

The Delray Democrat

April 2025 (# 78)

“The Greatest Threat to Democracy Is Indifference”

Michael K. Cantwell

That may be the best among many great messages displayed yesterday as Palm Beach County patriots gathered to protest Trump’s destruction of the economy and trampling on our Constitution.

As hundreds of thousands of Americans came together in more than 1,400 protests nationwide, Trump was on another of his golf outings. Through the end of March he has spent more than 25% of his time golfing.

While he is cutting essential services to “save money,” his outings are costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. While people are wondering whether they’ll be able to afford essential goods after the tariffs kick in, he is busy raising money, hosting another \$1 million a plate dinner, the fourth since his election.

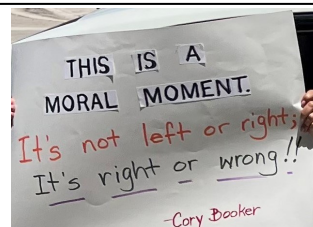
Among others signs from yesterday’s protests were “Make America Good Again” and “Make America Kind Again” (actually, I’d even settle for “Decent”). Another sign quoted Donald Trump as saying, “If the Dow drops 1,000 points in two days the President should be impeached immediately.” Unfortunately, Trump never said that and we should stop claiming he did.

On the other hand, Snopes has verified that Trump once said Democrats are better stewards of the economy: “I’ve been around for a long time. And it just seems to me that the economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans.” That is a no-brainer, which may be why (like a broken clock) Trump got it right.

“Show Me What Democracy Looks Like” “This Is What Democracy Looks Like!” That was go-to “call and response” chant at the post-9/11 anti-Iraq War demonstrations. Here is a small visual sampling of what democracy looked like in the streets around the Boca Raton City Hall on April 5, 2025.



Photos by Char Lane and Deb Peters



A Brief Tariff Tutorial

Michael K. Cantwell

Is It True that “Tariffs Are Tax Cuts?”

No, Donald, your chief trade adviser Peter Navarro is either ignorant or was lying when he said that. The editorial board of [*The Wall Street Journal*](#) [responded](#) to that claim by writing, “George Orwell, call your office. In the real economic world, a tariff is a tax.” Or as Warren Buffet [said](#), “The tooth fairy doesn't pay 'em!”

Will American Consumers Pay for Trump's Tariffs? If So, How Much?

Tariffs are paid by [importers](#). They can pass the cost on to customers or get the foreign manufacturer to absorb the tariff by lowering the price of the goods.

During Trump's first term, most of the cost of the tariff on goods from China was passed on to customers. Trump's new tariffs have been [estimated](#) to cost American households \$2,100 annually.

Some importers are letting consumers know that Trump is responsible for the higher price. As one importer [explained](#): “We think transparency is the way to go here, and I am giving Trump full credit for his decision to add this tariff to all American consumers.”

He plans to add “*Trump Liberation Tariff*” to all online orders. Another importer plans to break out the additional cost and call it “*Trump Tariff Surcharge*.”

How Will Trump's Tariffs Affect Americans Looking to Buy Cars?

Trump “[couldn't care less](#)” if his tariffs cause manufacturers to raise their prices because people will instead buy cars made in America. He has also [warned](#) U.S. automakers not to raise their prices.

“[Working-class car buyers will be the hardest hit](#)” by Trump's 25% tariff on imported vehicles because “almost all low-cost new cars sold in the United States are built elsewhere.”

Of 16 models priced at less than \$30,000, [only one](#) (the Toyota Corolla) is assembled in the United States and thus not subject to the tariff. Three car models are sold by American manufacturers, but all are made in South Korea and are thus subject to the tariff.

Most U.S. automakers will be affected by the tariffs and “[have made clear](#)” they have little choice but to raise their prices. One Wall Street firm projected that vehicle prices would increase by 11% to 12%, while another estimated an increase of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the typical car. And that in turn will increase demand for used cars, raising their prices as well.

Are Trump's Tariffs “Reciprocal”?

Trump claims that his tariffs are reciprocal, that he is placing the same conditions on imports from other countries that they place on our exports.

But that's [not](#) what Trump has done. He based his tariffs on the [trade deficit](#) the United States maintains with other countries, that is, the extent to which our imports from that country exceed our exports to that country.

America runs trade deficits with many countries, particularly in Asia, so foreign countries are being charged a higher tariff than the one they charge us, often a significantly higher tariff.

For example, Trump is imposing a 46% tariff on Vietnam when the average tariff charged by Vietnam is 9.4%. And Taiwan charges an average tariff of 2% but Trump is charging Taiwan a 32%

Why Did Trump Base His Tariffs on the Trade Deficit, and What Does That Mean?

Trump claims that he is trying to reduce the U.S. trade deficit with foreign countries, but the only way that works is if they raise the cost to U.S. consumers so much that they stop buying these goods.

On the other hand, if consumers are *not* forced to pay more for foreign goods, they have no reason to change their buying habits and the tariffs will have no impact on the U.S. trade deficit.

Trump is either engaging in a meaningless exercise or he is effectively admitting that his tariffs *will* cause Americans to pay more for imported goods. [NPR's Planet Money](#) estimates that every 10% hike in tariffs will result in a 2.5% increase in prices.

