electronic screens and the vote is recorded electronically. In such places, it is virtually impossible to tell if fraud occurs. Paper ballots not only allow for accurate vote counts, they leave a paper trail to re-check votes.

- **Reinstate voting and vote counting as public acts:** In the 2020 election, election observers — representing Republican

Not only has it been reported that suspected fake ballots were destroyed in large batches to avoid fraud detection, but a main computer server that was set to be checked for vote fraud was spirited away.

candidates and non-partisan volunteers — were often kept from viewing vote counts altogether, as is easily documented by videos online. Fraud would be greatly allayed if many sets of eyes kept track of proceedings (with observers allowed close enough to the counting tables that fraud could be seen). To that end, anyone should be able to observe election processes without need of prior application, though limits may need to be set on numbers of observers.

• **Reinstate the precinct as the place where voters cast their ballots and where the ballots are counted:** In major metropolitan areas, ballots are often counted in large counting facilities, as was the case in locations where vote disputes happened in this election: Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Detroit, etc. The purported reasons that the centers are used is to centralize counting and to speed counting, but these counting centers usually finish their counts last, not first. Logic and many close-call races that usually end up going to Democrats have made many observers suspicious that the main reason large counting centers are used is to assure that there is enough vote fraud to swing important elections — hence the late-arriving vote counts.

Not only do large voting centers often use optical scan vote-counting machines, which can be rigged to favor one candidate over another, but the fact that the ballots have

to be transported to the central counting location provides plenty of opportunity en route to add fake ballots for one candidate or another, throw out ballots, or alter ballots. As well, at a large counting center, a small staff trained to commit fraud could repeatedly be used, limiting the likelihood of getting caught cheating. On the other hand, counting ballots at the precinct level would require a much

greater number of conspirators to commit widespread fraud.

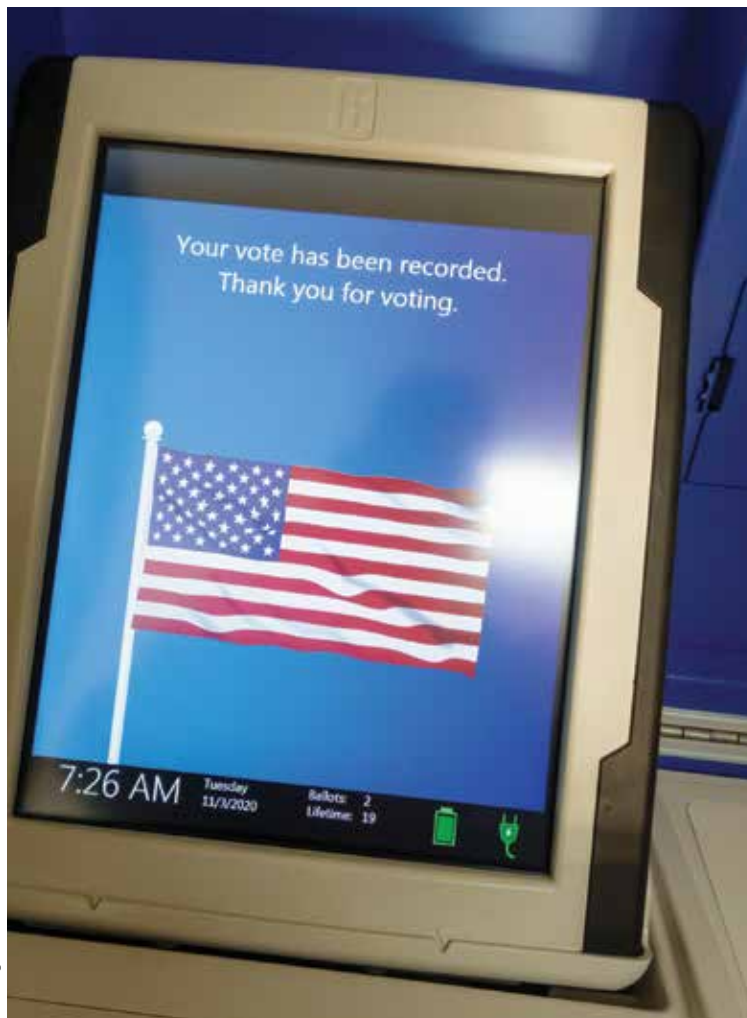
Absent large counting centers, local precincts could hand-count paper ballots in an hour or two if enough pairs of vote counters (usually one Democrat and one Republican) are brought in to count ballots after the polls close. The vote counting must start promptly after the polls close and not be interrupted. No slow counts or delayed counts should be allowed.

This type of law should be enacted at the state level, but where necessary a federal law could be narrowly applied, and it would be constitutional. To require states to reinstate voting in precincts for U.S. House and U.S. Senate elections in places that have abandoned precincts in favor of all-mail balloting, Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution should be used, which says:

The times, places and manner of holding elections, for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the legislature thereof, but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places for choosing Senators.

This may seem at first to grant carte blanche authority to the federal government to run elections, but as Alexander Hamilton explained in *The Federalist Papers*, No. 59: If “an article had been introduced into the Constitution empowering the United States to regulate the elections for the particular States, would any man have hesitated to condemn it, both as an unwarrantable transposition of power and as a premeditated engine for the destruction of the State governments?”

• **Allow candidates to choose areas to audit the vote:** In every election of substantial size, such as a



New, but not better: We need paper ballots, not electronic voting machines. And ballots should be counted at precinct levels, subject to public observation.

AP Images

race for state representative or larger, candidates ought to be able to choose to audit a certain number of votes to detect suspected fraud. The audit should use a procedure known as a Comprehensive Audit Recount, where candidates, especially losing candidates, would select small segments of the election, usually one or more precincts, to be counted manually in public. Along with a recount, voters who are listed as having voted in an election would be contacted to ensure that they exist and that they voted in the election, rather than someone else using their names. (Methodologies to correct the totals should be put in place, too.)

As well, if fraud is found, candidates should be able to ask for a larger audit.

- **Mandate that the election process be recorded with video and audio equipment:** This would also include repealing all laws in states that forbid audio or video recording in or near voting or vote-counting places. The only part of the election process that should not be recorded is how someone actually votes. Everything else should be recorded. More than a thousand affidavits alleging fraud have been ignored in this election, which should not be true, and there simply is not enough time between when a vote takes place and the time when the votes are certified to prove fraud, owing to the fact that gathering evidence is presently so difficult.

Extensive monitoring is self-evidently a must: In the current election cycle, even video showing that election officials in Fulton County Georgia kicked out election observers and Republicans (saying there was a water leak in the building) and then took out and counted ballots that were previously obscured beneath tables was dubbed inconclusive of fraud — though there is no reason other than to commit fraud to do what apparently took place.

- **Publicly and immediately post precinct vote results:** Precinct results must be publicly proclaimed, printed on paper, and posted publicly at the precinct voting location for at least seven days. They should also be posted on a website immediately and maintained on the website for at least two years so that researchers have ready availability to the results. In the present election, data analysis shows (backed by TV recordings) that vote counts for President Trump often actually went *down* as



Lots of opportunity for fraud: A voter checks in on election day in Midlothian, Virginia. The lines were very short in many places because large numbers of voters had voted early or by absentee voting — unobserved by election officials.

the night progressed. Using local ballot counts and instant results notification, a concerned electorate could quickly verify or disprove fraudulent vote reporting by simply posting vote totals online, inhibiting such fraud.

Hand in hand with this would be abolishing the relatively new and oft-used practice of using encryption to keep precinct results secret, supposedly as a strategy to protect precinct results from tampering. Public disclosure and public access are the best way to prevent tampering with election results.

Moreover, spoiled-ballot totals should be published, and spoiled ballots should be made available for citizens to inspect for at least six months after the election.

- **Mandate the cleaning up of all voter registration lists:** At least two months before each federal election, voter registration lists should be updated. And since many states give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, states should be required to take steps to prove that voters are actually eligible to vote in this country. In the November election, it is undisputed that tens of thousands of dead people voted (actually they had help), and similar numbers of

people who had moved out of state either voted illegally or saw someone else vote using their names. And many thousands of people requested ballots for the same address and thousands of others had ballots sent to post office boxes, which is illegal.

- **Eliminate same-day voter registration:** Laws allowing for same-day voter registration or for Internet voter registration should be repealed. In the recent election, almost all new voters in the areas accused of fraud — mainly from Democratic-controlled areas — apparently voted for Biden, whereas across the rest of the United States, Trump saw huge gains in Hispanic and black votes. The traditional 30-day cut-off for voter registration should be reinstated to allow sufficient time for voter registration to be validated.

- **Put in place laws to protect evidence:** In this election, not only has it been reported that suspected fake ballots were destroyed in large batches to avoid fraud detection, but a main computer server that was set to be checked for vote fraud was spirited away to parts unknown. Candidates should not have to win a court case to protect evidence; the default position should be that all evidence needs to be kept either

for a specific period of time — say two years — or until all challenges are dealt with in the courts. And access to this evidence should be easy to get for candidates and their representatives. (In this election, it is reported, even election data that is normally available on state government sites is being removed from the sites or withheld altogether, making proving fraud extremely difficult.) Those people who try to destroy ballots or other possible evidence of vote fraud should be punished harshly. Again, video monitoring of election processes and ballots would make this feasible.

• **Punish fraud:** After an election, appoint a committee to seek out fraud, including voter intimidation, illegal ballot harvesting, buying votes, and more, and bring charges against culprits. Nowadays, the lax enforcement of vote fraud virtually means that unless someone confesses to having committed vote fraud *and* has video and audio evidence to prove they actually committed the fraud, the person will face no charges. Multiple people have been caught on camera by the investigative entity Project Veritas admitting to massive vote fraud, but the admissions led to few charges. This lax enforcement

is an open invitation to commit fraud, with confidence that, if caught, it will go unpunished.

• **End early voting:** Early voting at polling places leads to multiple problems: It enables repeaters to vote multiple times, it provides opportunity to election insiders to scan the results, and it allows them time and opportunity to alter the ballots or vote counts.

• **Require an absolute chain of custody for ballots:** In Arizona, a poll observer noted that for 10 days after election officials thought all ballots were turned in, truckloads of ballots kept appearing. She asked officials, “How can you not know how many ballots are still out there?” In another case, a truck driver in Pennsylvania noted that his truck with nearly 300,000 ballots disappeared after post-office officials refused to offload the ballots at their proper destination. And many Republicans who voted absentee said there was no record they had voted, while many others discovered that someone else had voted using their names.

In many states, under the present system, there is virtually no way to discern who voted via absentee ballot and who

didn’t, and even if a ballot seems to make it through the mail stream unscathed, there is no way of knowing whether the vote was altered along the way. Supposedly, signatures were checked to see if a ballot was proper, but many reports indicate that signatures were ignored out of hand by ballot checkers. (Likewise, many people believe fingerprint verification would solve identity issues, but once fingerprints are uploaded into a computer system, it would be only too easy to alter the system to retrieve the fingerprints in order for others to have use of them or to have the machine simply ignore the fingerprints.) Even certified mail won’t work to stop the problem, because certified mail only assures that a ballot reaches the correct destination, not that the ballot wasn’t altered on the return.

Ballots should be treated like physical evidence in court cases: They should be accounted for at all times. Those who remember the O.J. Simpson murder trial remember that his defense lawyers were able to have blood evidence (O.J.’s bloody trail) deemed tainted because an absolute chain of custody of a blood sample from O.J. was broken — the defense claimed the police used O.J.’s blood sample to frame him despite no proof of such a claim. Most absentee ballots should be delivered directly to a voting place by a trusted proxy on election day — a proxy who should both sign for the ballot when picking it up and sign it into the voting station — greatly eliminating the ability to add fake ballots to the count. (States should require that absentee ballots arrive by election day and be delivered to the precincts to be counted in public on election day.) Moreover, the ballot envelope should contain adequate safeguards against fraud, such as photographic and signature proof of identification put inside by the voter and a seal against tampering. Also, the number of absentee ballots one can submit as a proxy should be severely limited. In the case of military ballots from overseas, ballots should be transferred in tamper-proof bags to their intended destinations, and soldiers should be able to track their ballots through a commercial shipping system to their intended destination, where the ballots should be signed in and stored unopened under video surveillance.



Blatant fraud: The investigative group Project Veritas set up multiple stings of individuals wherein individuals admitted on camera that they were committing vote fraud.



AP Images

Internet voting and alternative forms of electronic voting, such as voting via telephone should also be abolished.

- **Repeal laws that allow for unattended drop boxes for ballots:** Unattended drop boxes allow for large numbers of absentee ballots to magically appear with no record of how or when they were cast. Another election integrity weakness in unattended drop boxes is that they are vulnerable to having someone, ostensibly a voter casting a ballot, deposit an explosive device or an incendiary device in the drop box. Such an act could destroy untold numbers of ballots with no official record of how many ballots were destroyed or whose ballots they were.

- **Repeal laws allowing for no-excuse absentee balloting:** Again, in the states where most fraud purportedly took place, absentee ballots are too easy to obtain. Absentee ballots should be limited to those who can prove they will be out of town on election day or are physically incapable of making it to a polling place. In the case of requested absentee ballots, photographic identification should be required to even request an absentee ballot, and a ballot should be delivered to the recipient via certified mail. A random check of those who ask for absentee ballots should be done every election to cut back on fraud. Limiting the number of absentee ballots

would have the added benefit of making vote counting much quicker.

Opponents to such a suggestion will be quick to claim that poor people and those without proper IDs would be disenfranchised by such a system, but if the opportunity for fraud is allowed to happen, not only is it likely that the votes of millions of Americans would be rendered null and void by fraud (which is also voter disenfranchisement — at a greater scale), voting precincts are intended to be relatively small to make access possible — and the federal government already essentially requires that poor people have official IDs so that they can do such things as apply for Medicare and Medicaid or get certain medications at pharmacies.

- **Ballots should have verifying features:** Affidavits and video have documented the claims that numerous ballots in this election were not real, but were likely made on commercial copiers or printers. As in the manner that America puts certain features in paper currency to prove it's real — watermarks, colored thread, and holographic images — similar features should be built into ballots to limit fraud. After all, our votes are at least as valuable as our currency.

Too, after an election, all ballots that were printed should be accounted for — including absentee ballots and those bal-

Need to verify voter legitimacy: Voter drop boxes, especially unattended ones, have a weak chain of custody for ballots, opening the door for last-minute ballots from unknown sources to arrive at counting centers.

lots that were *not* used in the election. This is to ensure that ballots are not simply handed out illegally or filled in illegally and then added to the vote-count process.

- **Make it easier to recruit election clerks:** To ensure adequate participation in the voting process, the basic standard day for an election worker should include the option of working a half-day, usually about seven hours, rather than the 14-hour work day that is currently in many locations. The election judges and alternate election judges should be able to take time off during the day provided at least one is on duty at all times on election day.

- **Don't allow government employees or political hacks to run the polls:** If not enough ordinary citizens step forward to work at the polls — a situation that can be contrived to justify hiring biased poll workers via the political buddy system — use something like a jury call, if necessary, to get the additional poll workers. Like a jury pool, the people selected can be interviewed to assess their skills.

Most election fraud is committed by election insiders, not by outside hackers.

