

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

April 2020

President's Byline



As I am writing this TX is still under quarantine. Texans have been at home for seven weeks now to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The results show that staying at home has worked to slow the spread of COVID-19, and now TX is ready to slowly open businesses up again starting May 1st.

The Governor has laid out a plan to slowly open up the economy again and make sure we don't have a spike in COVID cases. If you would like to read the plan you can go to <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>. There you can read when each type of business can open.

I must admit that I have not had a problem being at home. Before COVID-19 my days were spent mostly driving my youngest daughter to school or to Rhythmic Gymnastics. So I have enjoyed not rushing around. Being at home has let me do things I have not had time for before, like a good spring cleaning.

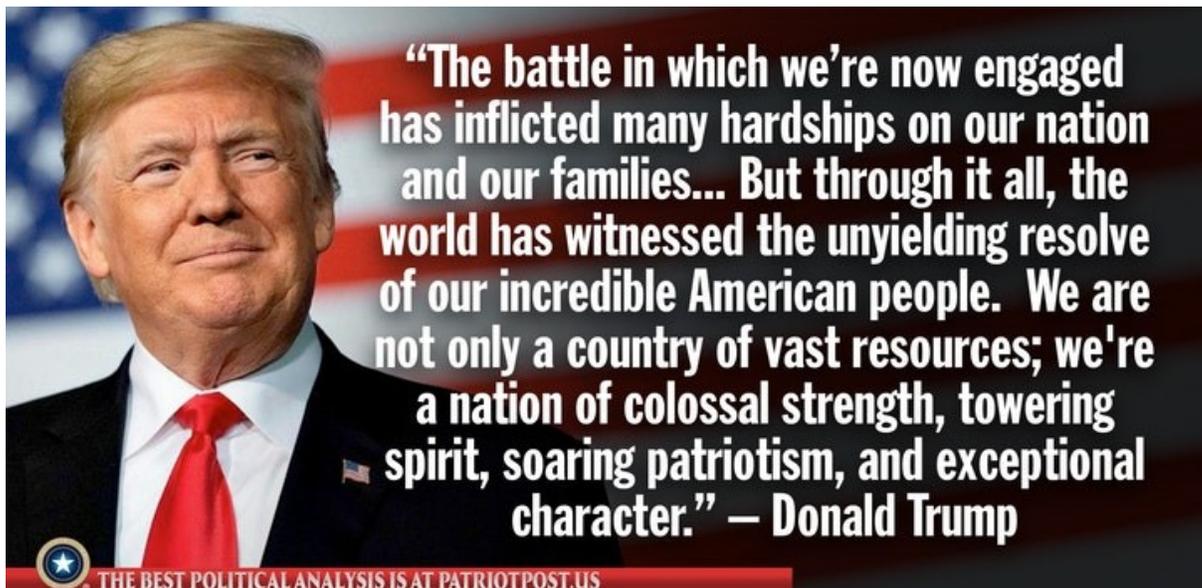
I know most people are anxious to get out of the house. Others need to get back to work. Soon everything will be open again. America will be back at work and our economy will be great again. Until that time, stay healthy, safe, and hopefully we will be able to have a general meeting in May.

Jennifer Groysman

president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

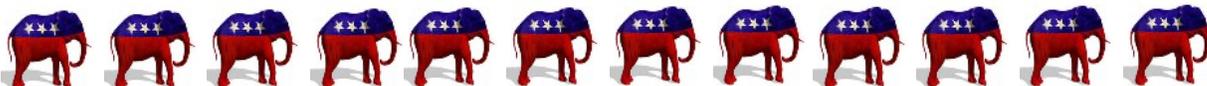
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Calendar of Events

Due to the COVID-19 Shelter in Place orders Our May meetings Have been Cancelled.



May Meeting

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PRW meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except June, July and December)

PRW Regular meeting information:

**Location : Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East
3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074**

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

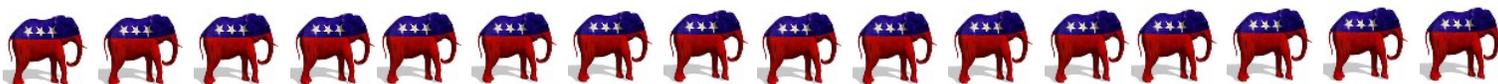
**Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival
RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, March 13th, 2020**

**RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting
*We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!***

To RSVP send an email to:

rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch



Here is a great way to help out with victory 2020.

Seeking Remote Volunteers - Keep Texas Red!

Texas Victory and the Republican Party of Texas are hosting online phone banks each week to register unregistered voters for the 2020 election and Keep Texas Red, and we need your help. These virtual efforts put voter registration forms into the hands of Texans and will ensure that those who share our values can get to the polls and make their voices heard on November 3rd. Join us in making voter registration calls - from the comfort of your couch!