Papiere Bitte ('Papers please')*

Ted Block

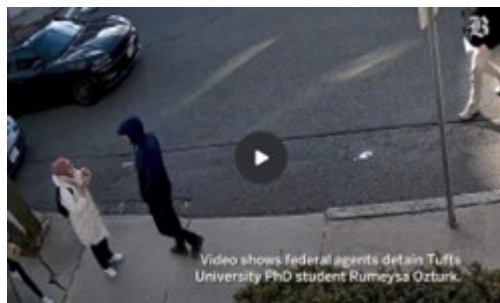
Anyone who has ever watched a film about the Holocaust or the Gestapo in Germany after the rise of Hitler in 1933 is probably familiar with the term, "Papiere bitte" or "Papers, please." In fact, the first spoken lines in one of the greatest films of all time, "Casablanca" were a variation of the term.

[Watch](#)...carefully:



Last week in Somerville Massachusetts, in the United States of America, in 2025, this happened.

[Watch](#)...carefully:



As reported by CNN:

As the sun began to set Tuesday over Somerville, Massachusetts, Turkish national Rumeysa Ozturk was on her way to meet friends at an Iftar dinner where they would break their Ramadan fast.

But she would never make it to the gathering, according to her attorney. Instead, the 30-year-old was arrested and physically restrained by immigration officers near her apartment, close to Tufts University's Somerville campus where she was a PhD student, lawyer Mahsa Khanbabai told CNN.

Before I delve into the issues surrounding this abduction, allow me to explain why I suggested that you carefully watch the videos.

In *Casablanca*, the Vichy French and Moroccan police were all clearly identified as police; they were all wearing uniforms. In Somerville in the United States of America, the "police" were not in uniform. Rather, they wore black attire, and had hoodies and masks.

The apprehended man who was the focus of the *Casablanca* clip c1940 was clearly asked by the Gendarme, "May I see your papers, please."

In the case of the Rumeysa Ozturk abduction in the United States of America in 2025, she was not asked for any documentation. But she was summarily handcuffed and hauled away by a squadron of unidentified, black clad, hooded and masked men and women.

As CNN reported:

Now, she is being held at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Louisiana, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

While no charges have been filed against Ozturk, her attorney told CNN, Ozturk's visa status has been terminated, according to a statement released Thursday by Tufts President Sunil Kumar.

A federal judge in Boston issued an order late Friday to stop Ozturk from being deported.

Judge Denise Casper wrote in the order that Ozturk "shall not be removed from the United States until further order from this court." Casper's order directs immigration authorities to stop deportation proceedings against Ozturk until she can determine whether the Boston court has jurisdiction to decide if Ozturk was lawfully detained.

Ozturk is one of several foreign nationals affiliated with prestigious American universities to be arrested for purported activities related to terrorist organizations amid the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. They include Mahmoud Khalil, a prominent Palestinian activist taken into custody this month outside his Columbia University apartment.

(Continued on page 4)

In her order, Casper cited Columbia graduate and Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil's case - specifically referencing a New York judge's decision to not allow Khalil to be deported until a court settles whether it has jurisdiction over his case.

Khalil and Ozturk's cases share some striking similarities - both were arrested near their homes without notice, both were transferred across state lines and jurisdictions and both have been transferred to Louisiana.

And, I might add, in neither case have the abductees been provided due process.

CNN:

*Ozturk “engaged in activities in support of Hamas,” a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Wednesday in a statement **without specifying what those alleged activities were** (emphasis mine).*

*Secretary of State Marco Rubio “**determined**” Ozturk’s alleged activities would have “potentially*

*serious adverse foreign policy consequences and would compromise a compelling U.S. foreign policy interest,” Tricia McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, told CNN Thursday. **She declined to provide further details about Ozturk’s alleged activities or how they could pose adverse consequences to US foreign policy** (emphases mine).*

This, my friends, is what fascism USA 2025 edition looks like. The knock on the door. The abduction on the street. The lack of due process. The nebulous “determination” of “adverse foreign policy consequences.” This is what happens when the warnings of Sinclair Lewis in his 1935 dystopian* book and play, “It Can’t Happen Here” actually happen.

And this is only the beginning.

It’s up to us to stop it. And stopping it can’t wait until the next election when, frankly, the damage will be irreparable.

Over 11 Million Democrats that Voted in 2020 Stayed Home in 2024			
	2020 (millions)	2024 (millions)	Difference (millions)
Democrats	59.2	48	-11.2
Republicans	57.6	54.1	-3.5
Independents	41.6	52.6	11
Totals	158.4	154.7	-3.7



A Lovely “Thank You” for the most important donation I ever made. MKC

A Century of Republican Incompetence and Racism Versus Democratic Competence and Inclusion

Michael K. Cantwell

Republicans Cause the Great Depression Democrats Create the Safety Net

1929-1932: Republicans control both Congress and the White House in 1929 as the country careens into the Great Depression. The government does nothing to alleviate suffering as unemployment reaches 25% and millions become homeless: "Hoover feared that providing direct aid to people in need would cause them to lose their incentive to work hard." Sound familiar?

1933-1944: FDR announces a "New Deal" that includes a massive public works program, a "safety net" for desperate Americans, and regulation of the economic titans that caused the Great Depression. In his final State of the Union, FDR explains "that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence" and proposes a [Second Bill of Rights](#):

"We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people—whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth—is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure." The dream dies with FDR's death 2 months later.

Democrats Expand the Safety Net Republicans Resort to Red-Baiting and Racism

1964: Democrats pass Medicare and Medicaid. Ronald Reagan, shilling for the AMA, warns that if Medicare passes, "you and I are going to spend our sunset years telling our children, and our children's children, what it once was like in America when men were free."

1964-1965: Democrats pass the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. LBJ warns "we have lost the South for a generation." It is a gross underestimate.

1968: Dick Nixon launches his "Southern Strategy," using racist dog whistles to capture the presidency.

