

# The Delray Democrat

June 2024 (# 69)

## The American Dream

*Debbie Mucarsel-Powell*

My life is the embodiment of the American Dream. Our mother brought my sisters and me to the United States in search of democracy, freedom, and opportunity. She worked two jobs—as a home health aide and cleaning peoples’ homes—to build a better life for our family, and with her years of hard work she earned the Social Security and Medicare benefits that she relies on today.

My name is Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, and I’m running for the U.S. Senate to bring back the opportunities that allowed me to get to where I am today. My story is one I have seen reflected all over Florida – the story of hard work and perseverance.

Only in a state like Florida is it possible for an immigrant like me to have gone from working minimum wage in a donut shop to working in nonprofit organizations like Zoo Miami and the Coral Reef Restoration Foundation, to serving as Associate Dean at the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, to serving in Congress and running for U.S. Senate. At FIU, I led a program to help expand access to health care for more Floridians. It is what led me to run and get elected to Congress in 2018.

As my mother’s daughter, as a proud Latina, and as a mother myself, the issues facing us in Florida today are personal for me. I’m running to protect

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## Club Meetings

Candidates’ Night  
June 20, 2024 (7:00 PM)  
State Attorney Race  
Florida’s Future Leaders  
with Jayden D’Onofrio,  
July 18, 2024

## Flipping Florida Blue Runs Through Investing in Youth

*Jayden D’Onofrio, Chairman of the Florida Future Leaders PAC*

It is no secret to all of us the extreme political tide-change we have experienced in the Sunshine State. From the election of Ron DeSantis as Governor to the complete stranglehold Republicans possess over the state’s legislature, Florida has become a breeding ground for radical policy that provides no real solutions to the many issues everyday citizens face. Worse, the past few legislative sessions have showcased a concerted effort to attack one demographic in particular: Florida’s youngest and most educated.

Despite the constant attacks on Florida’s youth on matters of education, freedoms, and personal way of life, young voters have failed to turn out

to vote in the state, a complete failure when compared to the successes of other vital battleground states in the most recent midterm election of 2022. Or even highlighted in an off-cycle year with the election of Janet Protasiewicz, a pro-choice Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice who won her election in 2023 simply because of the turnout and support exemplified by youth voters. The failure in our home state has highlighted a glaring issue: a complete lack of a strategic, dedicated effort to turn out youth voters, the very demographic that aligns with Democrats more than any other generation when turned out to vote en masse.

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*(The American Dream, Continued from page 1)*

the benefits that seniors and my mother have worked their entire lives for. I'm running to ensure that all working families have the opportunity to work hard and get ahead the way that I did when my mother brought us to this country. I'm running to ensure our children can access a world-class education right here in Florida – and afford to live here after they finish school.

After losing my father to gun violence when I was 24, I'm fighting for safer communities without the threat of gun violence. And as a Latina, I know firsthand what it means to leave authoritarian regimes; I'm running to protect and defend our democracy here in America.

We need more leaders in Florida who are willing to put aside partisan politics and work with anyone to deliver for Florida. That's the work I was proud to do in the House of Representatives.

I worked across the aisle to deliver \$200 million in Everglades restoration funding. I came to the table and I wrote the bill to expand access to Medicare. Floridians deserve a Senator who is eager to find common ground with anyone in order to benefit the hardworking people in our state. I'm ready to cut through the gridlock and the political games and be that leader for Florida.

My story should not be an exception – it should be the rule, and I will fight hard every day in the Senate to make that a reality and build a brighter future for Floridians.

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## Immigration Racism Rears Its Ugly Head Again

*Michael K. Cantwell*

We are a nation of immigrants. That we are better for it is axiomatic. Immigrants were welcomed for the first century after our founding, perhaps because they had the “right” skin color, religion, and nationality, namely, White, Protestant, and northern and western [European](#).

Attitudes towards immigration changed in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century, as those with the wrong skin color, religion, and nationality began to arrive, first from China and then from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Chinese immigrants helped build railroads, roads, and bridges, making America a better place. America rewarded them by passing a series of “Chinese Exclusion” laws that first limited and then barred immigration from China.