- **Require paper voter sign-in sheets:** Voter sign-ins should be on paper, and



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There's always an excuse to lower vote protections: A voter gets a swab for contactless voting. Many of the electoral integrity weaknesses introduced in 2020 were justified by COVID-19 overreactions.

voters should sign in consecutively (the voters' names and signatures are in the sequence in which they appear at the polls). The election judges' and election clerks' names should be affixed on the completed sheets to reduce the chance of adding fake voters (a fraud that Lyndon Baines Johnson's cronies perpetrated in his Senate primary runoff against Democrat and former Texas Governor Coke Stevenson).

Electronic signatures should be eliminated. Even the supposed benefits to electronic signatures are faulty. Modern technologies that display voters' signatures for election clerks to use for comparison don't really work because electronic signatures are often poor facsimiles of the real thing. Plus, electronic signatures could enable fraud: A computer system that can retrieve a signature from a voter-registration database and display it on a screen can also be adapted to retrieve that same signature and apply it to an electronic signature block as if that voter had appeared at the polls to vote. This type of technology could lead to computerized ballot-box stuffing the likes of which have never been seen before.

- **Congress should repeal Motor Voter**

and HAVA (Help America Vote Act of 2002): The Motor Voter law is an unconstitutional law that has done much harm to America's voter-registration databases. In addition to registering voters without verifying citizenship, it also restricts the states' ability to accomplish voter registration clean-ups.

HAVA has the dubious distinction of being the law that forced the states to buy voting equipment that in many cases didn't have a voter-verified paper trail. HAVA also created the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and neither the EAC nor the Federal Election Commission did much to prevent or clear up 2020 presidential election controversies.

The problems encountered in the 2020 general elections have awakened the awareness of the public regarding election integrity. The good news is that solutions to our electoral problems are to be found not in expensive new

technologies that can't be monitored by the public, but rather in restoring the use of tried and true methods of the past and providing additional ability to monitor election proceedings. Not only would the changes restore election integrity, but they would probably also cost considerably less than new technologies, especially once they are in place for a few election cycles.

The reforms listed above should serve well as a litmus test to evaluate whether an election-integrity plan is one that will improve election integrity. In the end, it should be asked, "Does a proposed election change transfer power from the voters to those who run the elections, or will it help return the power of the ballot box back to the voters, where it belongs?" The future of our Republic depends on accurate, honest, and open elections. ■



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LEFTISTS IN POWER

What Can Constitutionalists Do Now?

It has been said that despair is un-American. So now that Democrats hold the federal government and intend to crush the opposition, we tell what patriots should do.



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Democrats' great hope: President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, watch fireworks from the White House. Biden enters office under a cloud, as millions of Americans believe that the election was stolen for him. The Left hopes that constitutionalist Americans will exit the political process.

by *Steve Byas*

At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked — probably by Elizabeth Willing Powel, a prominent society figure and the wife of Philadelphia Mayor Samuel Powel — what type of government he and the other delegates had given us. Franklin's famous response was, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Franklin had read his history, and he knew that republican government was rare in the world, and when it did exist was always in danger from demagogues such

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as Julius Caesar. Now, modern would-be Caesars threaten to destroy the republican form of government carefully crafted by the Founders in 1787.

As a result of the November election, our republican form of government is in grave danger. Over the years, it has endured many assaults. The blunt truth is that many simply do not favor limited government, free enterprise, and a constitutional republic. But now, the enemies of liberty have the reins of power at the federal level.

Joe Biden, a man who has openly expressed disdain for both limited government and free enterprise, will wield the executive power as president of the United States. Should he prove unable to finish his term (a possibility that was openly discussed even

before his "election" as the 46th president), he would be succeeded by Vice President Kamala Harris, who is even further to the left, and is, indeed, by any measurement of political philosophy and performance, a dedicated radical.

Congress is also in the hands of those who have little respect for limited government and the free market. Nancy Pelosi is the speaker of the House. When she was asked about the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act a few years ago, she responded, "Is that a serious question?" She leads a Democratic Party with a very narrow majority in the House — 222 Democrats and 211 Republicans, with two vacancies. We can hope that there are a few Democrats left in the House who do not subscribe to the announced Democratic agenda, but we certainly cannot count on it. Additionally, while there are many fine Republicans in the House, there are also far too many who also have little regard for the Constitution.

The Senate is now split 50-50 Democrat and Republican after Republicans lost both Senate seats in the Georgia runoff election on January 5. With Vice President Harris wielding the gavel as the president of the Senate, she could break any 50-50 tie. For example, Harris will give the Democrats a 51st vote to make Senator Chuck Schumer of New York the majority leader (the most powerful position in the Senate).

And Schumer has vocally supported a radical agenda which, if it were to be enacted, would do perhaps fatal damage to the Republic. Schumer wants to pack the Supreme Court with additional judges so that they would not provide any obstacle to that radical agenda. Perhaps President Donald Trump's greatest domestic achievement was placing three ad-

ditional members on the Supreme Court, but Schumer's scheme would negate it. Another goal of Schumer's is to add more states to the Union, for the political purpose of adding additional Senate positions that would be filled by Democrats.

In addition to adding Puerto Rico, Schumer intends to see that the District of Columbia be added as a state. While Puerto Rico would likely add two more Democratic senators, the addition of the District of Columbia would certainly boost the Democratic Party's Senate majority by two. There, Republican presidential candidates regularly receive less than 10 percent of the vote. Even when Ronald Reagan carried 49 states in 1984, he managed a mere 13.7 percent of the vote in the District. While it is clear that adding D.C. as a state is unconstitutional, it is also clear that Schumer and those of his ilk care nothing about respecting the Constitution if it stands in the way of their agenda. And with a more compliant Supreme Court, it would be probable that the new members Schumer seeks would offer no objections to the addition of D.C.

One long-held check on such wild-eyed schemes is the Senate filibuster. Because Senate rules provide that any senator can continue speaking as long as he likes, once bills have gotten to the floor, this has been

used by both political parties to block legislation they wish to kill. While a cloture vote can be taken to cut off the filibuster, this requires 60 of the 100 senators voting in the affirmative. With only 50 members, the Democrats would be unable to force through any packing of the Supreme Court, the addition of D.C. as a state, or a host of other radical proposals without any Republican support. While there may be a few Republicans who would go over to the Democratic side on these issues, it is highly unlikely that they could get 10 or more to do so.

Under the best-case scenario, the filibuster is retained and Schumer's leftist agenda is not enacted. However, it is possible that he is able to get the votes to terminate the filibuster and follow that up with a radical agenda that will include the Green New Deal, massive tax increases, adding more states, open borders, court packing, and the like.

This leads us to the question that many constitutionally minded Americans have been asking since it became apparent that the enemies of our republican form of government are now in control: *What do we do now?*

Before we explore those solutions, we should first look at what would be ineffective solutions or worse.

- *Start a Third Party:* Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin is among those who have openly suggested the formation of third political party as a solution. While one can understand the frustration of millions of Americans with the Republican Party, generally, it is much easier to take control of one of the two major political parties and win that way than to create a third party and then expect to win the general election. Had Trump run as a third-party candidate in 2016, he might very well have captured numbers similar to those won by Ross Perot in 1992 (about 20 percent of the popular vote), but he would not have won the election.

In our present environment, a third party led by the likes of Palin would draw votes away from the Republican Party (essentially no Democrat would join this hypothetical party) and ensure the overwhelming victory of the Democratic Party. The most likely scenario in 2016, had Trump made a third-party bid, would have been that we would have had President Hillary Clinton rather than President Donald Trump.

Of course, if the Republican Party implodes or fractures as a result of its treatment of Trump and his supporters, then the dynamics would be different. Regardless, constitutionalist candidates are viable only when the voters are sufficiently informed, and the understanding that is vital to saving our Republic must be created during non-election years and election years alike through educational efforts that are deeper and broader than political campaigns.

- *Term Limits:* Another idea that is just a Band-Aid approach, at best, is term limits. Like the third-party idea, it is simply a "feel-good" measure. Frustrated citizens are open to the idea of term limits because they mistakenly believe the solution is to "get rid of the bums" that are in office right now. The reality is that a really bad member of Congress, such as Nancy Pelosi, would not be replaced by a Barry Goldwater. In her San Francisco district, it is more likely that she would be replaced by someone like her — or worse, if that is possible. The electorate that put Pelosi into office would be the same electorate picking her replacement.

The only way of changing this problem of revolving socialists is to change the nature of the electorate by raising their



They plan to quash dissent: Chuck Schumer, the new majority leader of the Senate, has vowed to enact a sweeping agenda, including ending the Senate filibuster, adding new states (including the District of Columbia), opening borders, and packing the Supreme Court. All are intended to make it virtually impossible for his Democratic Party to be defeated again in the future.

level of understanding. With the proper understanding, the voters would replace socialists with constitutionalists instead of replacing socialists with other socialists.

Conversely, some really good members of Congress would be put out to pasture prematurely. Term limits would limit the franchise of voters, and we would lose individuals such as Kentucky Republican Thomas Massie, perhaps the best member of Congress.

Term limits would more likely make a bad situation even worse. A person who has been a member of Congress for a decade or longer evidently likes being in Congress, and is thus likely to be more responsive to an organized constitutionalist constituency so as to remain in Congress. On the other hand, a member of the House or Senate who is in his or her last term (due to term limits) is less likely to respond to such pressure. Such a term-limited member is more likely to care what powerful lobbyists want — after all, if he is being term-limited, the member of Congress needs to look for his next job. Voting in lock-step with a powerful special interest group or a large corporate entity could prove just too tempting.

If this sounds overstated, consider how a lame-duck (post-election) session of Congress is more likely to ignore the

wishes of the voters than a regular session, particularly during an election year. Under term limits, congressmen who are in their final term are the equivalent of lame-duck congressmen.

• *Constitutional Convention (Convention of States)*: The most dangerous idea is that of a constitutional convention or, as some like to call it, a Convention of States. The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia strongly opposed this proposal, telling the Federalist Society that this is a bad century in which to write a Constitution.

Powerful leftists, such as Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Lessig, are proponents of a constitutional convention, because they believe it is the best way to get rid of our present Constitution and replace it with something more to the liking of progressives. Many liberals are salivating at using a con-con to gut the Second Amendment or the Electoral College. While there are more than a few conservatives who have supported the idea of such a convention, which they generally prefer to call a “Convention of States,” they should stop and think what such a convention would actually look like.

If these naïve conservatives do not like the current makeup of Congress, why do they think that a convention would have delegates who are more faithful to the

Constitution? After all, the electorate that picked the present members of Congress would be the same electorate picking delegates to any such convention. In short, the Convention of States would include individuals such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Nancy Pelosi, and Bernie Sanders, as well as those such as Rand Paul, Thomas Massie, and Mike Lee.

Should we have such a convention, and if actually produced something good and nothing bad, what difference would it actually make? After all, members of Congress, presidents, and judges regularly ignore the clear wording of the Constitution we have now. What makes one think they would suddenly start following any new amendments to the Constitution?

In 1791, the Bill of Rights was adopted, including the First Amendment, which explicitly said that Congress was to make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Yet, only seven years later, Congress did just that when it passed, and the president signed, the Sedition Act, which made it a crime to criticize members of the legislative or executive branch of the government. And the courts applied it by fining or jailing violators of the law!

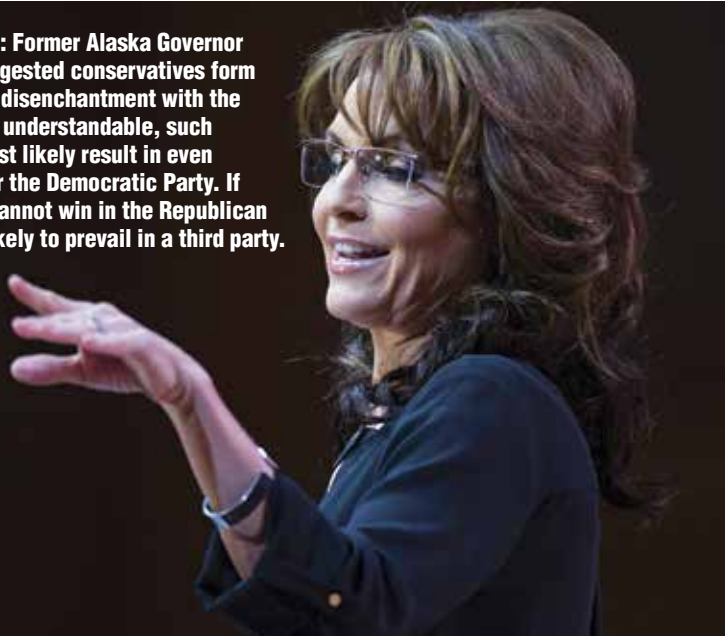
What Can Be Done to Save the Republic

At this point, some readers might be throwing up their hands and asking, “If none of these things is the right idea, then just what do you propose?”

That is an understandable response, but there are other strategies that can certainly mitigate our difficult circumstances, and maybe even reverse the drift away from the republican form of government we are in danger of losing altogether:

• *Restore Election Integrity*: Americans have long settled our political differences either at the ballot box or in the jury box. While we do not like to lose an election, we feel confident that another election is coming up in two years, and we can right the ship then. The problem with this past election is that nearly half the population believes — with good reason — that there was massive vote fraud that took place, enough to alter the outcome of the election. Once people lose faith in the election process, thinking it makes no difference because the other side is going to just steal the election anyway, they either drop out

Third party mayhem: Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin has suggested conservatives form a third party. While disenchantment with the Republican Party is understandable, such an action would most likely result in even greater victories for the Democratic Party. If constitutionalists cannot win in the Republican Party, they are unlikely to prevail in a third party.



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of the process or resort to more violent means to make a difference.

Because of this, it is imperative that we push for reforms of the election process that will restore confidence in settling differences at the ballot box, and will make sure that cheating is either eliminated or reduced to insignificance.

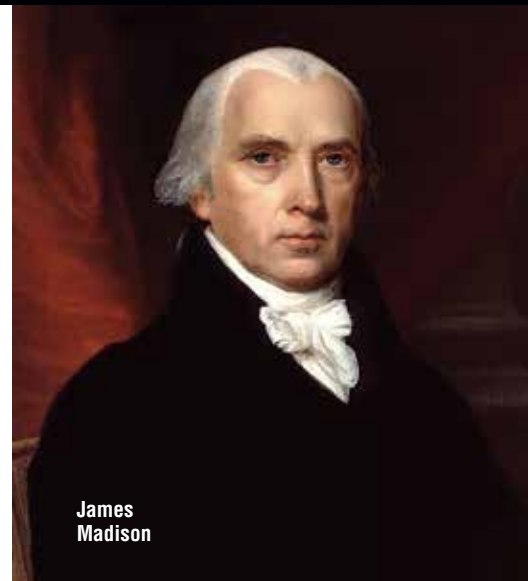
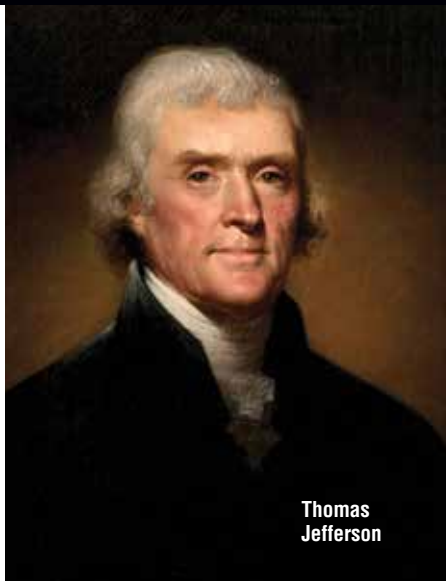
While Republicans lost control of the federal legislature, they still control the legislatures in most of the *states*. We are more likely to bring effective pressure to bear against members of the state legislatures than members of Congress, and constitutionalists should use such clout to pressure the state legislatures to reform election laws to eliminate, or at least substantially reduce, vote fraud.