1981-1992: Reagan opens his campaign in the same Mississippi county where the Klan murdered Goodman, Schwerner, and Chaney, with an appeal to "States Rights." His presidency is marked with dog-whistle racism and racist tropes ("welfare queens driving Cadillacs" and "strapping young bucks buying T-bone steaks with Food Stamps"). George H.W. Bush follows suit with Willie Horton. The Solid South flips, a Raw Deal replaces the New Deal, and the federal debt quadruples

1993-2001: Bill Clinton raises taxes and creates 23 million jobs during his tenure. The annual budget shows a surplus for his last three years in office.

Democrats Keep Fixing Republicans Messes

2001-2008: George W. Bush ignores CIA warnings regarding Osama bin Laden. He invades Afghanistan and comes but loses bin Laden in the mountains. He launches a \$3-trillion war against Iraq based on lies and in violation of international law. He spies on Americans unlawfully. He doubles the federal debt.

He signs two tax cuts benefitting the wealthiest Americans. He tries but fails to privatize Social Security. He bungles the response to Katrina. He lets bankers run wild and they cause the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Four million Americans lose their jobs and 10 million (disproportionately POC) lose their homes.

2009-2016: Republicans monolithically oppose Barack Obama's efforts to repair the economy. Only three Republican vote for The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It averts a second Great Depression, but another 4 million jobs are lost before the economy begins to recover. The U.S. credit rating is downgraded and the government shut down in phony debt ceiling crises engineered by Republicans. Still, 11 million jobs added by Obama

Democrats pass the Affordable Care Act, insuring 20 million previously uninsured Americans and saving tens of thousands of lives. Bin Laden is killed.

2016-2020, Behold the Beast: Dismissed as a joke by the craven, clueless corporate media, Donald Trump presides over the most ruinous presidency in American history. His single legislative achievement is a tax cut for plutocrats and multinationals. Inheriting the greatest postwar expansion, he adds nearly as much debt in 4 years as Obama added in 8. His incompetent response to COVID exacerbates the death toll and plunges the country into a Second Great Depression. He loses 9.3 million jobs in his final year, becoming the first president to preside over a net job loss during his tenure.

2021-24: Democrats pass the American Recovery Plan and Inflation Reduction Act without any Republican votes. Biden signs the largest infrastructure bill in decades, the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades; the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades, and an investment in microchip production to make America more competitive with China.

Biden adds over 16 million jobs (more than any president in a single term, unemployment flirts with its lowest rate in 54 years, and tames the COVID-created inflation, turning over a strong economy to Donald Trump, who is now destroying it. Plus ca change.

Letters to the Editors —Outgoing, That Is

Writing to local papers can influence NPAs and gives aid, comfort, and information to Democrats. Here is the latest crop. If you've been published and would like us to republish your letter, please send it to editor@thedelraydemocratic.com.

Doge Ruse

I can't understand why giving tax breaks, mostly to the obscenely rich, is a top priority of the Trump administration. If this administration was serious about reducing federal government spending, then allowing this tax break to expire would save over \$4 trillion over 10 years. Also, to save Social Security, one can extend the cap so that the very wealthy contribute the same percentage of income that the average person does.

If more savings are needed, then President Donald Trump can reduce the number of his golf trips to his resorts. This one action would be a savings in his four-year term and harm no one.

If DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) was serious about its stated purposes, it would increase the size of the IRS's special agent force, which is specifically tasked with investigating violations of the U.S. Internal Revenue code. Also, making corporations and the uber rich, including the president, pay the same rate as the rest of us would bring more money to the government. As one can see, there are many ways to achieve DOGE's purposes without hurting and/or killing thousands of people in the United States and the world.

Geoff Kashdan, Palm Beach Post, March 30, 2025

Congress is holding up Florida's road projects

Infrastructure projects in Florida are stalled, not for lack of funding, but because this administration is deliberately blocking the money that Congress already approved. The Inflation Reduction Act, and

the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act were approved to fund major improvements from road repairs to bridge replacements and transit expansions. These projects were greenlit and paid for, but now this illegal freeze is keeping the money from reaching our communities. Jobs that should have been created don't exist. Roads and bridges that should be fixed remain unsafe. Public transit projects that should be moving forward are stuck in limbo. People responsible for these delays are hoping no one notices.

This isn't a budget shortfall. It's political sabotage. Readers deserve to know which projects in our state are being delayed and which lawmakers are responsible. I urge you to investigate and report on how this obstructionist hurting local businesses, workers and families.

Sylvia Whiting, Palm Beach Post, March 30, 2025

Heart of Darkness

As the world scrambles to deal with Donald Trump's tariffs, I'm reminded of Richard Nixon's "Madman Theory." Nixon's idea was to convince hostile nations that he was irrational so that they would be afraid of provoking him.

Scholars have been skeptical of the theory, noting the difficulty of convincing foreign leaders that you are actually a madman.

That doesn't seem to be an impediment today.

Michael K. Cantwell, Miami Herald, April 13, 2025

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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Char Lane (Managing Editor), David Kulick, and June Neal.

A Warning Ignored

Michael K. Cantwell

Democrats warned that the 2024 election presented a choice between democracy and autocracy, competence and incompetence, and a government that works for all the people and one that would work only for the wealthy and well-connected. Americans ignored those warnings and we are all paying the price.

Donald Trump's changes to Social Security already threaten the lives of millions of Americans. Repeating brazen lies that Social Security is riddled with "massive fraud," Trump has ordered changes that will affect the most vulnerable among an already vulnerable population.