During the Progressive era that spanned the first two decades of the Twentieth Century, tens of millions of immigrants came from southern and eastern Europe. The Immigration Act of 1917 (also known as the “Literacy Act” or “Barred Zone Act”) differentiated between “desirable” and “undesirable” immigrants based on nationality, race and religion.

Northern European Protestants were desirable while southern and eastern European Catholics and Jews were non-desirable. Non-Europeans were “highly undesirable.”

The literacy requirement imposed by the Act would have barred Ron DeSantis's great-great-grandmother from entry, but fortunately for her and her “anchor baby” (if not necessarily for Floridians), she [arrived](#) only weeks before the act took effect.

Things became truly ugly in the 1920s, when the hysteria about undesirable aliens reached a pitch as fevered as it is today. Congress passed the Reed-



From the May 16, 1923, edition of the Klan newspaper, [Fiery Cross](#).

Johnson Immigration Act of 1924, which greatly restricted immigration from southern and eastern Europe and entirely barred immigration from Asian countries.

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That is why, as a result of the devastation Florida Democrats experienced in the 2022 elections, I have made it my most important goal to create, develop, and establish a youth turnout machine that not only enacts major influence on the 2024 election, but for the many more elections to come. This path started with reforming the Florida High School Democrats and Florida College Democrats, ensuring that they are led by experienced youth leaders and building chapters of engaged students all across the state. Then it involved the formation of the Florida Democratic Party Youth Council, the first of its kind party structure that I was proud to act as the inaugural Chairman for to guarantee the involvement of youth perspectives in the party.

Now, it leads to the formation of the **Florida Future Leaders Political Action Committee**

(PAC), *the youngest-led* PAC in the State of Florida, which will act as the most critical piece to developing youth turnout. From hiring College Campus Organizing Directors for face-to-face voter engagement, to running digital advertisements on platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Tinder, and TikTok, the work of our PAC will ensure a new generation of leaders are actively involved and building the bench of candidates for tomorrow's Florida Democratic Party. Our goals are clear, and it functions by letting youth lead youth, the most efficient possible form of organizing for our generation.

As the Chairman of the Florida Future Leaders PAC, I am excited for the future of all youth organizing in Florida, but it only happens if people like you continue to amplify, support, and give a voice to those who have historically had the smallest voice in government. The road to flipping Florida blue runs through investing in our youth.

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## A Few Words About Florida's Future Leaders

*Michael K. Cantwell*

When I received an email several months ago announcing the Florida's Future Leaders (FFL) PAC, I was so impressed with the vision of its inaugural chairman, Jayden D'Onofrio, that I immediately donated. Char Lane and I went to hear him in person at a fundraiser at FAU and were blown away. More donations followed.

We met not only Jayden but his Board, all of them hugely impressive. One had graduated from *high school that same morning* and she delivered an eloquent and heart-felt speech. Jayden is a college student but with a presence, intelligence, and understanding that belie his 19 years. In his speech that night, he called Joe Biden the greatest president of his lifetime.

I couldn't agree more—and I go back a lot further—but what struck me was Jayden's ability to recognize Biden's achievements despite the fog generated by the media disinformation complex. I'm referring not only to the paid professional liars on Fox but also to the So-Called Liberal Media, whose obsession with inflation and Biden's age and whose fear of being labeled liberal has made a horse race out of what should have been a slam dunk.

I don't know the minimum age to run for governor in Florida but said to Char that we're looking at a future governor. Char said Jayden reminded her of a young Obama and later Sara Miller suggested that we're looking at a future president.

But focusing on the present, which Jayden is—and with laser intensity—the only way to unravel the DeSantis dystopia is to energize the youth, and the only way to do that is by giving youth the resources needed to lead the youth. The best way to do that is to make a donation to the FFL PAC.

I'm pleased to say that you'll have an opportunity to hear Jayden for yourself, if you haven't already. He will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach on July 18, 2024.

Until then, if you're reading this in a digital copy, click [here](#) to go to the FFL website, where you can learn more. If you're reading a hard copy, scan this QR code. In either case, donate to our shared future!