Among the reforms I would suggest is the elimination of all voting machines that are connected to the Internet. Additionally, all voting should be done by *paper* ballots, so an actual record exists of how people voted. With optical scan machines, these paper ballots could be swiftly counted, and the results transported to the county election boards. If there were to arise any disputes, we would have the paper ballots that could be counted by hand.

There should be no centralized vote counting, as was done in Atlanta and in other places across America. Transporting ballots out of the precinct to a centralized counting site is an open invitation to vote fraud—adding or subtracting ballots, changing votes, and more. It is much more difficult to manipulate vote counting if all counting — of paper ballots — is done within the precinct.

Election officials should not be allowed to change election law — law designed to reduce the possibility of fraud. Interestingly, a national commission created in the aftermath of the disputed Florida presidential vote (between George Bush and Al Gore) of 2000, and chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker, actually had some very good ideas. They recommended that states create a “uniform system of voter identification,” which would include a photograph. They also suggested that states “do more to prevent voter registration and absentee ballot fraud.”

Also interestingly, in light of the controversies of the past election, they expressed concern about widespread mail-in voting



Tactic: Thomas Jefferson, who authored the Declaration of Independence, and James Madison, considered the Father of the Constitution, faced the difficult question of what to do when the federal government refused to abide by the Constitution. Their solution was the concept of nullification, in which states simply refuse to cooperate with any enforcement of unconstitutional federal laws. In 1798, the two Founding Fathers penned the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions in response to the unconstitutional Sedition Act, which violated the First Amendment. They suggested that states could interpose themselves between the federal government and their citizens.

and even in-person early voting. They argued that widespread mail-in voting “increases the risk of fraud” and that in-person early voting “allows a significant portion of voters to cast their ballots before they have all the information that will become available to the rest of the electorate.”

These and other reforms are necessary to restore integrity to the voting process. State legislators can make these and other needed changes, and they can emphatically state that neither the courts of their states nor election officials can change these laws — making law is the province of the legislature.

- *Utilize Nullification:* A powerful weapon for state legislatures, *nullification* is another tool in the fight to preserve liberty and save the Republic. Nullification is not a fringe idea, nor is it a dangerous or even novel idea: It is simply a recognition that states and their citizens created the Union and that the Union should answer to them. They should not answer to the Union.

In the aforementioned 1798 Sedition Act, in which Congress, the president, and the courts — the entire federal government — blatantly violated the Constitution, James Madison and Thomas Jefferson

responded by developing the idea of nullification. Writing anonymously (so as to avoid being jailed under the Sedition Act), they were able to get the state legislatures of Kentucky (Jefferson) and Virginia (Madison) to adopt resolutions condemning the Sedition Act and interposing between their states’ citizens and the federal government.

Actually, Madison had already addressed this problem — what to do if the federal government refused to follow the Constitution — in *The Federalist*, No. 46. “Should an unwarrantable measure of the federal government be unpopular in particular States, which would seldom fail to be the case, or even a warrantable measure be so, which may sometimes be the case, the means of opposition to it are powerful and at hand. The disquietude of the people; their repugnance and, perhaps, refusal to cooperate with officers of the Union; the frowns of the executive magistracy of the State; the embarrassments created by legislative devices, which would often be added on such occasions, would oppose, in any State, very serious impediments.”

Thomas Jefferson expressed similar sentiments: “The several states composing the United States of America are not united on a principle of unlimited sub-

Joe Biden, a man who has openly expressed disdain for both limited government and free enterprise, will wield the executive power as president of the United States.



A good first goal: While it is unlikely that citizen groups can make a whole lot of difference in the outcome of a presidential contest, or even a Senate race, patriotic Americans have a very good chance to elect true constitutionalists to the U.S. House of Representatives through educating their neighbors.

uschools/E+/GettyimagesPlus

mission to their general government.” On what to do if the federal government pushes its boundaries, Jefferson said, “Where powers are assumed which have not been delegated, a nullification of the act is the rightful remedy.”

While it is very clear that these two Founding Fathers — Madison (known as the Father of the Constitution) and Jefferson (the author of the Declaration of Independence) — saw nullification as a way to peacefully check actions of the federal government that go beyond their constitutional authority, some today have argued that nullification was just a doctrine to protect slavery and the issue over which the Civil War was fought. Both of these assertions are historically incorrect. The nullification doctrine was developed in opposition to the Sedition Act, which had nothing to do with slavery. And the Civil War was not fought over nullification, but rather over the question of *secession* — a state leaving the Union. Jefferson and Madison did not propose secession. On the contrary, they wanted to see the preservation of the form of government — a

federal republic — created by the Constitution, in the face of the unconstitutional Sedition Act.

In fact, arguing that nullification was used to protect slavery turns history on its head. Rather than being used to protect slavery, it was often used by northern states against slavery. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 — which required the return of accused runaway slaves, without due process of law — several states, including Michigan, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts, enacted statutes to frustrate the federal law. Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison said, “Nullification [to fight the Fugitive Slave Act] is loyalty to goodness.”

But what about today? How can this principle, created late in the 18th century, and used frequently in the 19th century, work in modern America to prevent the loss of liberty and to preserve our Constitution?

Thomas Woods explains how to make effective use of nullification today in his book *Nullification: How to Resist Tyranny in the 21st Century*. Writing for the Mises

Institute, Woods said, “Nullification is the Jeffersonian idea that the states of the American Union must judge the constitutionality of the acts of their agent, the federal government, since no impartial arbiter between them exists. When the federal government exercises a particularly dangerous power not delegated to it, the states must refuse to allow its enforcement within their borders.”

Also writing for the Mises Institute, Ryan McMaken noted that, while nullification is today associated with the Right, the Left has often used nullification in such matters as their unilateral legalization of marijuana and the sanctuary city movement. While many conservatives might differ with the use of nullification in some areas, it does demonstrate that nullification can be an effective tool to fight for the Constitution, as well.

McMaken wrote, “The conservatives have had some successes in their own way. Eight states (at the prompting of conservatives) have passed laws that nullify federal laws on guns within their own borders. Like the marijuana nullifiers, the gun-law nullifiers simply refuse to assist the feds in enforcing federal gun laws.” In Michigan, conservatives helped pass a law that kept state officials from helping the feds in indefinite detention under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

“When nullification enjoys either the indifference or support of a sizable portion of the local population, and is based on encouraging government *inaction*, it tends to work,” argued McMaken. He noted that federal officials can only do so much to enforce federal law on their own, without the assistance of local government.

On the other hand, “If nullification consists of requiring an active role for state and local officials, follow-through is a problem,” McMaken wrote. But state governments can do a lot — by doing nothing. Doing nothing to help federal officials in pushing unconstitutional laws via nullification is what states *can* do. Without assistance from local authorities, federal officials are often frustrated in attempting to enforce unconstitutional laws.

• *Concentrate on the House of Representatives:* While the Democrats gained three Senate seats in the last election, they actually lost seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is more difficult to fraudulently

win House seats than Senate seats because there are more of them — 435 — and they “fly under the radar,” so to speak. Senate races are contested across an entire state, while House contests are in districts, which are smaller both geographically and in population (except in a state such as Wyoming, which has only one member in the House of Representatives).

Because of this, an individual citizen can have a much greater impact on a U.S. House race than either a U.S. Senate contest or a presidential contest. If a House candidate had, say, a dozen dedicated volunteers in each county of a congressional district where contests are usually close — where candidates lose by less than five percent of the vote — the candidate would have a very good chance of winning. If this were to be multiplied across just 25 congressional districts, it would be very significant.

Candidates who are true constitutionalists have a much better chance of emerging victorious in a House contest than in a Senate race, especially if the candidate can

spend his or her time campaigning on issues, and does not have to explain the *why* of limited government. In other words, if the electorate is already attuned to the ideas of limited, constitutional government, a candidate espousing those views is much more likely to win.

This brings us back to the remarks made earlier on term limits. Unless the electorate is changed, either by a mass influx, or mass exodus, of voters, limiting a leftist congressman to six years, or whatever, will only result in his or her replacement with another leftist congressman. Another way of changing the electorate is by educating the electorate with the principles of limited government, free enterprise, and all of the ideas found in the U.S. Constitution. Then, after the electorate is thus educated, they must take *action*. Effective action requires *organization*.

• *Organize for Less Government, More Responsibility, and — With God’s Help — a Better World:* There are many fine conservative organizations in the fight to

save our republican form of government. Some are good at education, while others concentrate on political action.

The organization that does the best at both *education* and *organization* is The John Birch Society, the parent organization of THE NEW AMERICAN. Its slogan sums up its goal — “Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.” The way to achieve these lofty goals is through the methods of education and organization.

Robert Welch, the founder of The John Birch Society, said in 1966, “Our job is simply to create sufficient understanding, in the confidence that all else, including the correct and necessary political action, will automatically follow.” He explained that attempting to achieve needed changes though “the organization of political forces and without a sufficiently thorough educational program and the underlying base, is to act like the ancient Egyptians in trying to make bricks without any straw to hold the clay together.”

William Hahn, the CEO of The John Birch Society, told THE NEW AMERICAN that in the aftermath of the election, we can expect to be “hit from nearly all sides by those who wish to subvert Americanism into globalism. However, this fight didn’t begin with President Trump and it certainly won’t end with him.” Hahn said the way to fight those who are organized against limited government is with our own organization.

“Constitutionalists need to use the constitutional tools given to us by our Founding Fathers,” Hahn said, “especially through interposing and nullification,” but advised that “to do so, elected officials need to understand these tools and how to use them.”

Hahn added that JBS has “the structure to establish reach and influence in a locality through face-to-face interaction. This is what sets us apart from many other organizations who are reeling from censorship and tyranny.”

Hahn invited the readers of THE NEW AMERICAN to “join our educational army by applying for membership today at JBS.org.”

As Sam Adams is quoted as saying before the American Revolution, “It does not take a majority to prevail ... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men.” ■



Here you go: The conservative organization that best combines educating the electorate in constitutional principles with organizing to advance these ideas is The John Birch Society. This patriotic organization has been fighting for Americanist causes — with many successes — for decades. Their slogan sums up their noble goals: “Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.”

The Freedom Index

A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution

Our third (and final) look at the 116th Congress shows how every member of Congress voted on key issues such as Washington, D.C., statehood (House) and U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan (Senate).

House Vote Descriptions

21 Police. H.R. 7120, titled “The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act,” would further interject the federal government in local law enforcement. As summarized by the Congressional Research Service, the bill “authorizes the Department of Justice to issue subpoenas in investigations of police departments for a pattern or practice of discrimination”; “establishes a framework to prohibit racial profiling at the federal, state, and local levels”; and “establishes new requirements for law enforcement officers and agencies, including ... wear[ing] body cameras.”

The House passed H.R. 7120 on June 25, 2020 by a vote of 236 to 181 (Roll Call 119). We have assigned pluses to the nays because law enforcement is a local or state matter, and that is where decisions such as requiring police officers to wear body cameras should be made. By contrast, H.R. 7120 would move the country further in the direction of a federalized police force beholden to Washington.



AP Images

The big picture: Police body cams may be a good thing, but this and other law-enforcement policies should not be imposed from above, but should be decided on the state and local level.

22 Washington, D.C., Statehood. H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, would admit most of the District of Columbia as the 51st state, rename it “Washington, Douglass Commonwealth,” and give it full representation in Congress, with two U.S. senators and one

U.S. representative. Under the bill, the area of Washington, D.C., surrounding the National Mall and including the White House and U.S. Capitol would remain a separate federal district with three electoral votes in accordance with the 23rd Amendment.

About This Index

“**T**he Freedom Index: A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution” rates congressmen based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. To learn how any representative or senator voted on the key measures described herein, look him or her up in the vote charts.

The scores are derived by dividing a congressman’s constitutional votes (pluses) by the total number he cast (pluses and minuses) and multiplying by 100. The average House score for this index is 32 percent, and the average Senate score is 30

percent. Twenty-five representatives and two senators earned 100 percent. We encourage readers to examine how their own congressmen voted on each of the 10 key measures. We also encourage readers to commend legislators for their constitutional votes, and to urge improvement where needed.

This is our third (and final) index for the 116th Congress. Our first index for the current Congress (votes 1-10) appeared in our November 18, 2019 issue, and our second index (votes 11-20) appeared in our July 20, 2020 issue. An online version of the “Freedom Index” is also available (click on “Freedom Index” at TheNewAmerican.com). ■

House Vote Scores ✓

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
ALABAMA												
1 Byrne (R)	50%	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	55%
2 Roby (R)	50%	+	+	?	?	?	?	+	-	-	-	40%
3 Rogers, M. (R)	80%	?	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	-	57%
4 Aderholt (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	50%
5 Brooks, M. (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	73%
6 Palmer (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	73%
7 Sewell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
ALASKA												
AL Young, Don (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	34%
ARIZONA												
1 O'Halleran (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	7%
2 Kirkpatrick (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
3 Grijalva (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	24%
4 Gosar (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
5 Biggs (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90%
6 Schweikert (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	80%
7 Gallego (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
8 Lesko (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	63%
9 Stanton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
ARKANSAS												
1 Crawford (R)	67%	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	-	54%
2 Hill (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	37%
3 Womack (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	43%
4 Westerman (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	59%
CALIFORNIA												
1 LaMalfa (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	57%
2 Huffman (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	27%
3 Garamendi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 McClintock (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
5 Thompson, M. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
6 Matsui (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
7 Bera (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
8 Cook (R)		+	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	39%
9 McNerney (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
10 Harder (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
11 DeSaulnier (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	30%
12 Pelosi (D)	0%	-	-	-	?	-	?	?	-	?	-	6%
13 Lee, B. (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	27%
14 Speier (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
15 Swalwell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
16 Costa (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
17 Khanna (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	27%
18 Eshoo (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
19 Lofgren (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	23%
20 Panetta (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
21 Cox (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
22 Nunes (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	50%
23 McCarthy (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	41%
24 Carbajal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
25 Garcia, M. (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	40%
26 Brownley (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
27 Chu (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
28 Schiff (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
29 Cárdenas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18%
30 Sherman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
31 Aguilar (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
32 Napolitano (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15%
33 Lieu (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%
34 Gomez (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	30%
35 Torres (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
36 Ruiz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
37 Bass (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
38 Sánchez (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
39 Cisneros (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
40 Roybal-Allard (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
41 Takano (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	20%
42 Calvert (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	37%
43 Waters, M. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
44 Barragán (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21%
45 Porter (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
46 Correa (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	23%
47 Lowenthal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21%
48 Rouda (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
49 Levin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
50 Vacant												
51 Vargas (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	22%
52 Peters, S. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
53 Davis, S. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
COLORADO												
1 DeGette (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
2 Neguse (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
3 Tipton (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	67%
4 Buck (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93%
5 Lamborn (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	70%
6 Crow (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
7 Perlmutter (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
CONNECTICUT												
1 Larson, J. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 Courtney (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
3 DeLauro (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 Himes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
5 Hayes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
DELAWARE												
AL Blunt Rochester (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
FLORIDA												
1 Gaetz (R)	88%	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	-	+	+	74%
2 Dunn (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	60%
3 Yoho (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	87%
4 Rutherford (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	+	-	?	-	-	-	39%
5 Lawson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
6 Waltz (R)	56%	+	+	+	+	+	-	?	-	-	-	52%
7 Murphy, S. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
8 Posey (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	73%
9 Soto (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
10 Demings (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
11 Webster (R)	63%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	?	?	-	63%
12 Bilirakis (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	41%
13 Crist (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
14 Castor (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
15 Spano (R)	83%	+	?	+	+	+	?	+	?	?	-	68%
16 Buchanan (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	33%
17 Steube (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	79%
18 Mast (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	55%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

The House passed H.R. 51 on June 26, 2020 by a vote of 232 to 180 (Roll Call 122). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the push for D.C. statehood is merely a politically motivated effort to gain two Democratic Party senators and thus more easily advance a left-wing agenda. Moreover, granting statehood to the District of Columbia violates Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. H.R. 51 purports to circumvent this constitutional prohibition by reducing D.C. to basically the Capitol and surrounding governmental buildings.