But virtually every American will become a victim of the same colossal incompetence that marked Trump's first term.

Trump is already destroying the healthy economy he inherited from Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. The stock market is gyrating wildly because businesses do not know how to respond as Trump announces tariffs, delays them, and then doubles them. Fears of a recession are on the rise, with J.P. Morgan citing [heightened uncertainty](#) about Trump's tariffs and raising its assessment of its likelihood from 30% to 40%.

Trump himself [declines](#) to rule out a full-blown recession, and his commerce secretary callously attempts to paint a recession as somehow "[worth it](#)." His chief trade adviser claims that "tariffs are tax cuts," leading the *Wall Street Journal* editorial board to [respond](#), "George Orwell, call your office. In the real economic world, a tariff is a tax."

Trump claims he "[couldn't care less](#)" if foreign auto manufacturers raise their prices because people will buy American cars instead. Either he is [unaware](#) that almost all low-cost new cars sold in the United States are built elsewhere or he simply doesn't care about its impact on most Americans.

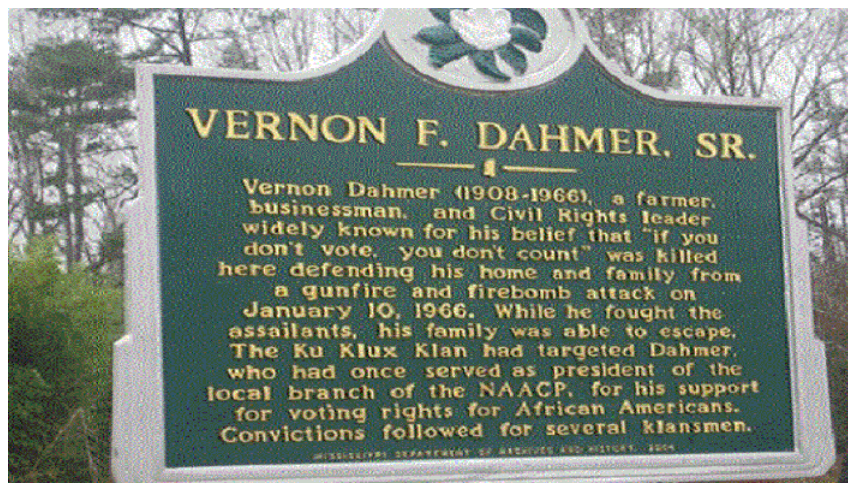
But most Americans *are* aware of how Trump's tariffs will affect their lives, and they are scared. Consumer confidence has dropped steadily since Trump took office. By one measure it is at its lowest point in 12 years and well below the level "[that usually signals a recession](#)."

Unemployment will spike as Trump continues to issue diktats – not only his unconscionable and [illegal](#) mass firings of thousands of federal employees but his refusal to spend the funds already allocated by Congress. Several lower courts have blocked these attempts, and if the Supreme Court affirms these decisions we have arrived at a full-blown Constitutional crisis.

What can we do? Don't lose hope. Most of all, get involved. [The greatest threat to democracy is indifference](#).

Write letters, call your representatives, get out in peaceful protests and tell Donald Trump – [Hands Off](#) our democracy.

But most of all, get registered and vote. It may seem like a long way off, but the midterms are around the corner, and when we vote, we win.



"If you don't vote, you don't count" was both the credo and the epitaph of Vernon Ferdinand Dahmer, Sr., president of the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, NAACP, who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan on January 10, 1966.

Short Ones

Michael K. Cantwell

When We Don't Vote, We Lose

Barack Obama said, "When we vote, we win." That's how we elected our first Black president and that's how we dispatched Donald Trump in 2020.

The converse is equally true—when we don't vote we lose. In 2016, we lost the White House and Congress, but apathy and ignorance cost us even more in 2024.

We are on the verge of losing what's left of our democracy.

Those who failed to vote in 2016 and 2024 desecrated the graves of those who were beaten and murdered during the Civil Rights Era fighting for the franchise.

There Is No Such Thing as "Not Voting"

Every vote counts, but so does every vote thrown away. That's because there is no such thing as "not voting," as David Foster Wallace explained:

You either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote.

The same applies if you vote for a third-party candidate who has no chance of winning. Until we have instant-runoff voting, that's a vote against the candidate who would have been your second choice.

The Emperor Has No Brain

During Trump's first term, the media called his brazen lies "false statements" or the like "before it uttered the "L" word.

His biggest of his Big Lies was the "Stolen Election" claim. The claim that he believed the election was stolen was put to rest by The January 6 committee, which concluded he knew he has lost.

Today, it's uncertain whether he believes that mere repetition of his desire to possess Greenland and Canada can magically make it happen (in which case he is delusional) or whether he plans to get what he wants by defying international law (in which case he is not only a convicted felon but a would-be war criminal.

Consumer Sentiment at Lowest Level Evah!!

The University of Michigan's [Survey of Consumer Sentiment](#) reported that consumer confidence fell 11% from April to March. This was the fourth straight monthly decline and consumer confidence is now 30% lower than its level in December 2024 and 34.20% from its level last April.

Consumer expectations unemployment will rise are double the level in November 2024 and the highest since 2009. Expectations of higher inflation reached the highest level reported since 1981. And so . . .

Stagflation, Anyone? (*Reprise*)

Last month, I raised a question that's been on my mind ever since Donald Trump took charge of our economy: "[Stagflation, anyone](#)"? Last week, Bloomberg published an [op-ed](#) in which Bill Dudley, former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, went one step further:

All told, stagflation is the optimistic scenario. More likely, the US will end up in a full-blown recession accompanied by higher inflation.