(Continued from page 2)

The share allocated to immigrants from southern and eastern Europe fell from 41% to 11%. To employ the degraded imagery of a disgraced former president, those were the “shithole countries” of that era. Of course, there is no such thing as “shithole countries,” shithole *people*, perhaps — many of them native-born Americans — like Donald Trump and his minions and enablers.

A closer look at The Twenties reveals that the Ku Klux Klan did then what Donald Trump has done today. They normalized racism. The March 14, 1924 issue of the Klan newspaper *Fiery Cross* exhorts: “It is God’s purpose that the white man should preserve purity of blood and white supremacy in this country.”

We know that Adolf Hitler studied and learned from the American racism of that era—in *Mein Kampf*, he praised the fact that American law “simply excludes the immigration of certain races.” So while Trump was probably parroting Hitler when he referred to immigrants “poisoning our blood,” the concept was, a century ago, as American as apple [pie](#).

*We know that Adolf Hitler studied and learned from the particular American racism of the 1920s—in Mein Kampf, he praised the fact that American law “simply excludes the immigration of certain races.”*

America eventually rejected the naked racism of the 1924 law. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolished quotas. In a signing statement, President Lyndon Baines Johnson said:

Over my shoulders here you can see Ellis Island, whose vacant corridors echo today the joyous sound of long ago voices. And today we can all believe that the lamp of this grand old lady is brighter today—and the golden door that she guards gleams more brilliantly in the light of an increased liberty for the people from all the countries of the globe.

Trump and his minions have resurrected the racism and hatred of the 1920s. Respondents to the latest Gallup [poll](#) independently cited immigration as “the most important problem” facing America. Between January and March 2024, there was a 40% jump in respondent selecting that response.

That is a condemnation of Americans who swallow the same racist lies that circulated a century ago. It is also a condemnation of the media that either promote them or refuse to debunk them. Here are the facts.

## Immigrants do not pose a danger

“They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists,” sayeth the Father of Lies. This is stood on its head by a comparative [study](#) published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that used a database supplied by the Texas Department of Public Safety:

Relative to undocumented immigrants, US-born citizens are over 2 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and over 4 times more likely to be arrested for property crimes.

## Immigrants do not take jobs away from Americans

A recent [study](#) published in the *National Bureau of Economic Research* found that “immigrants act more as ‘job creators’ than ‘job takers.’” And many of the jobs they take are jobs that Americans do not want.

## Immigrants are not a drain on services.

Rick Scott falsely [claims](#) that President Biden is forcing “American taxpayers to fund services for illegal aliens.” He adds, “Enough is Enough.”

Leaving aside the utter obscenity of NRA-whore Scott using a slogan associated with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas massacre, undocumented immigrants are [ineligible](#) to receive most federal benefits.

Moreover, immigrants who *are* eligible pay far more in taxes than they receive in benefits. They use government services at a far lower rate than native-born Americans. They pay taxes but are ineligible for Medicaid, food stamps, or other “means-tested welfare benefits” until they have resided in the United States for five years, and they are ineligible for Social Security or Medicare until they have paid payroll taxes for 10 years.

## “Illegal” immigration is not above historical norms

According to a recent analysis (“[US immigration policy: A classic, unappreciated example of structural racism](#)”), “illegal” immigration is no more common today than between 1900 and 1960. The difference is that the millions of predominantly white immigrants who entered illegally during that period faced no threat of being apprehended or deported.