23 Federal Highway and Transit Programs. H.R. 2 authorizes funding for federal highway, transit, highway safety, motor carrier, research, hazardous materials, and rail programs of the Department of Transportation. It provides \$46.4 billion in fiscal 2021 funding and provides up to \$12.5 billion in funding through fiscal 2025 to reduce the “climate-change” impacts of the surface-transportation system. It also implements new transportation safety requirements and directs the Transportation Department to establish a pilot program for a national motor vehicle per-mile user fee to maintain the Highway Trust Fund.

The House passed H.R. 2 on July 1, 2020 by a vote of 233 to 188 (Roll Call 138). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the federal government should not be funding highways, addressing transportation-related “climate-change” issues, promoting motor-vehicle safety, or imposing a tax on driving in order to pay for highway construction and maintenance. Such projects should be left in the hands of state or municipal governments, where the Constitution intends such issues to be handled.

24 Public Lands. H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors Act, permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually. The LWCF was created in 1964 to purchase and develop land for “recreational” uses. The bill also creates the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (NPPLRF), which is funded at \$1.9 billion annually for five years. This funding comes from oil, gas, and other energy royalties on federal

property, and the NPPLRF allocates this funding to maintenance in national parks and other federal lands.

The House passed H.R. 1957 on July 22, 2020 by a vote of 310 to 107 (Roll Call 155). We have assigned pluses to the nays not only because this bill irresponsibly increases the federal deficit and diverts energy royalties from being spent for needed constitutional purposes, but also because the Constitution does not authorize Congress to purchase private property except “for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.” Moreover, the federal government already owns a huge percentage of land directly — about 28 percent of the nation — and is a demonstrably poor steward of public lands.

25 Removing Statues From the Capitol. H.R. 7573 provides for the removal of certain statues and busts from display in the Capitol. It demands that statues of members of the Confederacy be removed from the National Statuary Hall and prohibited from being displayed at the Capitol in the future. The statues in question will be returned to the states that sent them, at the states’ expense, if the states desire.

The House passed H.R. 7573 on July 22, 2020 by a vote of 305 to 113 (Roll Call

156). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the statues that fill the National Statuary Hall are sent by the states at their discretion, and Congress should not be assuming the authority to tell the states which statues they are and are not allowed to place in the hall. This is plainly an attempt to erase American history.

26 Pregnant Workers. H.R. 2694, titled the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, would enact federal workplace regulations on employers with 15 or more employees, requiring them to make “reasonable accommodations” for employees whose workplace performance might be impacted by pregnancy or childbirth.

The House passed H.R. 2694 on September 17, 2020 by a vote of 329 to 73 (Roll Call 195). We have assigned pluses to the nays because nowhere in the Constitution is the federal government authorized to regulate private employers, and federal requirements for covered benefits usually mean decreased pay. This is a matter reserved for the states and the people under the 10th Amendment.

27 Sustainable Energy. H.R. 4447, called the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act, is a 1,206-page climate



Yuri_Arcurs/E+/GettyImagesPlus

A federal matter? Should the feds really impose regulations to protect private-sector pregnant workers? Such a question illustrates the federal government’s overreach.

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
19 Rooney, F. (R)		?	?	?	?	?	-	?	-	-	-	79%
20 Hastings (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
21 Frankel (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
22 Deutch (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
23 Wasserman Schultz (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
24 Wilson, F. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
25 Diaz-Balart (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	33%
26 Mucarsel-Powell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
27 Shalala (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
GEORGIA												
1 Carter, E.L. (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	57%
2 Bishop, S. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
3 Ferguson (R)	56%	+	+	+	+	+	-	?	-	-	-	45%
4 Johnson, H. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
5 Lewis, John (D)		-	-	-	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
6 McBath (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
7 Woodall (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	43%
8 Scott, A. (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	57%
9 Collins, D. (R)	71%	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	-	-	?	58%
10 Hice (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	83%
11 Loudermilk (R)	100%	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	72%
12 Allen (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	63%
13 Scott, D. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
14 Graves, T. (R)	83%	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	-	?	?	62%
HAWAII												
1 Case (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
2 Gabbard (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	27%
IDAHO												
1 Fulcher (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	73%
2 Simpson (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	37%
ILLINOIS												
1 Rush (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
2 Kelly, R. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
3 Lipinski (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
4 García, C. (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	33%
5 Quigley (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
6 Casten (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
7 Davis, D. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
8 Krishnamoorthi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
9 Schakowsky (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	20%
10 Schneider (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
11 Foster (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
12 Bost (R)	50%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	40%
13 Davis, R. (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	33%
14 Underwood (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
15 Shimkus (R)	44%	+	+	+	+	-	-	?	-	-	-	44%
16 Kinzinger (R)	40%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	39%
17 Bustos (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
18 LaHood (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	61%
INDIANA												
1 Visclosky (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
2 Walorski (R)	33%	+	?	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	38%
3 Banks (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	73%
4 Baird (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	58%
5 Brooks, S. (R)	43%	+	?	+	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	36%
6 Pence (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	47%
7 Carson (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
8 Bucshon (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	49%
9 Hollingsworth (R)	78%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	?	76%
IOWA												
1 Finkenauer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 Loebsack (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
3 Axne (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 King, S. (R)		?	?	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	80%
KANSAS												
1 Marshall (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	57%
2 Watkins (R)	56%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	?	55%
3 Davids (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 Estes (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	67%
KENTUCKY												
1 Comer (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	63%
2 Guthrie (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	?	-	-	41%
3 Yarmuth (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
4 Massie (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
5 Rogers, H. (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	41%
6 Barr (R)	43%	?	?	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	?	48%
LOUISIANA												
1 Scalise (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	50%
2 Richmond (D)	10%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
3 Higgins, C. (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	86%
4 Johnson, M. (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	69%
5 Abraham (R)		+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	77%
6 Graves, G. (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	63%
MAINE												
1 Pingree (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
2 Golden (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%
MARYLAND												
1 Harris, A. (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	73%
2 Ruppersberger (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
3 Sarbanes (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 Brown, A. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
5 Hoyer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
6 Trone (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
7 Mfume (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
8 Raskin (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	27%
MASSACHUSETTS												
1 Neal (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 McGovern (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	30%
3 Trahan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
4 Kennedy, Joe (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	27%
5 Clark, K. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
6 Moulton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
7 Pressley (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	37%
8 Lynch (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
9 Keating (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
MICHIGAN												
1 Bergman (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	50%
2 Huizenga (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	63%
3 Amash (I)	90%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	89%
4 Moolenaar (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	40%
5 Kildee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
6 Upton (R)	30%	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	33%
7 Walberg (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	60%
8 Slotkin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
9 Levin (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	27%
10 Mitchell (R)	44%	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	?	-	-	46%
11 Stevens (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
12 Dingell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
13 Tlaib (D)	40%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	37%
14 Lawrence (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
MINNESOTA												
1 Hagedorn (R)	67%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	?	59%
2 Craig (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

bill that would create a goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050, in line with recommendations by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The bill also creates and reauthorizes multiple grants favoring "clean" energy sources. And it includes multiple provisions requiring federal government cooperation and integration with international organizations and standards.

The House passed H.R. 4447 on September 24, 2020 by a vote of 220 to 185 (Roll Call 206). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the bill advances a radical environmentalist agenda and increases federal government meddling in the energy market. Under the Constitution's Interstate Commerce Clause, the federal government is empowered "to regulate Commerce ... among the several States" only to prevent the restriction of the free flow of goods among the states. Moreover, H.R. 4447 infringes on U.S. sovereignty and will cause energy costs to skyrocket. .

28 Appropriations/Coronavirus (Part 1). H.R. 133, the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, was split in two parts by the House of Representatives under a voting procedure known as "dividing the question." This part of the bill includes \$860 billion in "discretionary" appropriations, including \$696 billion for the Defense Department (which includes spending for foreign military interventionism as well as legitimate national defense) and \$69 billion for the Homeland Security Department.

The House passed this part of H.R. 133 on December 21, 2020 by a vote of 327 to 85 (Roll Call 250). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Congress is failing to address its profligate spending that yielded an annual federal deficit of \$3.1 trillion in fiscal 2020. Moreover, Congress is minimizing its accountability to voters by combining all "discretionary" federal spending and coronavirus aid into one gigantic bill and only holding two votes on that bill in the House.

29 Appropriations/Coronavirus (Part 2). H.R. 133, the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, was split in two parts by the House of Representatives under a voting procedure known as "dividing the question." This part of the bill includes about \$519 billion in discretionary



AndreyMaximenko/Stock/GettyImagesPlus

Monopoly money? Not yet, but if Congress continues ramping up spending and debt for myriad programs including coronavirus stimulus, the dollar's decline in purchasing power will accelerate.

appropriations and another \$900 billion in coronavirus aid. Its discretionary provisions include a combined \$197 billion for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education departments; \$114 billion in mandatory Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding; and \$590 million in aid to developing countries. The coronavirus aid provisions include \$600 checks per adult or dependent child, \$300 per week in federal unemployment benefits through March 14, 2021, \$325 billion in loans and grants to small businesses, \$81.9 billion in Education Department grants, \$25 billion in rental assistance, and \$13 billion in agricultural assistance.

The House passed this part of H.R. 133 on December 21, 2020 by a vote of 359 to 53 (Roll Call 251). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Congress is failing to address its fiscally and constitutionally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that yielded an annual federal deficit of \$3.1 trillion in fiscal 2020. Congress is minimizing its accountability to voters by combining all "discretionary" federal spending and coronavirus aid into one gigantic bill and only holding two votes on that bill in the House. Moreover, most of the coronavirus aid provisions, including direct checks, federal unemployment benefits, and subsidization of the economy, exceed the federal government's authority.

30 NDAA (Veto Override). The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2021 (H.R. 6395) authorizes \$740 billion in military spending. When President Donald Trump vetoed the NDAA on December 23, 2020, he stated in his veto message that "my administration recognizes the importance of the Act to our national security." But, he also said, "Numerous provisions in the Act particularly contradict my Administration's foreign policy, particularly my efforts to bring the troops home. I oppose endless wars, as does the American public." He also cited other reasons for vetoing the NDAA, including Congress' failure to end Section 230, which protects the social-media giants from liability for content posted on their sites, allowing them to create leftist monopolies.

The House overrode President Trump's veto of the NDAA on December 28, 2020 by a vote of 322 to 87 (Roll Call 253). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the act includes spending not only for legitimate national defense, but also for military interventionism in foreign lands that does not make America safer. Also, the legislation undercuts the president's legitimate authority as commander-in-chief by restricting his ability to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea. ■