The stagflation of the late 70s and early 80s was largely fueled by conditions outside the control of the White House, notably the Arab Oil crises.

Similarly, the post-Covid inflation that helped elect Trump was largely fueled by conditions outside of President Biden's control. See [Deconstructing the Inflation Bogyman](#).

Yet Biden fixed a problem that he did not create. Inflation fell by two-thirds within a year, and he left office with an economy that was "firing on all cylinders," according to [The Times](#):

President Trump inherited an economy that was, by most conventional measures, firing on all cylinders. Wages, consumer spending and corporate profits were rising. Unemployment was low. The inflation rate, though higher than normal, was falling.

In stark contrast, Trump is responsible for the coming economic catastrophe and will be incapable of fixing it.

The Second Bill of Rights

Michael K. Cantwell

“[T]rue individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. ‘Necessitous men are not free men.’ People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.” Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The language, sentiment, and concerns sound quaint in the age of Donald Trump, and so they should. They were given [voice](#) more than 80 years ago by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They were prescient but largely ignored for the last half-century. We are paying the price today.

The occasion was the last State of the Union address given by FDR. A transcript of the relevant part of his address is available [here](#) and a film of him reading it from the White House can be viewed by clicking on the still shot below:



FDR Second Bill of Rights (restored)

As FDR looked toward the end of World War II and a period of prosperity for America, he cautioned Congress :

We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people—whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth- is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.

Roosevelt proposed a *second* Bill of Rights, one that would ensure no American would be hungry or homeless or insecure.

He explained that “*life and liberty*” were protected by our original Bill of Rights but that a second Bill of Rights was needed to guarantee “*equality in the pursuit of happiness*.”

Some of the rights imagined by his Second Bill of Rights were included in bills passed under FDR’s New Deal, or example, Social Security pensions, unemployment insurance, and minimum wage laws, and FDR lived to see a GI Bill that guaranteed World War II veterans funds for college and housing.

The remainder were never enacted or only partly enacted, however. They include rights that citizens of other industrialized countries already enjoy, such as free universal medical care, free or highly subsidized education, and retirement benefits [that greatly exceed](#) those provided by Social Security.

The substantive rights that do exist in America result from [legislation](#) passed by Democrats. Republicans [denounced](#) Social Security as socialism that would “enslave workers” and “prevent business recovery.” Ronald Reagan infamously [warned](#) that if Medicare were enacted, we would all spend our “sunset years telling our children, and our children’s children, what it once was like in America when men were free.”

You would be hard pressed today to find Americans complaining that Medicare robbed them of their freedom, but an easy task to find those who are “ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.” Over [one-third](#) of Americans would be unable to afford an emergency expense over \$400, however, and [food insecurity](#) affects 50 million Americans, including 14 million children.

It is they who are “not free” because they are “necessitous,” and they are necessitous because the Republican Party is more interested in giving tax breaks to billionaires than they are to promoting the “General Welfare” that our Constitution defines as one the very purpose of our government.

But too many Americans know nothing more than they have been falling behind for decades. They lack the time and education to understand that while Democrats may fall short (usually due to monolithic Republican opposition), Republicans don’t even try to help them. And that’s why the man who would be king is in the White House again: “*People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.*”

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is correct that Democrats “are losing elections” because they think “that the power struggle within the party is between progressives and moderates.”

As she recently explained in a [great profile](#) by The

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New York Times's Michelle Cottle, "I believe economic populism is the path forward."

That's why when – and I say *when* and not *if* – Democrats hold Congress and the White House again, they first need to ask, "*What Would FDR Do?*"

Then they need to do what he would have done had he lived longer – enacting the legislation that would end the long night of "necessitous" men, women, and children and begin a new day in which all Americans can enjoy equality in the pursuit of happiness.

And they need to begin telling everyone that now!

Worth Quoting

"George Orwell, call your office. In the real economic world, a tariff is a tax." [Editorial Board](#), *The Wall Street Journal*, responding to the boast by Peter Navarro, that "tariffs are tax cuts."

"The implications of the government's position" are "that not only noncitizens but also United States citizens could be taken off the streets, forced onto planes and confined to foreign prisons with no opportunity for redress if judicial review is denied unlawfully before removal. History is no stranger to such lawless regimes, but this nation's system of laws is designed to prevent, not enable, their rise." Justice Sonia Sotomayor, identified the stakes in her dissent in *Trump v. J.G.G.*

"Tyranny requires your fear and your silence and your compliance. Democracy requires your courage." State of the State Address by [Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker](#).

"Maine may be one of the first states to undergo an investigation by his Administration, but we won't be the last . . . Where does it end? In America, the President is neither a King nor a dictator, as much as this one tries to act like it—and it is the rule of law that prevents him from being so." Statement of Maine [Governor Janet Mills](#), responding to notification that U.S. Department of Education was investigating Maine after she publicly challenged Donald Trump.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that something's wrong with Trump. It's like if someone in British football broke their leg and the bone was sticking out, you don't have to be an orthopaedic surgeon to know that there's a broken bone." Trump's former White House Director of Communications [Anthony Scaramucci](#), in Christopher Sharp, [Donald Trump is 'unwell' as former staffer issues 'something is wrong' warning](#), *The Irish Star*

"Viewed in light of the president's psychological need to dominate, it is almost certainly true that his flagrant abuse of the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and foreign-born students in the United States — snatching them off the streets to be imprisoned or, worse, sending them to an unaccountable foreign prison with no practical legal recourse — is just the beginning." [Jamelle Bouie](#), *The New York Times*.