# Biden Winning on Inflation and Jobs (Pass It On)

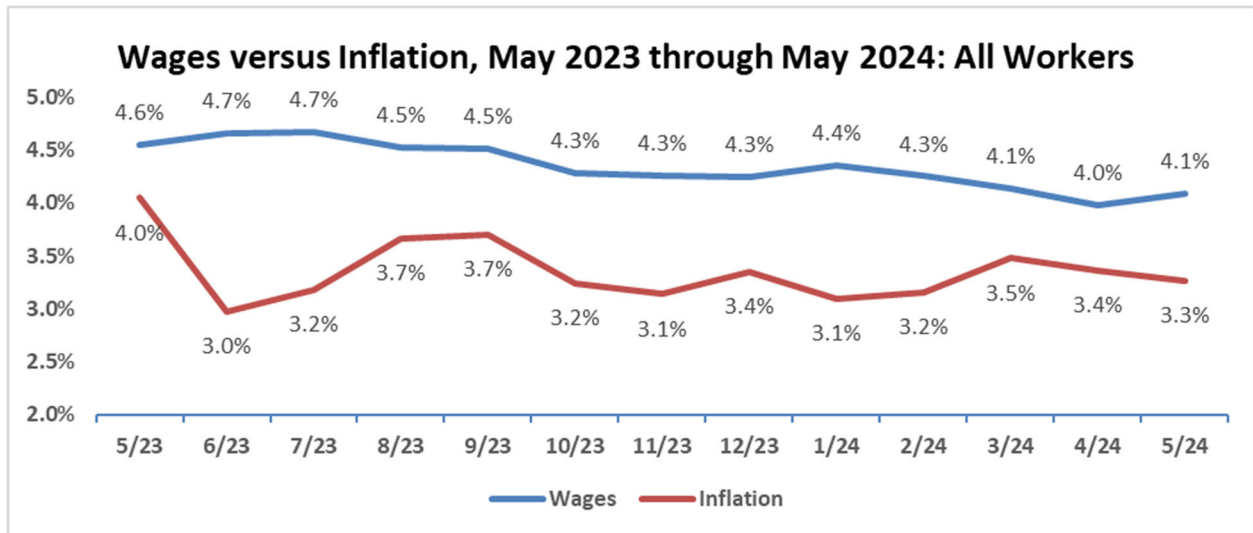
Michael K. Cantwell

Inflation resulted from a [perfect storm](#) for which Joe Biden bears only partial responsibility. A recent [poll](#) found that as many Americans (59%) blame corporate greed as blame government spending for inflation, a 15% shift since January 2022).

Inflation has been tamed, falling from a high of 9.1% to its current level of slightly over 3%.

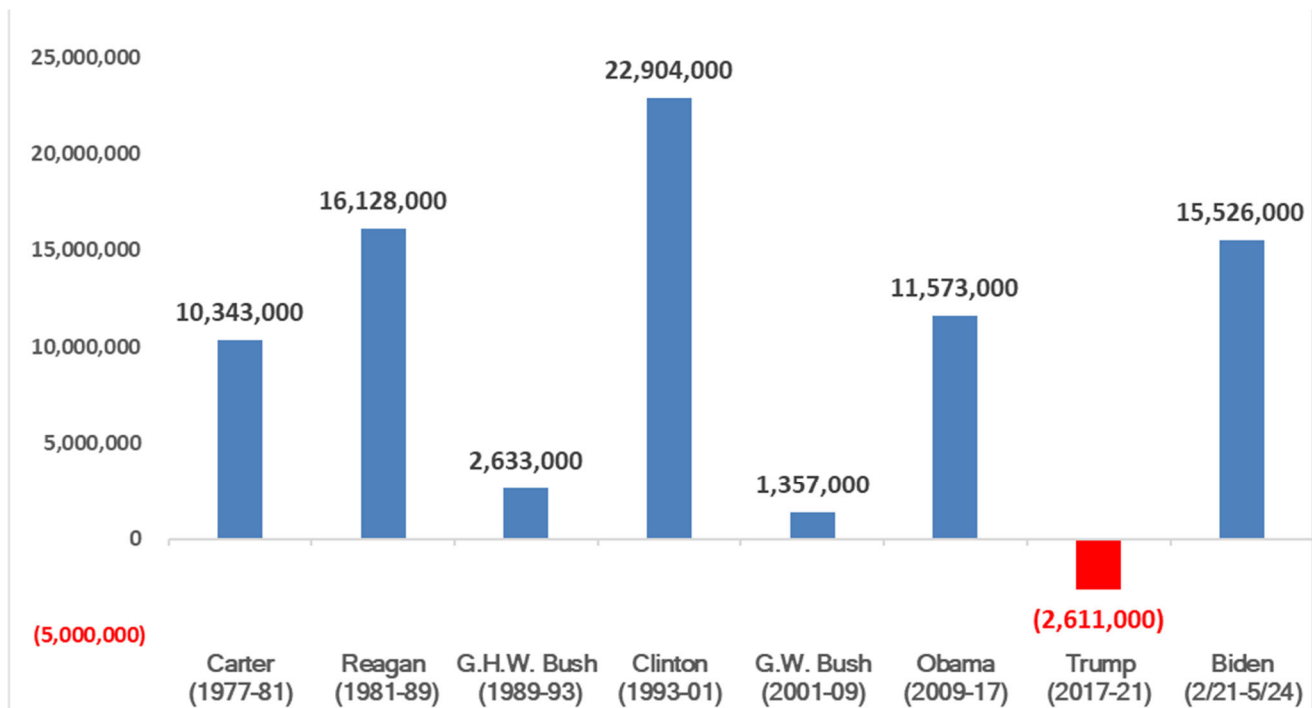
Wages have outpaced inflation over the past year and are approaching parity over the entirety of Biden's first term.