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
3 Phillips (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 McCollum (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
5 Omar (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	41%
6 Emmer (R)	43%	?	?	?	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	58%
7 Peterson (D)	20%	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28%
8 Stauber (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	43%
MISSISSIPPI												
1 Kelly, T. (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	67%
2 Thompson, B. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
3 Guest (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	55%
4 Palazzo (R)	67%	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	-	-	49%
MISSOURI												
1 Clay (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
2 Wagner (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	41%
3 Luetkemeyer (R)	67%	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	46%
4 Hartzler (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	47%
5 Cleaver (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
6 Graves, S. (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	66%
7 Long (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	63%
8 Smith, J. (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	73%
MONTANA												
AL Gianforte (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	50%
NEBRASKA												
1 Fortenberry (R)	33%	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	38%
2 Bacon (R)	30%	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33%
3 Smith, Adrian (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	60%
NEVADA												
1 Titus (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
2 Amodei (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	40%
3 Lee, S. (D)	0%	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
4 Horsford (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
NEW HAMPSHIRE												
1 Pappas (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 Kuster (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	10%
NEW JERSEY												
1 Norcross (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
2 Van Drew (R)	30%	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	27%
3 Kim (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 Smith, C. (R)	20%	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27%
5 Gottheimer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
6 Pallone (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%
7 Malinowski (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
8 Sires (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
9 Pascrell (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
10 Payne (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
11 Sherrill (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
12 Watson Coleman (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	23%
NEW MEXICO												
1 Haaland (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
2 Torres Small (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	10%
3 Luján, B.R. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
NEW YORK												
1 Zeldin (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	63%
2 King, P. (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	31%
3 Suozzi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
4 Rice, K. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
5 Meeks (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
6 Meng (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	30%
7 Velázquez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	30%
8 Jeffries (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	17%
9 Clarke, Y. (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	30%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
10 Nadler (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	15%
11 Rose, M. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	7%
12 Maloney, C. (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	27%
13 Espaillat (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	33%
14 Ocasio-Cortez (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	40%
15 Serrano (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	10%
16 Engel (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	?	17%
17 Lowey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	10%
18 Maloney, S.P. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
19 Delgado (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
20 Tonko (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20%
21 Stefanik (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	30%
22 Brindisi (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	?	7%
23 Reed, T. (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	41%
24 Katko (R)	30%	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28%
25 Morelle (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
26 Higgins, B. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
27 Jacobs (R)	43%	?	?	?	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	43%
NORTH CAROLINA												
1 Butterfield (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 Holding (R)	50%	+	+	+	?	?	-	+	-	-	-	60%
3 Murphy, G. (R)	57%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	?	?	?	54%
4 Price (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
5 Foxx (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	53%
6 Walker (R)		+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	71%
7 Rouzer (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	63%
8 Hudson (R)	50%	+	+	+	?	?	-	+	-	-	-	53%
9 Bishop, D. (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85%
10 McHenry (R)	56%	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	-	-	-	43%
11 Vacant												
12 Adams (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
13 Budd (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
NORTH DAKOTA												
AL Armstrong (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	67%
OHIO												
1 Chabot (R)	50%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	60%
2 Wenstrup (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	60%
3 Beatty (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15%
4 Jordan (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
5 Latta (R)	50%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	57%
6 Johnson, B. (R)	50%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	38%
7 Gibbs (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	47%
8 Davidson (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	-	?	+	+	+	+	83%
9 Kaptur (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	13%
10 Turner (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	34%
11 Fudge (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
12 Balderson (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	43%
13 Ryan, T. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
14 Joyce, D. (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	37%
15 Stivers (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	41%
16 Gonzalez, A. (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	43%
OKLAHOMA												
1 Hern (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%
2 Mullin (R)		?	?	+	?	?	-	?	+	+	?	72%
3 Lucas (R)	50%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	44%
4 Cole (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	40%
5 Horn (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	10%
OREGON												
1 Bonamici (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	20%
2 Walden (R)	44%	+	+	+	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	38%
3 Blumenauer (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	27%
4 DeFazio (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	-	24%
5 Schrader (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
PENNSYLVANIA												
1 Fitzpatrick (R)	10%	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
2 Boyle (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	20%
3 Evans (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	10%
4 Dean (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
5 Scanlon (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
6 Houlahan (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
7 Wild (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
8 Cartwright (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
9 Meuser (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	50%
10 Perry (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
11 Smucker (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	59%
12 Keller (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	75%
13 Joyce, J. (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	67%
14 Reschenthaler (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	50%
15 Thompson, G.T. (R)	60%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	43%
16 Kelly, M. (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	63%
17 Lamb (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
18 Doyle (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
RHODE ISLAND												
1 Cicilline (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 Langevin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
SOUTH CAROLINA												
1 Cunningham (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	14%
2 Wilson, J. (R)	57%	+	+	+	-	+	-	?	?	?	-	48%
3 Duncan, J. (R)	80%	?	?	+	-	+	?	+	?	?	+	73%
4 Timmons (R)	86%	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+	-	72%
5 Norman (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
6 Clyburn (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
7 Rice, T. (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	69%
SOUTH DAKOTA												
AL Johnson, D. (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	57%
TENNESSEE												
1 Roe (R)	56%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	?	49%
2 Burchett (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	72%
3 Fleischmann (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	40%
4 Desjarlais (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	72%
5 Cooper (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
6 Rose, J. (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	67%
7 Green, M. (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	66%
8 Kustoff (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	41%
9 Cohen (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
TEXAS												
1 Gohmert (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	83%
2 Crenshaw (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	47%
3 Taylor (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
4 Vacant												
5 Gooden (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80%
6 Wright (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	87%
7 Fletcher (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
8 Brady, K. (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	49%
9 Green, Al (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
10 McCaul (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	37%
11 Conaway (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	50%
12 Granger (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	?	?	-	-	-	39%
13 Thornberry (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	50%
14 Weber (R)	100%	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	76%
15 Gonzalez, V. (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	24%
16 Escobar (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	20%
17 Flores (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	57%
18 Jackson Lee (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
19 Arrington (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	70%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
20 Castro (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	23%
21 Roy (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	87%
22 Olson (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	57%
23 Hurd (R)	30%	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	27%
24 Marchant (R)		?	?	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	68%
25 Williams (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	63%
26 Burgess (R)	67%	+	+	+	+	-	-	?	-	+	+	62%
27 Cloud (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	87%
28 Cuellar (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	13%
29 Garcia, S. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
30 Johnson, E.B. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12%
31 Carter, J. (R)		?	?	?	+	+	-	+	?	?	?	39%
32 Allred (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
33 Veasey (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
34 Vela (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	23%
35 Doggett (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	31%
36 Babin (R)	100%	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	72%
UTAH												
1 Bishop, R. (R)	100%	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	58%
2 Stewart (R)	60%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	53%
3 Curtis (R)	75%	?	?	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	65%
4 McAdams (D)	10%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20%
VERMONT												
AL Welch (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	21%
VIRGINIA												
1 Wittman (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	57%
2 Luria (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
3 Scott, R. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
4 McEachin (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
5 Riggleman (R)	50%	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	50%
6 Cline (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	73%
7 Spanberger (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
8 Beyer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
9 Griffith (R)	75%	+	+	+	?	?	-	+	-	+	+	82%
10 Wexton (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
11 Connolly (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
WASHINGTON												
1 DelBene (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13%
2 Larsen, R. (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
3 Herrera Beutler (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	45%
4 Newhouse (R)	50%	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	43%
5 McMorris Rodgers (R)	40%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	53%
6 Kilmer (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
7 Jayapal (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	37%
8 Schrier (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
9 Smith, Adam (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
10 Heck (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
WEST VIRGINIA												
1 McKinley (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	50%
2 Mooney (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	77%
3 Miller (R)	50%	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	43%
WISCONSIN												
1 Steil (R)	78%	+	+	+	+	-	?	+	-	+	+	63%
2 Pocan (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	27%
3 Kind (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%
4 Moore (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	21%
5 Sensenbrenner (R)	100%	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	82%
6 Grothman (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	+	+	72%
7 Tiffany (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	100%
8 Gallagher (R)	43%	?	?	?	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	58%
WYOMING												
AL Cheney (R)	67%	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	-	-	-	56%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a rep. did not vote. If a rep. cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 24, 26, and 28.

Senate Vote Descriptions

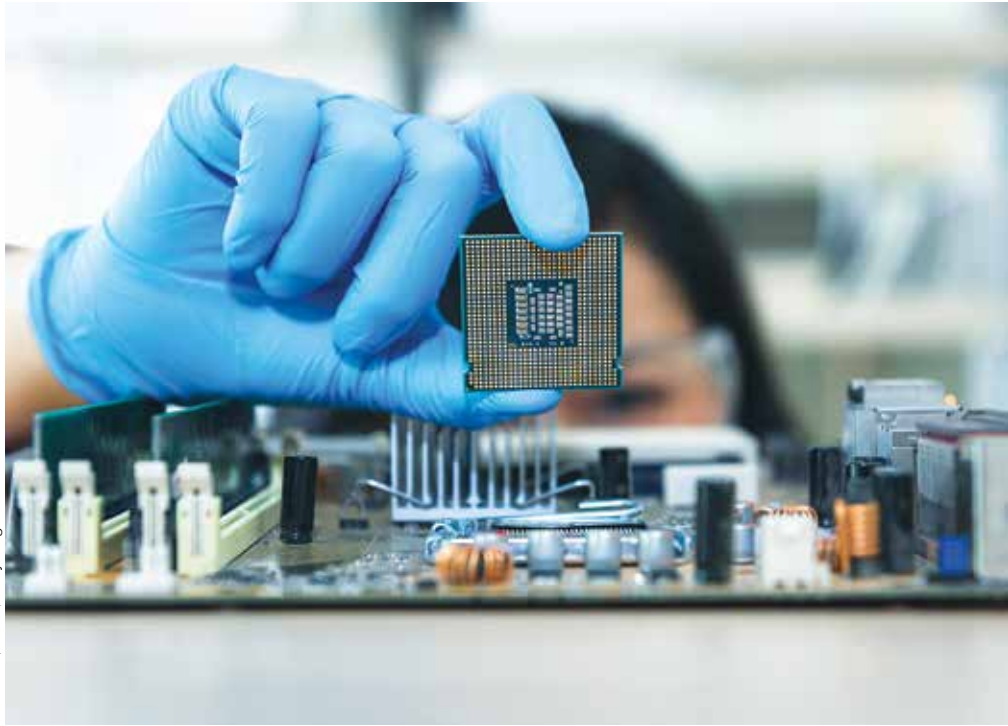
21 Waiving Budgetary Discipline.

During consideration of a bill on public lands (H.R. 1957), Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) offered a substitute amendment to replace the bill text with that of the Great American Outdoors Act. The Senate also moved to waive its “pay-as-you-go” rule, also called PAYGO. This rule requires legislation that includes measures that would increase the national deficit to also include provisions that would offset those increases.

The Senate agreed to waive the PAYGO rule on June 15, 2020 by a vote of 68 to 30 (Roll Call 118). We have assigned pluses to the nays because profligate spending needs to be immediately brought under control and deficits eliminated to avoid fiscal disaster. Congress is failing to address its fiscally and constitutionally irresponsible spending habits that yielded an annual federal deficit of \$3.1 trillion in fiscal 2020.

22 Public Lands. H.R. 1957, the Great American Outdoors Act, permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually. The LWCF was created in 1964 to purchase and develop land for “recreational” uses. The bill also creates the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (NPPLRF), which is funded at \$1.9 billion annually for five years. This funding comes from oil, gas, and other energy royalties on federal property, and the NPPLRF allocates this funding to maintenance in national parks and other federal lands.

The Senate passed H.R. 1957 on June 17, 2020 by a vote of 73 to 25 (Roll Call 121). We have assigned pluses to the nays not only because this bill irresponsibly increases the federal deficit and diverts energy royalties from being spent for needed constitutional purposes, but also because the Constitution does not authorize Congress to purchase private property except “for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.” Moreover, the federal government already owns a huge percentage of land directly — about 28



Subsidies not needed: America’s technological development occurred because of market forces, including private initiative and entrepreneurship. Yet the Senate voted to subsidize semiconductor manufacturing, claiming it is needed to “restore American leadership” in this economic sector.

percent of the nation — and is a demonstrably poor steward of public lands.

23 Withdrawal From Afghanistan.

During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 4049), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) introduced an amendment to withdraw American soldiers from Afghanistan within one year of the bill’s enactment, and to repeal the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) that was used as authorization for U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11.

The Senate tabled (killed) Paul’s amendment on July 1, 2020 by a vote of 60 to 33 (Roll Call 129). We have assigned pluses to the nays because, as Paul put it in his remarks on the Senate floor, “the people who attacked on 9/11 have all been killed or captured,” and “it is not sustainable to keep fighting in Afghanistan generation after generation.” Instead, it is long past time to bring the troops home. The AUMF that the amendment would repeal has been

used broadly by presidents to send troops into foreign conflicts, despite the fact that under the Constitution only Congress may declare war.

24 Semiconductor Manufacturing Subsidies.

During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 4049), Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) introduced an amendment to “restore American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing by increasing federal incentives.” Cornyn’s amendment would provide up to \$3 million in grants to subsidize U.S. semiconductor manufacturers.

The Senate agreed to Cornyn’s amendment on July 21, 2020 by a vote of 96 to 4 (Roll Call 134). We have assigned pluses to the nays because nowhere in the Constitution is the federal government authorized to subsidize private businesses. If such subsidies are allowed, then any business could potentially be subsidized at the expense of any other, with the government essentially picking winners and

Senate Vote Scores ✓

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
ALABAMA												
Shelby (R)	50%	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	27%
Jones (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	?	17%
ALASKA												
Murkowski (R)	22%	+	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	24%
Sullivan (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	23%
ARIZONA												
Sinema (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
McSally (R)	13%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	?	19%
ARKANSAS												
Boozman (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
Cotton (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	30%
CALIFORNIA												
Feinstein (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
Harris, K. (D)	29%	-	-	+	-	+	?	?	?	-	-	32%
COLORADO												
Bennet (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	25%
Gardner (R)	11%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	?	17%
CONNECTICUT												
Blumenthal (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	13%
Murphy, C. (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	13%
DELAWARE												
Carper (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	27%
Coons (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	14%
FLORIDA												
Rubio (R)	14%	-	-	-	-	+	?	?	?	-	-	25%
Scott (R)	60%	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	44%
GEORGIA												
Perdue (R)	33%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	?	28%
Loeffler (R)	44%	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	?	37%
HAWAII												
Schatz (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	23%
Hirono (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
IDAHO												
Crapo (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	27%
Risch (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	40%
ILLINOIS												
Durbin (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	21%
Duckworth (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	20%
INDIANA												
Young, T. (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	27%
Braun (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%
IOWA												
Grassley (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	27%
Ernst (R)	20%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	27%
KANSAS												
Roberts (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
Moran (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	+	?	?	+	-	-	41%
KENTUCKY												
McConnell (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
Paul (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	96%
LOUISIANA												
Cassidy (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	33%
Kennedy, John (R)	50%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	43%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
MAINE												
Collins (R)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	20%
King, A. (I)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
MARYLAND												
Cardin (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	17%
Van Hollen (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
MASSACHUSETTS												
Warren (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	36%
Markey (D)	29%	?	?	?	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	33%
MICHIGAN												
Stabenow (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	20%
Peters, G. (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	20%
MINNESOTA												
Klobuchar (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	22%
Smith (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	17%
MISSISSIPPI												
Wicker (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
Hyde-Smith (R)	33%	-	+	?	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	21%
MISSOURI												
Blunt (R)	22%	-	-	?	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	18%
Hawley (R)	60%	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	47%
MONTANA												
Tester (D)	29%	-	-	+	-	+	?	?	?	-	-	26%
Daines (R)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	40%
NEBRASKA												
Fischer (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	30%
Sasse (R)	44%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	?	47%
NEVADA												
Cortez Masto (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	20%
Rosen (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
NEW HAMPSHIRE												
Shaheen (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
Hassan (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
NEW JERSEY												
Menendez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	17%
Booker (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	36%
NEW MEXICO												
Udall (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
Heinrich (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	23%
NEW YORK												
Schumer (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	23%
Gillibrand (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	31%
NORTH CAROLINA												
Burr (R)	22%	-	-	?	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	18%
Tillis (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	27%
NORTH DAKOTA												
Hoeven (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
Cramer (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
OHIO												
Brown, S. (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	23%
Portman (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	17%
OKLAHOMA												
Inhofe (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	39%
Lankford (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	40%

	Votes:	21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
OREGON													
Wyden (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	27%
Merkley (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	27%
PENNSYLVANIA													
Casey (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
Toomey (R)	60%	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	59%
RHODE ISLAND													
Reed, J. (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	20%
Whitehouse (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	21%
SOUTH CAROLINA													
Graham, L. (R)	13%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	-	?	11%
Scott, T. (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	40%
SOUTH DAKOTA													
Thune (R)	30%	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	21%
Rounds (R)	44%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	?	-	-	31%
TENNESSEE													
Alexander (R)	14%	-	-	-	-	+	?	?	?	-	-	-	17%
Blackburn (R)	60%	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	56%
TEXAS													
Cornyn (R)	30%	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	27%
Cruz (R)	78%	?	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	66%

	Votes:	21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
UTAH													
Lee M. (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	93%
Romney (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	27%
VERMONT													
Leahy (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	17%
Sanders (I)	25%	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	+	33%
VIRGINIA													
Warner (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Kaine (D)	30%	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	20%
WASHINGTON													
Murray (D)	13%	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	18%
Cantwell (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
WEST VIRGINIA													
Manchin (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	23%
Capito (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	17%
WISCONSIN													
Johnson, R. (R)	60%	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	43%
Baldwin (D)	20%	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	20%
WYOMING													
Enzi (R)	50%	+	+	?	-	+	-	-	-	+	?	-	41%
Barrasso (R)	40%	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	33%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a senator did not vote. If a senator cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to Senate vote descriptions on pages 31, 33, and 34.

losers in the marketplace, causing great economic distortion.