"The whole world has decided that the U.S. government has no idea what it's doing." Mark Blyth, a political economist at Brown University and co-author of the forthcoming book "Inflation: A Guide for Users and Losers," quoted in Peter S. Goodman, [Trump Has Added Risk to the Surest Bet in Global Finance](#).

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Renew Your Vote by Mail Ballot Request

Republicans know that Democrats register to vote by mail in higher numbers than Republican.

They also know people who have registered to vote by mail vote in higher percentages than those who haven't registered to vote by mail.

That's why they eliminated the "check box" that allowed voters to automatically extend their vote by mail registration through the following election.

Now you must re-enroll after every general election. It's easy, and here's how to do it:

Phone: (561) 656-6208

Fax: (561) 656-6230

Go to www.voteplambeach.gov

Scan this QR code and follow directions.



Worth Reading

[What Ocasio-Cortez Wants for the Democrats](#), Michelle Cottle, *The New York Times*: "It might surprise some people that Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, American politics' most dynamic progressive icon, wishes Democrats would stop thinking 'that the power struggle within the party is between progressives and moderates,' as she told me recently.' Ms. Ocasio-Cortez believes her party can come together around fighting for the little guy and gal, a core value she insists does not belong to any particular ideological camp — or at least shouldn't."

[Wall Street Starts to Speak Out Against Trump's Tariffs](#), Gregory Zuckerman, AnnaMaria Andriotis, and Gina Heeb, *Wall Street Journal*: "In public and private, the big names of high finance are trying to get a message across to President Trump: stop the madness."

[I was in London during the Liz Truss debacle. Here are 5 lessons for Trump — and the rest of us.](#), Brett Arends, *MarketWatch*: "When MAGA-like politician Liz Truss became prime minister of the U.K., a few people joked that she was 'Donald Trump in drag. If Trump doesn't quickly get control of the current economic situation, some people may soon start making the same joke in reverse.'"

[The Failed Ideas That Drive Elon Musk](#), Jill Lepore, *The New York Times*: "President Trump has reportedly told cabinet members that Elon Musk may soon leave the administration. If and when he goes, what will he leave behind? Mr. Musk has long presented himself to the world as a futurist. Yet, notwithstanding the gadgets — the rockets and the robots and the Department of Government Efficiency Musketeers, carrying backpacks crammed with laptops, dreaming of replacing federal employees with large language models — few figures in public life are more shackled to the past."

[Market Chaos Could Inflict Its Own Economic Damage](#), Ben Casselman, *The New York Times*: "This time, maybe the stock market *is* the economy."

[An Experiment in Recklessness: Trump as Global Disrupter](#), David Sanger, *The New York Times*: "As the breadth of the Trump revolution has spread across Washington in recent weeks, its most defining feature is a burn-it-down-first, figure-out-the-consequences-later recklessness. The costs of that approach are now becoming clear."

[Warren Urges S.E.C. to Investigate Trading Around Trump's Tariff Pause](#), "In recent days, President Trump has announced a series of erratic, reckless tariffs, leading to significant market turmoil," Senator Warren wrote in a letter to Paul Atkins, the chair of the S.E.C. 'As a direct result of this chaos, the U.S. financial markets have experienced dramatic declines over the course of just a few days.' . . . Representative Maxine Waters of California sent a letter to the S.E.C. and the U.S. Government Accountability Office similarly requesting an investigation. Of particular concern to Ms. Waters was a spike in trading of call options — or bets that a stock will rise — in the period directly leading up to Mr. Trump's announcement. 'The timing and scale of the call option purchases would suggest that an official of the Administration, or perhaps the President himself, provided friends or associates with a heads up that the announcement was happening,' Ms. Waters wrote.

First They Came for Mahmoud Khalil

June Sandra Neal

Donald Trump's recent illegal arrests and deportations of certain non-citizens should be a call to action by all who cherish our Constitutional freedoms. After all, who's next? That's the lesson in Pastor Martin Niemoller's famous 1946 essay, where he confesses that each time the Nazis came for Hitler's perceived enemies, he said nothing. "Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out." This is the danger of indifference and inaction when others are persecuted, such as Mahmoud Khalil.

March 8, 2025. Agents from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) arrested Khalil, a Columbia University graduate student and a legal permanent resident. It's believed he was arrested only because he'd become a well-known figure in the Palestinian solidarity protests at Columbia University, although we can't be sure since Khalil was denied his legal right to a hearing. He's being held in the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center (CLIPC), a jail with a reputation for human rights abuses. A federal judge has barred his deportation while his lawyers fight for his release. Sadly, Khalil's case is only one of many, but his popularity, and the government's blatant disregard for his rights, has made international headlines.

the war with Israel. In an exercise more evocative of Rube Goldberg than serious government policy, Ozturk was moved to five different locations, initially preventing her lawyers from reaching her. The government also revoked her visa. She remains in custody at the time of this writing. See [Papiere Bitte](#), page 3, for a chilling video of her kidnapping.

The search of the student residences had a broader purpose; it was a warning to the university that Trump is serious about usurping Columbia's right to govern itself. As the [Guardian](#) reported, "The Trump administration sent a [letter](#) to Columbia outlining changes it wants the university to meet before it will discuss lifting last week's cancellation of [\\$400m](#) in federal funding to the school. The demands include abolishing the university judicial board, an internal disciplinary body; formalizing the college's definition of antisemitism; banning masks "intended to conceal identity or intimidate" on campus, often used by protesters; and granting full law enforcement authority to public safety officers. **The letter also demands the placement of Columbia's Middle East, south Asian and African studies department under academic receivership (when a department or program is taken over by outside administrators) for at least five years.**"

"These immigrants were not allowed to exercise their rights afforded by the 14th Amendment, which guarantees due process to all "persons" in the U.S., including non-citizens."