Without Biden's job creation machine, the 11 interest rate increases that were needed to tame inflation would have created the recession most economists projected (and many wanted). Thanks, Joe.



Data from [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#).

By the time Biden completes his first term, he will have presided over the creation of as many jobs as “St. Ronnie” did in two terms, and by the time Biden finishes his second term, he will surpass Clinton as the greatest job creator in American history. And we will also be further along the road to a renewable energy future than anyone would have thought possible. **All this stops if Trump wins.**



Data from [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#).

## Juneteenth and the Unrealized Promise of “Absolute Equality”\*

*The Editorial Board*

President Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863. Enslaved Texans would not learn of their liberation for nearly two and a half years.

On June 19, 1865, a date subsequently known and celebrated as “Juneteenth,” Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to notify the populace of the Proclamation. His soldiers circulated throughout town, reading “General Order No. 3,” which explained that henceforth there would exist “an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves.” Not surprisingly, spontaneous celebrations greeted this momentous news.

Official celebrations began the following year and initially involved church-centered gatherings, reflecting the jubilation and the solemnity of the occasion. Juneteenth celebrations spread from Texas throughout the United States and now include parties, picnics, and gatherings with family and friends. Juneteenth is an official holiday or day of observance in all states but Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Efforts are ongoing to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Juneteenth is often compared to the Fourth of July, but the deliverance of an enslaved people from bondage is an even more momentous event than a colonial people’s declaration of severance from the mother country. Moreover, America’s independence has never been in doubt whereas the “absolute equality” promised in General Order No. 3 has never been achieved.

### **The Unrealized Promise of “Absolute Equality”**

Since then, there have been brief periods when the formerly enslaved and their descendants were led to believe absolute equality *would be* forthcoming, that is, that they would be permitted to share in the rights enjoyed and celebrated by White America on July 4. Such hopes were always dashed, however.

The first such period was the Reconstruction Era that followed issuance of General Order No. 3 and the ratification of the “Civil War Amendments,” which ended slavery (*Thirteenth Amendment*); granted citizenship rights and equal protection of the law to

anyone born in the United States (*Fourteenth Amendment*); and prohibited the states from denying or abridging the right of U.S. citizens to vote “based on race, color, or past servitude” (*Fifteenth Amendment*).

For a brief period, formerly enslaved people were elected to local, state, and national offices (at one point, 15% of the office holders in the South were Black, a higher percentage than in 1990). Neither the Reconstruction Era nor its advances were long-lived.

The backlash was swift and sustained, launching a century of terrorism and oppression. Paramilitary groups of heavily armed Civil War veterans attacked Republican officeholders and suppressed the Black vote through violence and intimidation. Democrats ran nakedly racist races, winning elections by framing the choice as between [“white supremacy”](#) or [“Negro rule.”](#) If that sounds familiar, it’s because the modern Republican Party took lessons from the post-Civil War Democratic Party. Mitch McConnell always brags he’s a student of history.

Having regained control of the reins of government, they passed “Jim Crow” laws and constitutional amendments that effectively disenfranchised most Blacks. (The clause in Florida’s Constitution that was revised by Amendment 4 dates from that era.)

They legalized segregation, and the U.S. Supreme Court did nothing, holding in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that segregation was constitutional so long as the separate facilities were “equal” in quality. It took over 60 years for the Court to rule that “separate but equal” is unconstitutional as applied to education. Even then, *Brown v. Board of Education*, did not explicitly overrule *Plessy*, failing to address segregation in other contexts.

