

# The Delray Democrat

“Short Ones”<sup>1</sup>

*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).

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<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), April 2025, page 8.

## **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 that 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 Bogeyman](#).

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.