March 13, 2025. Department of Homeland Security agents executed search warrants at two Columbia University residences, allegedly because of student support of Hamas. They found nothing.

The U. S. State Department designated Hamas a terrorist organization in 1997. But the search warrants and arrests did not rise from charges that these people were active in the organization but because they support the Palestinian cause, which Trump says is [anti-Semitic](#).

March 25, 2025. Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish PhD student at Tufts University, was abducted off the street in Somerville, Massachusetts by masked ICE agents and taken to CLIPC. She says the arrest was because of an op-ed she wrote for the Tufts Daily newspaper expressing support for the Palestinians in

March 27, 2025. At a press conference, "Secretary of State [Marco Rubio](#) said that the State Department revoked about 300 student visas and was continuing to take away visas every day."

America Now Has Thought Police.

Donald Trump is a narcissistic, immoral sociopath who has spent his life breaking and evading the law. As president, he seeks revenge against anyone who has stood up to him. Others are targets simply because they are Democrats. And others only because they are expedient scapegoats, members of subsets — even absent any political activity — Moslems, the LGBTQ community, the arts world, and academia.

According to [Ballotpedia](#), as of April 3, 2025, Trump

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“had signed 111 [executive orders](#), 29 [proclamations](#), and 27 [memoranda](#)” since taking office in January, 2025. That’s the most since Harry Truman issued 139 in all of 1945. Some of the documents simply feed Trump’s insatiable ego, such as [creating a task force](#) to oversee the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition in America and appointing himself chairman. But most expand his presidential powers, allowing him to wreak vengeance against perceived enemies.

February 5, 2025. Attorney General Pam Bondi announced the creation of a [Weaponization Working Group](#) to investigate— anyone Trump targets. One probe accused Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg, of “federal cooperation with the weaponization.” In 2023, Bragg charged Trump with falsifying business records to commit tax fraud, violation of federal campaign finance laws, and illegally attempting to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Bragg also filed state criminal charges against Trump for falsifying business records to disguise a payment to an adult film star. Bragg won a 34-felony count conviction, but Judge Juan Merchan granted Trump, president-elect at the time, an “unconditional discharge,” acknowledging Trump’s a convicted felon, but ordering no fines or jail time.

February 25, 2025. Trump issued a memorandum to block security clearances and all federal government work for the law firm of Covington and Burling, the attorneys representing Special Counsel Jack Smith who was investigating Trump for his role in the January 6 attempted insurrection at the United States Capitol and for his retention of classified documents. Trump accused the law firm of [“involvement of weaponization of government.”](#)

March 6, 2025. Trump issued an order revoking security clearance and federal contracts for the law firm of Perkins Coie LLP because the company had represented Hillary Clinton. The Trump administration also accused them of working “with activist donors including George Soros to judicially overturn popular, necessary, and democratically enacted election laws, including those requiring voter [identification](#).”

March 15, 2025. Trump issued a [proclamation](#), citing the Venezuelan-based gang known as Tren de Aragua (TdA) as a “designated Foreign Terrorist Organization with thousands of members, many of whom have unlawfully infiltrated the United States

and are conducting irregular warfare and undertaking hostile actions against the United States.” Trump ordered ICE to scoop up 200 alleged gang members; 137 of them were deported to a notorious prison in El Salvador. These immigrants were not allowed to exercise their rights afforded by the 14th Amendment, which guarantees due process to all “persons” in the U.S., including non-citizens. “...nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the [laws](#).”

Along with a hearing, non-citizens have the right to be notified of the charges they’re facing, the right to counsel and the right to offer evidence on their behalf. And even if the judge finds they can be deported, they have the right to an appeal.

To effect the deportations without due process, Trump invoked the 1798 wartime [Alien Enemies Act](#), promulgated when America anticipated a war with France. It reads, “whenever there shall be a declared war [...] or any invasion or predatory incursion shall be perpetrated, attempted, or threatened” against the US, all “subjects of the hostile nation or government” could be “apprehended, restrained, secured and removed, as alien enemies.” The Act has been used only three times since, and only during a major conflict: the War of 1812, World War I, and World War II, when 120,000 people of Japanese descent were arrested; thousands were sent to internment camps without a trial. Click on the photo below to see more images.



A [federal judge](#) in Texas recently issued a temporary order banning Trump from invoking the Act to deport people held in an immigration detention center without due process and a [federal judge](#) in New York issued a similar order.

Trump has falsified reality; there is no declared war, invasion or predatory incursion from Venezuela or any other country.

In addition, on **March 25, 2025**, Trump [revoked](#) what’s known as “humanitarian parole” status for

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non-citizens from Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela and Nicaragua. “Parole is an available tool under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) that allows certain individuals to enter the U.S. and temporarily stay without an immigrant or non-immigrant [visa](#).” It’s usually granted for urgent humanitarian reasons or some public benefit. But those people who’ve been granted parole have been ordered to leave the country by April 24, 2025, or by the expiration date of their parole, whichever is first.

Trump demonstrates his vindictiveness almost daily, firing government employees he perceives to have opposed him, including Justice Department officials who were simply doing their jobs prosecuting the January 6 marauders. He’s called for the impeachment of judges and threatened to withhold federal funding from universities and arts organizations.