*Brown* also had limited impact on school segregation because towns across the South created inexpensive private schools to keep Whites from having to attend integrated schools. According to a 2020 [study](#) by the National Center for Education Statistics’ National Assessment of Educational Progress, Black children are “five times as likely as white children to attend schools that are highly segregated by race and ethnicity” and more than twice as likely to attend “high-poverty schools.”

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\*Originally published in the June 2022 issue of *The Delray Democrat*. We will stop publishing it every June issue when the promise has been realized. I hope that I live to see it. MKC

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It took another decade after *Brown* before Congress dismantled legalized segregation with the passage of Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Southern officials reaped political advantage attacking these laws as intrusions on states' sovereignty and Civil Rights protesters as "lawbreakers" because of the civil disobedience tactics used to demand their rights. Of course the real criminals were the racist officials who defied federal laws and beat and murdered peaceful protestors.

Nixon's "Law and Order" campaign and Southern Strategy began the process of turning the "Solid South" from Democratic to Republican. "The War on Drugs," launched by Nixon and expanded under Reagan, has been so disproportionately applied to people of color that it is more appropriately titled "The War on Black People." as Noam Chomsky once commented, "if you've been fighting, and

losing, a war for 40 years, the stated purpose is not the real purpose."

The final era of dashed hopes began with the election of Barack Obama, which led to the ludicrous claim that we had become a "colorblind" society. What actually happened is that the election unleashed an unapologetic racism not seen since the heyday of Bull Connor and George Wallace, one that is still polluting our discourse today through the septic tank that is Donald Trump. And absolute equality? Well, that's like the football Lucy keeps pulling away. But like Charlie Brown, we must keep believing. And we must keep fighting

So we celebrate Juneteenth with the same mixture of jubilation and solemnity that attended the earliest celebration, for we are as far as ever from that day when, as Bob Marley sang, "The color of a man's skin is of no greater significance than the color of his eyes."

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## Short Cuts

*Michael K. Cantwell*

### Trump and the Art of the Nazi Trope

Trump has a fondness for Nazi tropes—for example, labeling the press the enemy of the people—but denies knowing that he was quoting Adolf Hitler when he accused the latest wave of immigrants of "poisoning the blood" of America.

Indeed, he claims, "[I know nothing about Hitler](#)." Given Trump's profound ignorance, that might seem to possess some credibility, at least at first blush, were it not for his repeated use of Nazi rhetoric. The kicker is that, according to his first wife, he kept a book with copies of Hitler speeches by his [bedside](#).

### Don't Say Climate Change

A bill recently signed by Gov. DeSantis would strip the term "climate change" from much of state law. If you don't see it, it doesn't exist, a belief system children possess before they develop what developmental psychologists refer to as "object permanence."

"Object *impermanence*" is demonstrated by naughty dogs who run under a couch. They think that because they cannot see you, you cannot see them, even

though their butts are sticking out. Republican climate deniers (but I repeat myself) are not the only people who will suffer from their idiocy.

### "Payback"

Donald Trump removed classified documents from the White House, admitted as much on tape, refused to return them, and then lied, claiming that he had.

He summoned ("it will be wild") and unleashed a mob on Congress, causing the deaths of law enforcement officers and threatening the lives of elected officials, including his own vice-president.

He threatened the Georgia Secretary of State that there'd be criminal consequences if he didn't "find" Trump enough votes to flip the state.

And, just weeks before 2016 election, he paid hush money to a porn star to prevent her from revealing that he'd had sex with her, and then falsified records to make it appear the payoff was a business expense.

To the Republicans who are baying for "payback," I say, "if you find any Democrat who's done anything remotely similar, "be my guest."

## The Chickens and the Colonel

*Steve West*

My name is Chicken Imnota King. I am the elected president of my nation. My political party is the Chicken Livers Party. Our platform is simple. We do everything to help all chickens live healthy and fulfilled lives. We have a good record of accomplishments in these difficult times.

I'm up for reelection this November. My opponent is known is an unsavory bird - hard boiled rooster. His Christian name is Chicken Little but he makes everybody call him "The Colonel" even though he never spent one day in military service. Little's election strategy is to scare his voters into believing that the sky is falling. Somehow he's convinced half of the barnyard that it actually is. Go figure?