25 Guns vs. Butter. During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 4049), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) introduced an amendment “to reduce the bloated Pentagon budget by 10 percent and invest that money in jobs, education, health care, and housing in communities in the United States in which the poverty rate is not less than 25 percent.”

The Senate rejected Sanders’ amendment on July 22, 2020 by a vote of 23 to 77 (Roll Call 135). We have assigned pluses to the nays because national defense is an essential function of the federal government. This is not to say that the budget is not “bloated” (the Pentagon budget does contain waste, and not all military spending is defense spending), but unnecessary military spending should be cut, not transferred to social-welfare programs falling outside the Constitution’s specified powers.

26 Continuing Appropriations. H.R. 8337, titled the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act,” would appropriate federal government funding, at fiscal 2020 levels, from October 1, 2020, through December 11, 2020. Additionally, it increases funding lev-

els for FEMA disaster relief, Small Business Administration loans, and multiple other programs. The bill also extends federal authorization for multiple programs including the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Senate passed H.R. 8337 on September 30, 2020 by a vote of 84 to 10 (Roll Call 197). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Congress needs to cut spending to avoid fiscal disaster. Additionally, Congress’ inability to promptly pass a 2021 budget, instead using a continuing appropriations bill, illustrates the breakdown of the federal budgeting process.

27 Pre-existing Conditions. During consideration of a bill to impose sanctions on China over their treatment of the minority Uighur population (S. 178), Senator Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) introduced an amendment to “amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA] to prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions.” As its title suggests, Tillis’ amendment would prohibit medical insurance issuers in group or individual marketplaces from denying coverage based on preexisting health conditions.

The Senate failed to table (kill) Tillis’ amendment on September 30, 2020 by a vote of 47 to 47 (Roll Call 199). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the U.S.

government should not be attempting to regulate healthcare or health insurance in any way, shape, or form. The Constitution clearly does not allow the federal government to involve itself in healthcare. Decisions about health insurance coverage should be left up to insurance companies. Federal regulations and/or subsidies in the healthcare sector tend to distort the market and have in large part caused the current out-of-control insurance prices we see today.

28 ObamaCare. S. 4653, “A bill to protect the healthcare of hundreds of millions of people of the United States and prevent efforts of the Department of Justice to advocate courts to strike down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” was introduced September 22, 2020 by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer as a response to the Supreme Court agreeing to hear *California v. Texas*, a lawsuit involving multiple states with the aim of ruling the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. ObamaCare) unconstitutional.

The Senate did not vote directly on S. 4653, but on a motion to invoke cloture (and thus limit debate) so the bill could be voted on. The motion to invoke cloture was rejected on October 1, 2020 by a vote of 51 to 43 (Roll Call 200; a three-fifths majority of the entire Senate is required to

invoke cloture). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Affordable Care Act is an unconstitutional monstrosity of government intervention into the health-care sector and is anything but affordable. ObamaCare reduced individual choice in the health-insurance market, increased costs for many Americans, and has been a poorly run boondoggle from the beginning, exactly what is to be expected when the federal government attempts to regulate and subsidize healthcare, something it has no constitutional authority to do.

29 Appropriations/Coronavirus.

H.R. 133, the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, includes about \$1.4 trillion in discretionary appropriations and another \$900 billion in coronavirus aid. Among other discretionary provisions, it includes \$696 billion for the Department of Defense, including \$77 billion for overseas military operations. It also includes \$590 million in aid to developing countries. The coronavirus aid provisions include \$600 checks per adult or dependent child, \$300 per week in federal unemployment benefits

through March 14, 2021, \$325 billion in loans and grants to small businesses, \$81.9 billion in Education Department grants, \$25 billion in rental assistance, and \$13 billion in agricultural assistance.

The Senate passed H.R. 133 on December 21, 2020 by a vote of 92 to 6 (Roll Call 289). We have assigned pluses to the nays because spending, which yielded an annual federal deficit of \$3.1 trillion in fiscal 2020, is courting fiscal disaster. Additionally, Congress is minimizing its accountability to voters by combining all discretionary federal spending and coronavirus aid into one gigantic “take it or leave it” bill. Furthermore, most of the coronavirus aid provisions, including direct checks, federal unemployment benefits, and subsidization of the economy, exceed the federal government’s authority. These and other matters are reserved for the states and the people under the 10th Amendment.

30 NDAA (Veto Override). The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2021 (H.R. 6395) authorizes \$740 billion in military spending. When Presi-

dent Donald Trump vetoed the NDAA on December 23, 2020, he stated in his veto message that “my administration recognizes the importance of the Act to our national security.” But, he also said, “Numerous provisions in the Act particularly contradict my Administration’s foreign policy, particularly my efforts to bring the troops home. I oppose endless wars, as does the American public.” He also cited other reasons for vetoing the NDAA, including Congress’ failure to end Section 230, which protects the social-media giants from liability for content posted on their sites, allowing them to create leftist monopolies.

The Senate overrode President Trump’s veto of the NDAA on January 1, 2021 by a vote of 81 to 13 (Roll Call 292). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the act includes spending not only for legitimate national defense, but also for military interventionism in foreign lands that does not make America safer. Also, the legislation undercuts the president’s legitimate authority as commander-in-chief by restricting his ability to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea. ■



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Gifts for Tony

A heartbreaking story in Hinckley, Ohio, became a beautiful example of generosity this past Christmas.

A three-year-old boy, known only as Tony, was abandoned by his mother on December 23 at Hope Memorial Gardens Cemetery. A witness told police the boy, who was followed by a dog later confirmed to be his, was seen running after a car that sped off. The witness immediately contacted the police and remained with the child until they arrived.

Tony was able to tell police his name and the name of his parents.

According to police, the boy's father was "in no way involved with" the incident and was extremely "cooperative" with the investigation. Tony was in his mother's custody at the time of the incident.

"The mother is the focus of our investigation and is currently in the care of a local medical facility," said Hinckley Police Department Chief David Centner, who has withheld the mother's name until charges are officially filed against her. "We are working with the Municipal Law Director as to charges upon her release."

Tony was initially placed with a foster family, but has since been reunited with his father and dog, and he is reportedly doing well.

The boy's story deeply touched everyone involved and inspired incredible kindness from the local community. The Hinckley Police Department encouraged Facebook followers to do what they could to make Tony's Christmas a little more special, and the response was huge.

A Christmas Eve post on the police department's Facebook page showed mounds of wrapped presents that were left in the lobby for Tony.

In fact, the response was so overwhelming that the department eventually had to ask residents to consider using their generosity for others in need.

"If you feel the blessing to help, please check with your local communities as there are always needs to be filled. We are truly humbled by the response not only locally but from across our great country," the department posted on December 31.

Helping Hand

When Officer Matt Lima of the Somerset Police Department was dispatched to a local Stop & Shop grocery store for a reported theft, it didn't play out as expected.

"The allegation was the two females were scanning some items at self-checkout but bypassing other items and bagging those items," Lima told NBC 10 News. "Dispatch indicated it was two females and two young small children and they were detained by Loss and Prevention over there."

When Lima arrived, he was struck by the fact that the two young children were girls close in age to his two girls. He noted that they were being distracted by store employees, so, thankfully, they were unaware of what was happening at the time.

Lima said he pulled aside one of the two women. She explained she had a job, but the other woman she was with — the mother of the two girls — did not, and said she was trying to get Christmas dinner for the three of them with what little she had.

Lima reviewed the receipt and spoke with the store's asset-protection associate to confirm that the items were all indeed food. "There was nothing else on there like health and beauty items, shampoo, anything like that. It was all food," he said. "I asked an employee where the other items were that they had planned to take and was informed they were put back on the shelves."

Working with the store, Lima decided to issue a "No Trespass" order against the two women, but decided against pressing charges.

"Obviously, this family was in need and I can't imagine having to make the decision to go to Stop & Shop and just only pay for what I can afford — or do I go there and try to take things for Christmas dinner for the kids?" said Lima.

Instead, he purchased a \$250 gift card to the store so that the women could obtain the needed food the proper way. Lima said the women were both shocked and grateful by the outcome. "I bought the gift card close in value to what would've been taken," said Lima. "I just did what I felt was right. It's not about me, I just tried to put myself in that family's shoes and show a little bit of empathy."

The Somerset Police Department applauded Officer Lima's kindness and discretion during a difficult situation. "I would like to personally commend Officer Lima for his actions," Chief George McNeil said. "His actions exemplify what it means to protect and serve the members of our community."

The Gift of Debt Forgiveness

An Arkansas oncologist forgave the medical debt of nearly 200 of his patients in a holiday greeting card to patients, ABC News reported.

Dr. Omar Atiq, who founded the Arkansas Cancer Institute in 1991, announced in a holiday greeting card to his patients that he would be closing his practice and would be canceling the remaining medical debt of all of his patients:

I hope this note finds you well. The Arkansas Cancer Clinic was proud to serve you as a patient. Although various health insurances pay most of the bills for majority of patients, even the deductibles and co-pays can be burdensome. Unfortunately, that is the way our health care system currently works.

Arkansas Cancer Clinic is closing its practice after over 29 years of dedicated service to the community. The clinic has decided to forego [*sic*] all balances owed to the clinic by its patients. Happy Holidays.

Dr. Atiq notes the remaining debt was approximately \$650,000, but for him the decision was an easy one.

"Being sick is hard, having cancer is harder, and having cancer in this pandemic is devastating," he said. "I am glad I was able to do a little bit at this point for them."

After having discussed it with his wife, Dr. Atiq decided the couple did not need the money as much as his patients did. "We didn't, luckily, need the money, somebody else did. So it was done," he said. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH

LEFTISTS' "REICHSTAG FIRE" MOMENT ARRIVES

When someone set the German parliament on fire, the Nazis used it as an excuse to consolidate power and punish opponents. Now Democrats are trying a similar tactic.



by Selwyn Duke

The sound of breaking glass penetrates the night as smoke billows from the German parliament building, called the *Reichstag*, which is frightfully aflame. It's the work of one man, say many; or maybe one conspiracy, say others. But the cost is severe, with the structure suffering \$1 million in damages in 1933 dollars, though this pales in comparison to the damages to come. For the fire will be used to catalyze a series of events that will visit a far greater conflagration upon the world.

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," said then-Obama administration Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel in 2009. German leader Adolf Hitler probably wouldn't have liked Emanuel very much (the latter is Jewish), but he certainly would've agreed with his sentiment. For as is well known, Hitler and his

Sparking terror: When Germans saw their parliament building aflame in 1933, they never imagined the event could catalyze a tyranny — and that "Reichstag fire" would become a metaphor used in the third millennium.

Nazis seized upon their convenient crisis, the Reichstag fire on February 27, 1933, to strip fundamental rights and assume greater power in Germany. This is much like what's occurring today, too, with Democrats and their Big Tech allies using the January 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol building as a pretext to attempt the same.

Of course in popular speech, a "Reichstag fire" is a spark. And there are potential "Reichstag fires" continually, whether 9/11, the 2008 financial crisis, or our occasional mass shootings. And while they're often used to advance agendas — e.g., the 1996 Port Arthur, Tasmania, shooting rampage led to Australia's gun crackdown — tyranny doesn't follow unless the time is right.

The time was right for Hitler in 1933. His National Socialist Workers (Nazi) Party had increased its power in the late 1920s owing to growing dissatisfaction with the weak Weimar Republic; early 1930s economic woes then further destabilized the nation, causing political uncertainty. Thus did President Paul von Hindenburg, hoping for an alliance with the Nazis against opponents he fancied more left-wing, reluctantly ask Hitler to serve under him as chancellor. In other words, much as with Joe Biden today, Hitler appeared less left-wing than the alternatives.

Amid this turmoil, however, "the Nazis seized even more power, infiltrating the police and empowering ordinary party members as law enforcement officers," *Smithsonian Magazine* wrote in 2017. "On February 22, Hitler used his powers as chancellor to enroll 50,000 Nazi SA men ... as auxiliary police."

Interestingly, we see a rough parallel today. While the Democrats don't yet control local law enforcement, the "defund" and "re-imagine the police" movements seem to be efforts in that regard. After all, the logical reason for leftists' desire to eliminate the police is that they want to *become* the police.

Note here that while controlling the media, academia, entertainment, Big Tech, and most of big business (as the Left does) is invaluable for applying economic and social pressure to enforce agenda compliance, completely imposing your will is impossible without having "boots on the ground." (The sheriffs who've refused to enforce COVID virus regulations and gun-control laws prove this.) So no matter the time or place, wielding police power is imperative.

Returning to Hitler, it was after the Reichstag fire that his arrogation of power entered high gear. The very next day, insisting the incident foreshadowed a communist onslaught against Germany, "Hitler persuaded President Hindenburg to sign an emergency

Selwyn Duke has written for THE NEW AMERICAN for more than a decade.

decree ‘for the Protection of the People and the State,’ suspending constitutional liberties and allowing the state to exercise extraordinary powers in the name of ‘public safety,’” wrote William F. Jasper in the September 16, 1996 issue of THE NEW AMERICAN.

Things continued moving fast. “Although the Communist party had won 17 percent of the Reichstag elections in November 1932, and the German people elected 81 Communist deputies in the March 5 elections, many were detained indefinitely after the fire,” *Smithsonian* adds. “Their empty seats left the Nazis largely free to do as they wished.”

Could this not remind us of how Representative Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) and other leftists, as the *Washington Examiner* reported December 11, “demanded that House leadership refuse to seat the 126 Republicans supporting Texas’s Supreme Court lawsuit challenging the 2020 election results”? Do note that Democrats often challenge electors, starting in 1969, with the habit intensifying in the 2000s.

What the Nazis did with their free rein was follow up the Fire Decree with The Enabling Act of March 23, 1933, which was “ostensibly also put in place to safeguard the people,” wrote TNA’s Kurt Hyde last June. He continued:

This bill gave the chancellor’s cabinet supposedly temporary legislative power — essentially making it an oligarchy with the powers of the Reichstag... With plenty of political maneuvering, plus a little intimidation from Nazi Brownshirts who were present at the vote, the Enabling Act passed with the necessary two-thirds vote, with the only opposition being from the SDP (Social Democrats). The Communist Party (KPD) was not allowed in the Reichstag [as mentioned earlier], and they didn’t vote.

The shenanigans did not end there. The Enabling Act was supposed to be temporary, scheduled to expire on April 1, 1937, but was extended in 1937 and extended again in 1941.

Clearly, the Nazis never intended for the act to expire. What did expire, of course, was freedom. And for a portent of things to come, consider the details of the first tyrannical

move after the Reichstag inferno, the aforementioned Fire Decree. It “abolished freedom of speech, assembly, privacy and the press; legalized phone tapping and interception of correspondence; and suspended the autonomy of federated states, like Bavaria,” *Smithsonian* writes. Relating this to our time, the irony is that many of the above freedoms were already compromised in the United States well before January 6 — after previous “Reichstag fires.”

First, our states’ autonomy has been gradually reduced for 100-plus years. As for “legalized phone tapping and interception of correspondence,” our government has used the Patriot Act to spy on Americans. In particular, the Obama administration and Deep State intelligence agencies used deceit-derived FISA warrants to spy on President Trump’s campaign/administration. Of course, such measures also involve invasions of privacy.