Trump and his Weaponization Working Group echo other historical monsters who used “protection” of their regimes as cover. During the 1930s, Joseph Stalin used his power to terrorize the Russian people and millions died. “By the time the Great Terror ended, Stalin had subjected all aspects of Soviet society to strict party-state control, not tolerating even the slightest expression of local initiative, let

alone political unorthodoxy. The Stalinist leadership felt especially threatened by the intelligentsia, whose creative efforts were thwarted through the strictest censorship; by religious groups, who were persecuted and driven underground; and by non-Russian nationalities, many of whom were deported en masse to Siberia during World War II because Stalin questioned their [loyalty](#).”

Under Adolph Hitler, “[The first wave of legislation](#), from 1933 to 1934, focused largely on limiting the participation of Jews in German public life. The first major law to curtail the rights of Jewish citizens was the “Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service” of April 7, 1933, according to which Jewish and “politically unreliable” civil servants and employees were to be excluded from state service. The new Civil Service Law was the German authorities’ first formulation of the so-called Aryan Paragraph, a kind of regulation used to exclude Jews (and often by extension other “non-Aryans”) from organizations, professions, and other aspects of public life.”

Donald Trump does what all dictators do: contravene existing laws and constitutions, abuse power to arbitrarily punish any perceived threat, then eviscerate the very institutions that could hold them responsible. History shows we’d better speak up now— before we’re all silenced.



One of the many photos that were part of Dorothea Lange's Images of Internment, documenting the shame of locking U.S. residents of Japanese descent (citizens as well as non-citizens) in internment camps during World War II. The Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of FDR’s order has been widely criticized, with some scholars describing it as “an odious and discredited artifact of popular bigotry,” and as “a stain on American jurisprudence.”

Thank Joe Biden

The American Rescue Plan Act begins the recovery from the Trump Depression:

- Local governments given \$360 billion to keep front line public workers on the job and paid.
- Expanded and extended unemployment checks to help workers until the economy reopens.
- Over 200 million Americans are vaccinated against COVID in first 100 days, thanks to \$160 billion funding for supplies and vaccines.
- Investments in Affordable Care Act allowed more than 18 million Americans to obtain health insurance, savings tens of thousands from premature, preventable deaths.
- Increased and expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty by 35% in 2021.
- Helped create more jobs (6.7 million) during the first year of any presidency.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passes with 17 Republican senators voting in favor. Florida's senators vote against the bill, although they and our governor are happy to take credit for the money and services it provides.

- The largest investment in infrastructure in over a decade.
- The largest investment in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in U.S. history.
- The largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in U.S. history.
- The largest investment in public transit in nearly six decades.
- The largest investment in bridges since the construction of the interstate highway system.
- More than 40,000 projects already off the ground.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades.

The PACT Act is the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

The Inflation Reduction Act is the greatest investment in green energy in U.S. history. It reduces the deficit by authorizing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies, closing tax loopholes, and providing \$80 billion to the IRS for additional tax enforcement.

The CHIPS Act invests in microchip production to make America more competitive with China and reduce our reliance on foreign sources for a vital component used by the defense industry. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

The July 17, 2024, **Executive Order** will allow an estimated 500,000 undocumented spouses of American citizens and their children to remain in the United States while obtaining legal status.

Thank a Democrat

1964 Civil Rights Act

1965 Voting Rights Act

Affordable Care Act

AmeriCorps

CDC

Family and Medical Leave Act

Food Stamp Act

Freedom of Information Act

GI Bill of Rights

Medicare and Medicaid

Minimum Wage Act

National Labor Relations Act

National Science Foundation Act

National Voter Registration Act
(a.k.a. Motor Voter Act)

Social Security Act

Unemployment Compensation Act

Workers Compensation Act

Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

Michael Cantwell, President; Char Lane, Vice-President; Mary Fader, Secretary; David Kulick, Treasurer; Robert Averack, Parliamentarian; June Neal, and Martie Wrock, Directors; and John Ramos, Director Emeritus.

2025 Membership

Char Lane

The most consequential General Election of our lifetimes is over and now is time to be resilient and work hard to help keep our democracy intact.

It's time to renew our DCDB 2025 memberships. Our membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as *The Delray Democrat*, our meetings, other operational supplies, and signage for our sign waving events. Meetings are at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month and held at the PBC DEC Office at 220 Congress Park Drive. Meeting notices are sent out in the weeks prior to meetings and include Zoom links to register for and/or join the hybrid meetings and links to our various websites.

Our goal is to educate people as to the importance of voting, why they should vote Democratic and why they should use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. **Please remember to reenroll in the Vote-by-Mail Program for 2025-2026 online at votepalmbeach.gov and selecting the Vote-by-Mail tab or calling 561.656.6208 or visiting any of the SoE offices.**

Getting out the vote is our most important mission. You can help by making phone calls, texting, writing postcards, canvassing, or becoming a precinct leader.

You can register people to vote and help people sign up or reenroll to vote by mail. You can volunteer for projects to benefit the community. The 2026 Mid-term Elections are less than two years away and we have so much work to do.

If you're already a Club member, please renew your membership for 2025. If you are not a member, not, please consider joining.

To become a member of the DCDB: complete and mail the Membership application or click on the QR code below. You can also give me your membership application/renewal at our meetings.



Visit us at www.demclubofdelray.org. Read *The Delray Democrat* at www.thedelraydemocrat.com. Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>.

Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2025 Membership Application and Renewal

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here _____ and we will not share your E-mail address.)

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____ U.S. Mail _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

Payment: Individual \$25 _____ Household \$35 _____ Donation _____

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484. Thank you and welcome to our Club.