His decisions are guided only by his perceived self interest. The Colonel has attracted many uninformed chickens by filling their minds with scary cock and bull stories. He's partnered with the most disreputable birds in our flock, as well as even the naughty FOX.

Miss Information works for the FOX. She and her associates fill uninformed birdbrains with scary "Sky's-Falling" nonsense which provokes their fears of loss displacement.

My opponent's party is the Egg Beaters. They've no platform. They simply blindly follow the shifting whims of their leader. They regard their voters as dumb clucks.

Chicken Little built his sham character on years of television advertisements featuring his goateed fowl face. He became even more famous than Chicken of the Sea.

His looks are unique. Really, did you ever see an orange chicken besides one on a plate in a Chinese Restaurant? Excepting on windy days his feathers are always perfectly groomed but there's more foliage than is natural for an old bird of his years. I suspect that he's had some work done on his coiffure. Who knows, he might have some transplants, implants, or Chia plants up top?

He always wears a suit with his red wattle serving as a permanent red tie. It's a curiosity that his lackeys have taken to imitate his wattle with matching their own red ties.

Chickens voting for The Colonel are voting completely against their own interest. His record is clear, he's only interested in money and his own power. His past is not the only proof. He's clearly announced his future plans to diminish and control our flock. Our free range will be gone. We'll be cooped up again for sure.

The Colonel is an egg-o-maniacal strutting cock who thinks he's a peacock. He plays chicken with the law, counts his votes like chickens before they hatch, and egg-nores our Constitution.

Our hens lie on their eggs to help them hatch. This malevolent rooster lies about his fertility policies and the rights of hens and their eggs. He's been frequently accused, and 34 times convicted of false egg counts reported to the farmer. At the same time my opponent has played more havoc in the henhouse than the FOX himself.

Chicken Little never invests his own assets. He always feathers his nest with other's chickenfeed which he most often squanders or loses - leaving his investors to foot the loss while he makes a clean breast of it.

His speeches are another embarrassment. He clucks on egg-saustingly. It's impossible to follow his thoughts. His many "alternate facts" are riddled with abundant droppings of chicken poop.

How can half of our flock bring themselves to vote for the Colonel? Do they understand that he will lead them to the slaughterhouse to serve up as rich folk's Chicken La Orange in fancy French Restaurants, or fill a family bucket of fried parts in his own fast food chain. Are their brains scrambled, poached, or just soft boiled?

My Chicken Livers Party has successful and proven programs to keep our farm sunny side up.

Fellow chickens! Hear my call, don't blindly listen to The Colonel and the FOX. Inform yourself before you vote. America's future depends on you and me and anyone we can wake up with the alarm of our cock's crow.

## June's Outbox

June S. Neal

The verdict against Donald Trump is a win for America's sense of integrity and justice.

Yet, these crimes were in accord with Donald Trump's lifelong history of cheating, grifting and lying. He has been found liable for sexual abuse. He paid \$25 million for duping thousands of people out of millions with his phony Trump University, and \$2 million for misusing funds from his own charity.

In an unprecedented conflict of interest, Trump made \$160 million from foreign countries while he was president.

Thanks to Scott Maxwell for calling out book banners who never read the books ("Flori-duh: 'Florida school board bans book about book bans,'" June 16). But I doubt that even reading would make much difference, since their arguments show they simply don't understand literature. Passages about sex and gender identity make them clutch their pearls, but so do racism, immigrants' struggles — anything that portrays "the other" as worthy of respect.

Many are not acting as parents, but as political operatives.

The evidence of their extremism is the call to remove Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Huck's only "thirteen or fourteen," on his own, but informed by the white slave society he ran from. He's befriended Jim, a runaway slave who has been like a father to him. When authorities near Jim's hiding place, Huck

But his greatest crime is that he's a traitor to the American people. He took Vladimir Putin's side against our own intelligence agencies that found Russia had interfered with the 2016 election. On January 6, he incited a crowd of zealots to stop the certification of a presidential election.

As FDR said of the attack on Pearl Harbor, our January 6 is "a date which will live in infamy." I hope Trump supporters will now consider their duty to their country.