Next, freedom of assembly was curtailed using a COVID “Reichstag fire” pretext. Leftist state governments forbade Americans from gathering — most egregiously at church and to engage in anti-lockdown protests — but then let their Black Lives Matter allies demonstrate, and riot and loot. Then there was the impairment of freedom of speech and the press, which brings us to our true “Day After Reichstag.” As TNA’s Luis Miguel wrote online last month, within hours on January 8,

Twitter permanently suspended the account of the president of the United States, Donald J. Trump, along with the accounts of Michael Flynn and Sidney Powell, allies of the president who have worked to expose ... the voter fraud that allowed Joe Biden to win the 2020 election.

Other social platforms, such as Twitch, also banned President Trump, while others began heavily censoring him, as in the case of the Chinese-owned TikTok...

The indignation among Americans at the blatant partisanship that would drive these companies to censor the leader of the free world prompted many to flock to Parler, a free-speech social media app founded by conservatives...

But The Powers That Be in the world of Tech were already set to pounce on hopes of a viable alternative channel of communication.

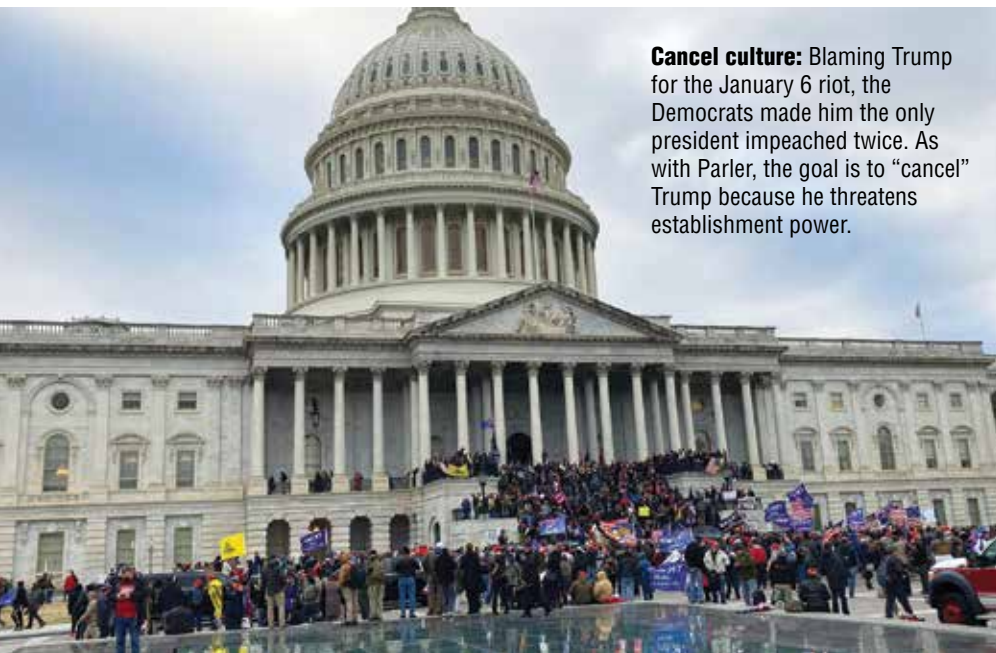
Were they ever. First Google and Apple banned Parler from their app stores on January 8 and 9. Then Amazon shut down the company’s servers at midnight on the 10th, which would take the site offline. Parler CEO John Matze called this takedown “a coordinated attack by the tech giants to kill competition in the market place.”

On the 10th, however, he got yet more



Knowledge is power: Corporate death star GoogTwitFace targeted for destruction Parler.com. The site’s sin? It had threatened the establishment techs’ monopoly on information flow.

The logical reason for leftists' desire to eliminate the police is that they want to become the police.



Cancel culture: Blaming Trump for the January 6 riot, the Democrats made him the only president impeached twice. As with Parler, the goal is to “cancel” Trump because he threatens establishment power.

AP Images

nasty surprises: “Every vendor from text message services to email providers to our lawyers all ditched us too on the same day,” Matze told Fox News at the time. So consider what Big Gov/Big Tech has effected: Much as with China’s “social-credit system” — which allows one to participate in society insofar as he conforms to state ideology — Parler was denied everything a commercial entity would need to conduct business. Had the takedown been directly controlled by a totalitarian regime, it could not have been too much more complete.

There are other victims as well. Musician Ariel Pink’s record label dropped him merely because he attended the January 6 rally (he was asleep at his hotel during the riot); and popular commentator Dan Bongino’s Twitter account was suspended. Moreover, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey was recently caught on hidden video saying there’d be more suppression to come.

Some may now say, “Don’t like the censorship? Go build your own social-media company.” Yet when the world’s Matzes accept this challenge, they’re then shut down by GoogTwitFace, anyway. And

while it’s reasonable telling “conservatives to make their own social-media apps to preserve free speech,” as Luis Miguel put it, “if they can’t even get these apps on devices due to the politically motivated decisions of the Tech Overlords, it’s not realistic to expect conservative Americans to be able to create their own alternative telecom infrastructure, which would be a billion-dollar enterprise.” Thus, it’s a bit like denying a politically “unfashionable” 1960s business owner phone and postal service and then saying, “Don’t like it? Create your own phone company, erect your own telephone poles and wires, and hire your own mail carriers nationwide.”

Moreover, if GoogTwitFace “erased” the president of the United States and an up-and-coming, highly successful social-media company, who is safe? As Matze told Fox News, Big Tech “could destroy anybody” — and will seek to destroy all anti-establishment dissent in what is *an end run around the First Amendment*.

First GoogTwitFace benefited from already existing “Section 230” protection from lawsuits, which helped it develop near

monopolistic status. Growing powerful enough to be able to shift up to 15 million votes in an election, according to research, Big Tech then used information control to elect Democrats, notably in 2020.

So the Democrats gain power and GoogTwitFace political allies who won’t ever rein it in. The tech oligarchs then use their free hand to silence the Democrats’ political opponents who, do know, are also often Big Tech’s competition — thus, GoogTwitFace can make even more money. The kicker: They can then funnel some of this cash back to the Democrats in the form of campaign donations. It’s one dark hand washing the other and both hands together choking out freedom, as the government effects *censorship by proxy*.

Of course, censorship, by anything, makes knowing truth difficult. How many Americans know, for example, that a few left-wing *agents provocateur* have been arrested for complicity in the January 6 violence? This reality — that the riot might not have been solely Trump supporters — also mirrors the original Reichstag fire: While most historians believe the culprit was the man blamed, Dutch communist Marinus van der Lubbe, others suspect it was the Nazis’ handiwork.

Whoever’s to blame for the Capitol violence, the truth is that just as in 1933, it’s being used for evil ends. As I write this, 26,000 National Guard troops are in Washington, D.C., allegedly over fears of Inauguration Day threats. Even more strikingly, the FBI is now vetting the troops over, ostensibly, concerns that some may be plotting against the incoming administration. Is this legitimate fear or paranoia — or is it a strategy (or some combination thereof)? To wit: It can strengthen the claim that the “right-wing threat” to the Republic is so severe that more repression is necessary. Related to this, TNA reported January 12 on a new Pentagon plan to purge the military of conservatives under the pretense of fighting “hate groups.”

The lesson here is that whether named Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, Julius Caesar, or something else, power-hungry demagogues are ever among us — and their tactics don’t change. Sadly, neither does the reality that millions of people, driven by ignorance and often prejudice, will passionately follow them into the abyss. ■

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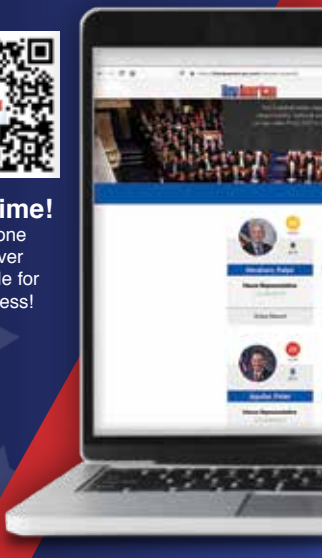
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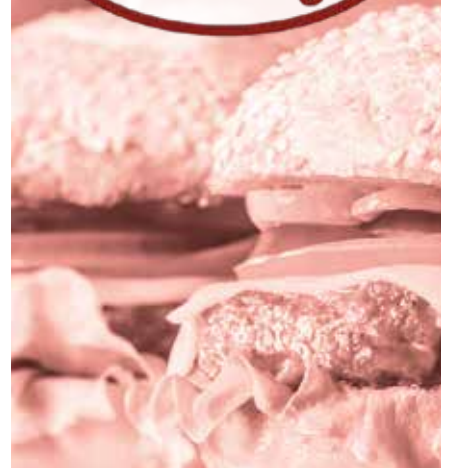
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Laura Loomer “Red-flagged”

Laura Loomer made a name for herself as a conservative investigative journalist and ran for Congress in 2020, but her controversial style of openly confronting Democratic politicians and operatives made her a big target for “deplatforming.” Loomer was banned from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, PayPal, Venmo, GoFundMe, Uber, and Lyft, and Chase Bank once shut down her online banking. But it is what recently happened to her that should send chills down the spines of Second Amendment supporters.

Loomer went public on January 19 on her website, loomered.com, that she “was placed in the Federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and I have been prohibited from ever owning or even touching a firearm.” Loomer explains that she believes it was the FBI who put her on this list and it stems from her confronting former FBI director James Comey at a book signing. Loomer wrote, “I had my 2nd Amendment Rights stripped due to my political views and activism. Given that the FBI is the only organization that can put you in the NICS database, I have reason to believe that I’ve been targeted by the FBI.” Loomer also explained how dire this is, since she is regularly targeted for harassment by Antifa and other far-left lunatics, and she is now unarmed and not able to properly defend herself.

Loomer wrote that what happened to her is just a foreshadowing of what is to come for anyone in this country with conservative leanings. Loomer warned others that just “as conservative Americans are being banned from social media, banned from banking, and placed on No-Fly lists across the country right now, the next step is to designate them as ‘domestic terrorists’ and strip them of their gun rights.”

She is currently raising money on her website, where supporters can donate to help her raise the funds necessary to challenge her placement on the list and fight back against this dangerous, precedent-setting move.

Freshman Republican Carries at the Capitol

A woman elected to Congress in the 2020 election is a fierce advocate of the Second Amendment and is not ashamed to wear her views on her sleeve. Lauren Boebert first made national news in 2019 when she confronted Democratic presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke at a town hall meeting in Colorado. Boebert, who owns several restaurants in Rifle, Colorado, told then-candidate O’Rourke, “I was one of the gun owning Americans who heard you speak regarding your ‘Hell yes I’m going to take your AR-15s and AK-47s.’ Well, I’m here to say hell no you’re not!” The spunky little mother of four did not stop there, and used her newfound fame to catapult herself into a run for Congress against an incumbent Republican, which she won in a political upset. Now Boebert is already turning heads only days into her first term in Congress, owing to her insistence on carrying a handgun in the nation’s capital. Boebert’s Twitter account features a cover photo with a handgun in a holster attached to her waist. Boebert posted a video clip in a January 3 tweet that featured her carrying her gun around D.C. with the following text: “Let me tell you why I WILL carry my Glock to Congress. Government does NOT get to tell me or my constituents how we are allowed to keep our families safe. I promise to always stand strong for our 2nd Amendment rights.”

Boebert unabashedly explains in the video that she “will carry her firearm in D.C. and in Congress.” She then goes on to explain that as a woman who is only five feet tall and 100 pounds, she carries for defensive purposes, especially considering the high crime rate in the city. Boebert also explained that she previously allowed the waitresses in her employ to open carry for defensive reasons as well. Her video then featured her confrontation with Beto O’Rourke and concluded with her stating that she will continue to stand up for her constituents’ gun rights.

The video quickly went viral, with over 26,000 retweets! It’s an understatement to say the leftists were furious over her outspoken approach. Left-wing news sites

quickly rushed to smear her and imply that what she was planning to do was contrary to applicable law. Journalists even contacted Washington’s Metropolitan Chief of Police Robert Contee for his views, and he responded that his department was reaching “out to the congresswoman’s office to make sure that she is aware what the laws of the District of Columbia are, what the restrictions are.”

Boebert bristled at Contee’s words on an appearance on *Fox & Friends*, where she was quick to explain that she already is familiar with the laws and is in compliance with the applicable rules. “I have gone through the concealed carry courses that Washington, D.C., requires to obtain a concealed carry permit, and I think it’s very interesting that he wants to ensure that I understand Washington, D.C., firearm laws.... Maybe I should make a video announcing that I plan to drive a car in Washington, D.C., and then the chief of police will say that he’s going to inform me of Washington, D.C., traffic laws. Is this what he does with everyone who comes to the District of Columbia and for each and every person? I don’t think so.”

The controversy for Boebert didn’t end there: Fallout from the January 6 incident at the Capitol Building resulted in new draconian security measures, including a requirement for members of Congress to go through a metal detector. Vox reported on January 13 that normally everyone entering the Capitol goes through security screenings, but lawmakers have previously been able to bypass the screening. Now, members of Congress and their staff must go through security screening before entering the House chamber. There was an outcry among Republicans about the measure, while Democrats supported it.

The metal detectors did not phase Boebert, who got through the increased screening and tweeted out, “I am legally permitted to carry my firearm in Washington, D.C. and within the Capitol complex. Metal detectors outside of the House would not have stopped the violence we saw last week.” ■

— PATRICK KREY



Diktats to “Build Back Better” Will Be Costly, Intrusive

ITEM: Bloomberg Businessweek for December 18 touted Joe Biden’s selection of John Kerry to be his “climate czar.” The secretary of state under Barack Obama “helped craft the 2016 Paris climate accord,” noted the publication. “The incoming administration is looking,” said the magazine, “at new regulations that could have a big impact on climate emissions, such as standards for pollution from car and power plants. ‘Biden recognizes that we made a down payment in the Obama administration, but also recognizes we need to go much further — as fast as we possibly can,’ says Heather Zichal, a former environmental aide to Obama who previously worked as Kerry’s legislative director.”

ITEM: The same magazine (Bloomberg Businessweek, November 16) declared that Biden “must repair the harm done to the U.S. government under Trump and begin to build a modern, expert-led civil service.” Headings within the piece (written by Romesh Ratnesar, a member of the editorial board of Bloomberg Opinion) set the tone, including: “Empower the Scientists,” “Bring Back the Career Staff,” “Let the Watchdogs Do Their Work,” and “Rejoin the World.”

The piece claims that under Trump career employees were “marginalized” in agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, and National Park Service, among others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) “were once the envy of the world,” says Ali Nouri, president of the Federation of American Scientists. The ‘gold-standard’ agencies ‘have now become politicized under Donald Trump.’”

ITEM: The Biden campaign document “The Biden Plan to Build a Modern, Sustainable Infrastructure and an Equitable Clean Energy Future” is replete with recommendations for subsidies, mandates, and regulations, many about achieving



AP Images

Saving the Earth? The Biden administration intends to join the Paris global-warming agreement, even though treaties need Senate approval and it will do no good at reducing CO₂ emissions because China is building coal-fired power plants by the dozen, with the world’s permission.

