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Trifecta: Donald Trump and the Reverse Midas Touch¹

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Donald Trump has the reverse Midas Touch. In 2021, his support of Republicans David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler helped deliver the U.S. Senate to Democrats by electing Reverend Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, respectively, in Republican Georgia. The following year his support of Herschel Walker in the midterms helped Democrats increase their Senate majority.

Since being reelected, Trump has rescued seemingly doomed campaigns of foreign leaders and may even have helped elect a pope.

After Justin Trudeau resigned as Canada's prime minister and leader of its Liberal Party in January, Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party was expected to win the national election by double digits. But Trump's delusionary insistence it was inevitable Canada would become our Fifty-First state, coupled with the punitive tariffs he'd announced, helped Mark Carney's Liberal Party to a surprise victory. The damage to conservatives was so bad that Poilievre even [lost](#) the parliamentary seat he'd held since 2004.

"Down Under," center-left Prime Minister Anthony Albanese became the first Australian PM to win reelection in 21 years, making a "[stunning comeback](#)" and defying Australia's so-called "incumbency curse." As in Canada, the losing candidate (Peter Dutton) also lost a parliamentary seat he'd held for over two decades.

Albanese also had [Trump to thank](#) for the surprise win. Albanese specifically rejected Trump and his policies while Dutton and his party were seen as identifying with Trump: "Analysts argue that mirroring Trump switched from a political positive for Australian conservatives to a negative after Trump imposed global tariffs."

Pope Leo XIV

Pope Francis, a staunch advocate for the vulnerable and downtrodden, was widely referred to as a "voice for the voiceless." With his death, and with Trump back in the White House, ultra-conservatives who opposed Pope Francis were plotting to "[make the Vatican great again](#)." Of course, that's not what happened.

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost (now Pope Leo XIV) appears to share his predecessor's concern for the vulnerable and voiceless. As Trump and his minions step up their demonization and abuse of immigrants, we can take heart in knowing that the papacy will continue to be a voice for the vulnerable and the voiceless.

There was every reason to fear the pendulum would swing back with Pope Francis's passing. There's a natural tendency for such swings – Francis succeeding Benedict was a quantum shift, as

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), May 2025, page 9.

was Trump 45 succeeding Obama, Biden succeeding Trump, and Trump 47 succeeding Biden. So how did Pope Leo happen?

One [report](#) claims that the conclave was not looking for a counterweight to Trump, but it's hard to believe the specter of Donald Trump was not in the room with the cardinals. And to the extent that he swayed yet another the election, we owe him our gratitude.