June S. Neal, Sun-Sentinel, June 2, 2024

must choose whether to expose him; he's been taught that not doing so is a grave sin. Then this child makes one of the greatest moral decisions in American literature: "All right, then, I'll go to hell."

In our political climate of cowardice and malleable morality, *young people need such literature more than ever.*

Florida students are graduating with gaping holes in their literacy. Suppression of important books is educational malpractice. It removes the tools that develop learning's most important goal: critical thinking.

This propaganda-driven censorship is part of an existential threat to replace our democracy with straight, white Christian nationalism. We saw the results of Germany's experiment.

June S. Neal, Orlando Sentinel, June 17, 2024

***The Delray Democrat* is the official publication of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach.** The views and opinions expressed in the articles herein are their authors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach or the Democratic Party, nor is this publication authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

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

## Oops! Did The Heritage Foundation Just Prove There Is No “Voter Fraud”

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Why did The Heritage Foundation publish a database that brags of “[1,513 proven instances of voter fraud](#)” when it actually proves the reverse? Maybe it’s because we are not their audience. They are targeting the people who believed the 2020 election was stolen, namely, idiots and innumerates unable to do the math:  $1,513 \text{ cases} \div 45 \text{ years} \div 50 \text{ states} = 0.67 \text{ proven instances of voter fraud per state per year}$ . Here’s the cases by year ranked in descending order of number of cases.

Year	No. Cases	Year	No. Cases	Year	No. Cases
2011	128	2008	31	1982	2
2017	81	2006	30	1992	1
2016	80	2004	24	1991	1
2018	79	2020	18	1988	1
2010	79	2019	18	1986	1
2022	76	2003	16	1983	1
2013	62	1998	10	1995	0
2009	62	2002	9	1990	0
2012	58	2000	9	1989	0
2015	53	2001	8	1987	0
2014	50	1994	4	1985	0
2007	49	1999	3	1984	0
2021	42	1997	3	1981	0
2023	35	1993	3	1980	0
2005	32	1996	2	1979	0

In a pathetic attempt to respond to anyone who is actually paying attention and capable of doing the math, The Heritage Foundation essentially dismisses their own work product as a mere “sampling” that is “not an exhaustive or comprehensive list.” They conspiratorially invoke “allegations of election fraud” that may be meritorious” but are not pursued by “some public officials [who] appear to be unconcerned with election fraud.” They do not address the more than 60 court cases in which Trump’s claims of fraud in the 2020 election were summarily dismissed, often in sharp language and by judges appointed by Trump.

The bottom line is that “voter fraud” is itself a fraud conjured up by Republicans as a justification for more than one hundred voter suppression laws. It’s a necessary fraud because they are incapable of competing in the marketplace of ideas and on a level playing field.

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### Worth Quoting

Trump campaign spokesperson [Steven Cheung](#) responding to accusations that multiple Trump witnesses received significant financial benefits from his businesses: “The 2024 Trump campaign is the most well-run and professional operation in political

history. Any false assertion that we’re engaging in any type of behavior that may be regarded as tampering is absurd and completely fake.” .

*Well, that settles that.*

#### Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

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

## 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.

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## 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

## 2024 Membership

*Char Lane*

It's June 2024 and the Primaries are just two months away (August 20, 2024) and the November 5, 2024 General Election is now less than four months away. It's time for some serious work to elect Democrats to save our democracy.

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your DCDB membership for 2024. 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 at the Palm Beach County Democratic Party office, located at 220 Congress Park Drive, Suite 140, in Delray Beach. Our meetings are hybrid so you can also join via zoom. Meeting notices are sent out in the weeks before the meetings, and include Zoom links to register for and/or join the 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. With all that's been going on we'll have to work exceptionally hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from being decimated by Trump and his cohorts.

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. There's so much work to do between now and November 2024 and we'll need your help.

If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach and haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2024. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining.

Please visit us at [www.demclubofdelray.org](http://www.demclubofdelray.org). Read our monthly publication *The Delray Democrat* at [www.thedelraydemocrat.com](http://www.thedelraydemocrat.com).

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>.

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.



### Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2024 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.