“net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions.”

A major economic regulatory burden that is planned under Biden is a huge increase in the federal minimum wage. As reported by the National Restaurant News for January 8, Biden said he will “push for minimum wage increases, expanded stimulus money and more pandemic relief for restaurants and bars.” The trade publication quoted him saying no one “who works 40 hours a week in America should still live below the poverty line. They are entitled to a minimum of \$15 an hour.”

ITEM: A CBS News headline dated January 15 declared: “Biden minimum wage proposal could lift more than 1 million workers out of poverty.”

CORRECTION: Leftists assure us that the problems with existing mandates will be fixed by a more centralized regulatory regime run by more effective fedocrats.

How did we ever survive before we had government bureaus to tell us what to do? The issue has been with us for eons. In 1824, Thomas Jefferson complained that we had “more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious.”

(The number of federal government employees more than doubled between 1802 and 1826 — from 3,905 to 10,415. What would Jefferson think about today? The

Environmental Protection Agency alone has a budget of more than \$9 billion and workforce of more than 14,000.)

Even more functionaries and edicts are on the way. For example, Joe Biden and his enablers — amid a pandemic that has put millions of people out of work — have a supposed solution for the unemployment crisis: Let’s make many jobs illegal.

That is what an increased minimum wage does. To be sure, when a minimum wage is boosted, there are benefits. That aspect, and that alone, is what that horribly deceptive CBS News headline (above) emphasizes. Yes, some will get more in their paychecks (that is, if their employer is still in business). That is on the “pro” side. However, there are plenty of “cons” for having a minimum wage and then doubling it.

According to a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study, while many would get more with a \$15/hour federal minimum, 1.3 million other workers would become jobless, according to the CBO’s median estimate. Indeed, the analysis concluded that as many as 3.7 million jobs might be lost.

Writing for the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), Brad Palumbo had a more reliable analysis, noting that the timing for such an increase could not be worse. He also quoted Employment



Correction, Please!

Policy Institute Managing Director Michael Saltsman, who commented: “A dramatic increase in the minimum wage even in good economic times has been shown to be harmful. In the current climate, for many employers it could be the final nail in the coffin.”

You won’t see this mentioned in a Biden campaign document or from his administration, but the late economist Murray Rothbard was on target when he observed:

In truth, there is only one way to regard a minimum wage law: it is compulsory unemployment, period. The law says: it is illegal, and therefore criminal, for anyone to hire anyone else below the level of X dollars an hour. This means, plainly and simply, that a large number of free and voluntary wage contracts are now outlawed and hence that there will be a large amount of unemployment. Remember that the minimum wage law provides no jobs; it only outlaws them; and outlawed jobs are the inevitable result.

One mitigating grace is that the entire hike wouldn’t happen all at once.

No one ever explains why, if \$15/hour is good, the government shouldn’t graciously boost it to \$50. Indeed, wouldn’t a mandatory 100 Bidenbucks per hour be even better?

There are trade-offs that don’t get mentioned when politicians try to bribe voters with their own money. What helps some hurts others, usually those more in need. As observed by Trey Kovacs, a labor policy analyst for the Competitive Enterprise Institute:

Rather than help unskilled and inexperienced workers, a \$15 minimum wage will cut off the first rung of the career ladder for many. By raising the minimum wage, businesses will choose to hire more productive employees. This leaves less productive workers — the target of minimum wage policies — out of a job and deprived of the opportunity to gain the skills necessary to get higher paid employment.

In short, minimum-wage laws serve as a barrier to job opportunities for the least skilled workers and those with the least experience.

That is how federal overregulation generally works. Yet, the authoritarian Left just loves it when the “expert” pen-pushers are authorized to control the plebs, the lower classes in their view. The *Bloomberg Businessweek* piece cited above by Romesh Ratnesar makes it clear that such priorities are integral to the Biden campaign slogan, “build back better.”

The supposed experts of the CDC and FDA, as it happens, have not been as adept as you would expect of good bureaucrats. In fact, even the *New York Times* pointed this out March 11, in the New York print edition, headlined “A Lab Pushed for Early Tests, But Federal Officials Said No.”

That coverage was summarized well at the time by Ronald Bailey for *Reason*. By January (2020), he related, a Seattle infectious disease specialist named Dr. Helen Chu had collected a huge number of nasal swabs from locals who were experiencing symptoms, as part of a research project on flu. Chu proposed, to federal and state officials, testing those samples for coronavirus infections.

As the *Times* noted, the CDC told Chu “and her team that they could not test the samples unless their laboratory test was approved by the FDA. The FDA refused to approve Chu’s test on the grounds that her lab, according to the *Times*, ‘was not certified as a clinical laboratory under regulations established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a process that could take months.’”

In the meantime, recounted Bailey, the CDC “required that public health officials could only use the diagnostic test designed by the agency. That test released on February 5, turned out to be badly flawed. The CDC’s insistence on a top-down centralized testing regime greatly slowed down the process of disease detection as the infection rate was accelerating.”

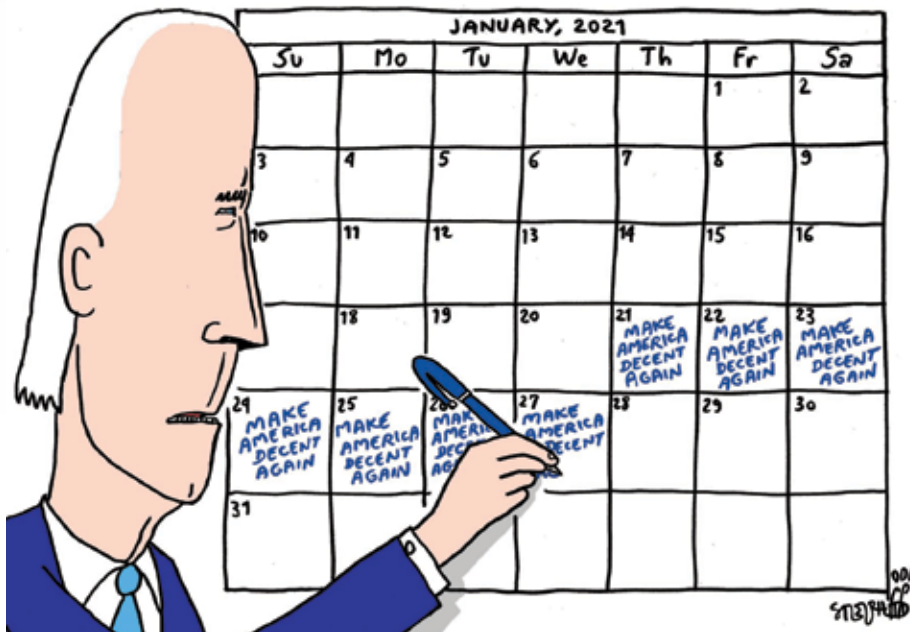
Does that sound like the “gold-standard agencies” ballyhooed in *Bloomberg Businessweek*?

When you examine the kind of “good bureaucracy” needed for the various Biden plans, and do so honestly, you find that Joe’s regulatory state is going to be quite expensive — and that the



What is meant by “no pain, no gain”: Here fast food workers drive around a McDonald’s to demonstrate for a \$15 minimum wage. If they get their way, it is likely many of them will be laid off, and many beginning workers will never get hired. Here’s an idea: *Earn \$15 an hour.*

AP Images



projected extra burden will hit heavily against middle earners and those with lower incomes.

Casey Mulligan, a professor at the University of Chicago who served as chief economist of the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2018-2019, has examined both explicit regulations and those that would be necessary to meet Biden's expressed goals. As Mulligan explained in the *Wall Street Journal* in September, the "poor would suffer most under Mr. Biden's platform."

Mulligan divided the households into five income groups and estimated the cost of the regulations for each quintile. He writes:

The costs to the bottom group amount to 15.3% of its total income — representing a burden equal to all the taxes they currently pay. This group would experience part of the cost as lower wages, but the biggest bite would come in diminished purchasing power due to higher prices for energy, cars and other consumer goods.

The top quintile, by contrast, would suffer the least from regulatory restoration, with labor, energy and other consumer rules amounting to only a 2.2% implicit tax on the highest earners.

Don't forget that Joe promised, repeatedly, that his administration would not impose new taxation on Americans making less than \$400,000. That was a tall tale, and a costly falsehood to boot.

Similarly, consider a definitive study at the Hoover Institution: "An Analysis of Vice President Biden's Economic Agenda: The Long Run Impacts of Its Regulation, Taxes, and Spending." Its authors conclude, relative to the CBO's 2030 projections, there would be "4.9 million fewer employed individuals, \$2.6 trillion less GDP, and \$1.5 trillion less consumption in that year alone. Median household income in 2030 would be \$6,500 less."

Also take a look, if you dare, at "moderate" Joe's climate-change plans. Donald Trump, recall, pulled the United States out of the Paris agreement (and emissions in the United States fell considerably); Biden promises to rejoin. It was the cost to the United States of the Paris pact, especially compared to China, among others, that helped to prompt Trump to leave. As the *Washington Times* recalled, "U.S. participation in the pact would cost the average family of four \$20,000 by 2035, according to the Heritage Foundation." Yet, noted the newspaper, the "resultant reduction in global temperatures" would be "a nearly unmeasurable 0.015 degrees Celsius in 2100."

Biden's additional proposed climate plans are slated to be huge — requiring major new taxation and spending to make a transition from conventional energy. Here's what we face, as summarized in a Heritage Foundation analysis. The Biden campaign anticipated the spending of

\$2 trillion over four years. That spending equates to roughly \$1.37 billion per day to subsidize politically preferred technologies — everything from renewable power and electric vehicles to energy-efficiency upgrades in buildings.

The huge cost of regulations on the U.S. economy has been studied for many years by Wayne Clyde Crews at the Competitive Enterprise Institute. For an overview of selected findings in the report, a CEI news release summed up selected findings:

The cost of federal regulation to each U.S. household exceeds \$14,000 annually, on average. For perspective, that equals about one-fifth (18 percent) of the average pre-tax household budget and is the second-biggest budget item after housing....

The \$1.9 trillion regulatory burden is equivalent to more than 40 percent of total federal spending, which was \$4.447 trillion in 2019.

The \$1.9 trillion "hidden tax" of regulation exceeds the corporate and personal income taxes combined.

As large as the totals are, keep in mind the "number of new, final rules is way down under Trump," noted Crews.

While Trump deregulated, Biden vows to reregulate. (Trump also cut taxes; Biden promises to raise them.) The numbers above do not include much of whatever actions Biden might impose in conjunction with his \$1.9 trillion "stimulus" package.

Accordingly, if the Biden team does push through a significant part of its counterproductive plans, what it is going to stimulate is increased poverty. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

BY C. MITCHELL SHAW

Who Were **the Vandals?**

On Wednesday, January 6 — as Congress met to certify the votes of the Electoral College — hundreds of thousands of Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest “the steal.” In the end, the Capitol Building had been breached, five people were dead, many others were injured, scores had been arrested, Trump supporters were portrayed as “violent insurrectionists,” and President Trump — who would later be impeached (for the second time, again for trumped-up charges) — was



AP Images

accused of “incitement of insurrection.” When Trump blamed the violence on “Antifa people,” Democrats, their MSM accomplices, and spineless Republicans who prefer their elevated positions more than the best interests of the nation joined together to sing in a chorus dismissing Trump’s claims as “ridiculous” and “absurd.” But were they ridiculous and absurd, or was he correct in his claim that “Antifa people” were behind the violence of January 6?

In the weeks between the election and the certification, it had become undeniably apparent that the election had been rigged to assure a Biden win. Voting irregularities, flip-flopped ballots, missing ballots, deleted votes, and other hi-jinks resulted in an election victory for Biden that could not have resulted from an honest and accurate count. Millions of Americans were angered by this *de facto* disenfranchisement (after all, the franchise is not merely about the *casting* of ballots, but also about the accurate *counting* of those ballots).

That justifiable anger led as many as a million Trump supporters to travel to D.C. to demand that their voices be heard. So far, so good; a “redress of grievances” is enthroned in the First Amendment as a sacred right of the people, against which “Congress shall make no law.” But what happened next is where things went sideways. Because what happened next is that “Antifa people” indeed stirred up the pro-Trump crowd, leading a very small percentage of them to join in on storming the Capitol Building, breaching its walls, and vandalizing offices and other parts of the building.

Evidence of Antifa and other leftist instigation is legion. Any denial of the Left’s part in the violence requires deliberate ignorance of the known facts and a level of intellectual dishonesty that breaches the borders of morality.

For instance, one poster child for the “insurrection” is Jake Angeli — the “shamanic practitioner” who appeared at the D.C. march in his usual attire of face and body paint and fur headdress complete with horns. Angeli has direct ties to leftist groups and

events. He marched in Arizona in September 2019 “in solidarity with climate strikes around the world,” according to photos and reports from *azcentral*, *The National Pulse*, and other websites. He also participated in other “climate-change protests” linked to Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. Not a likely entry on the resume of a “Trump supporter.”

Another of the alleged “Trump supporters” arrested for his participation in the violent breaching of the Capitol is Aaron Mostofsky. Mostofsky also wore fur at the

march, though his was in the form of a cape-like wrap. He also wore a ballistic vest. He is not only a registered Democrat, but also the son of a New York judge. Again, does this sound like any Trump supporters you know?

And more to the Antifa point, John Earle Sullivan, a frequent flier at BLM and Antifa events, posed as a “Trump supporter” and journalist at the D.C. march. His veneer of being a “passive observer” peeled away quickly when video *he shot* showed him agitating the crowd of Trump supporters. He can clearly be heard on the videos saying, “We got to get this s**t burned,” “It’s our house motherf*****,” and, “You guys are f**king savage. Let’s go!” Even before his involvement in the breach of the Capitol, Sullivan was already facing rioting and criminal mischief charges “stemming from a Black Lives Matter protest in Utah last year,” according to a report from *Rolling Stone*. In the days before the march, Sullivan used his social-media influence to organize other leftists to attend and infiltrate the crowd of actual Trump supporters. His call appears not to have gone unanswered.

The *New York Post* reported that a law-enforcement source told the newspaper that “at least two known Antifa members” were identified in the crowd of Trump supporters. They were disguised in pro-Trump attire and blended with the crowd, agitating lawlessness and violence.

Of course, it is obvious that some small percentage of the hundreds of thousands of Trump supporters present fell for the ruse and got caught up in the moment. This is why a mob mentality is so dangerous. Marches and lawlessness are never the proper tools of the Right; they are the tools of the Left, who enjoy the protection of the MSM. Concerned patriots would better serve their country by joining solid organizations, such as this magazine’s parent organization, The John Birch Society. Such concerted, moral, legal action as practiced by the JBS is the only viable option. By helping to create an informed electorate, we can work to make — and *keep* — America great again. ■

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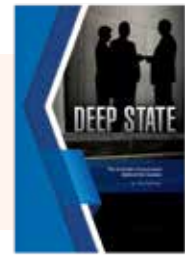


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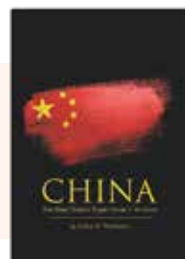


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