We are starting this effort on May 2, 2020.

Action items:

- Respond that you are interested in helping, whether you can help on May 2 or in future opportunities
- Forward this e-mail to your volunteers in your sphere of influence

Thanks,
Brian Fletcher
Collin County Republican Party
mobile 972-523-7127
Brian.Fletcher@Dell.com

Political Cartoons





AMERICANISM REPORT

BY ANNE LOGAN, AMERICANISM CHAIR

Women in the Armed Forces

There are many national holidays honoring our military; we all are familiar with **Veterans Day** which is celebrated in November to honor our veterans from all branches of our military. And on the last Monday in May (**Memorial Day**) we honor those that died while serving in the military.

There are a couple of military holidays you may not be aware of. One is **Hug a GI** day on March 4. And on March 13 there is **K9 Veterans Day** commemorating our K9 Corp. The K9 Corp was initiated on March 13, 1942.

Armed Forces Day is on the 3rd Saturday in May. This year that is May 16th. It is a day set aside to honor active military forces. Armed Forces Day was declared a national holiday by John F. Kennedy in 1961.

As we approach the upcoming Armed Forces Day, I was curious about the women who were brave enough to be the first to join the armed forces and step into that all men world.

Here is what I found.

U.S. Marine Corps: Opha May Johnson

The first woman to join the Marine Corps was the 39-year-old wife of a District of Columbia orchestra conductor.

Born Opha May Jacob in Kokomo, Indiana in 1879, Opha May Johnson joined the Corps August 13, 1918 -- before she, or any woman for that matter, was even allowed to vote.

In 1918, as World War I raged on, Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy, opened the Marine Corps Reserves to women for service in clerical roles, so battle-ready male Marines could be sent overseas.

By luck of the draw, Johnson, a graduate of Wood's Commercial College as a rapid-fire typist, was the first in line, among 300 other women, and became the first female Marine.

The first statue honoring a woman in military uniform, entitled "Molly Marine," was dedicated in New Orleans in 1943 to encourage women to enlist, as well as to honor women who came after Johnson.

Johnson passed away in 1955 in Mount Alto Veterans Hospital in the District of Columbia.

U.S. Navy: Loretta Walsh

On March 21, 1917, Loretta Perfectus Walsh became America's first official enlisted woman of any service when she joined the Navy.

In the spring of 1917, the United States began preparing for the inevitability of war. However, men were not enlisting in sufficient numbers. On March 19, 1917, Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels determined that women could be enrolled in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force and issued an order authorizing their enlistment.

A few days later, permission was granted to enlist one woman, with the idea that the enlistment of a woman might prompt young men to follow suit.

Walsh was asked if she would enlist in the Naval Reserve Force as a chief yeoman. She immediately agreed. On March 21, 1917, after procuring and modifying a male chief petty officer's uniform, Walsh made history by enlisting in the Naval Reserve -- the first woman to officially enlist in the military, and also the first female chief petty officer.

U.S. Coast Guard: Twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker, and Myrtle Hazard

Twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker transferred from the Naval Coastal Defense Reserve to the Coast Guard during World War I and may have been the first women to serve in the service.

While women served the Coast Guard as far back as the 1830s as civilian lighthouse keepers, it wasn't until World War I that they would wear the uniform of their service.

There's some debate between historians as to whether or not the 19-year-old twins were the first women to join the Coast Guard, or if it was Myrtle R. Hazard, who became the service's first female electrician on Jan. 21, 1918.



AMERICANISM REPORT

BY ANNE LOGAN, AMERICANISM CHAIR

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That same year, the Baker sisters came over to the Coast Guard from the Naval Coastal Defense Reserves, where they were previously serving. However, Hazard is the first woman to officially take the oath of enlistment for her service.

U.S. Air Force: Esther McGowin Blake

Esther McGowin Blake (1897--1979) was the first woman to serve in the U.S. Air Force.

Her motivation to join the military was deeply personal. In 1944, the B-17 her son was piloting was shot down over Europe. Her younger son was also serving and Blake was widowed. Blake first joined the Army Air Force in 1944 and was the first woman to enlist for regular Air Force duty when service within the newly founded branch was authorized for women on July 8, 1948.

With the announcement of "free a man to fight," Blake rushed to the recruiting center and enlisted on the first hour of the first day the Air Force announced that women would be allowed to serve. The end of the war saw the reunion of Blake and her two sons.

Blake's service in the Air Force continued until 1954, at which time her commitment to her country continued in the form of service at the Veterans Regional Headquarters in Montgomery Alabama until her death at the age of 82.

U.S. Army: Deborah Sampson

While the oldest military service (Army) in America does not officially state who the first woman to join its ranks was, most historians agree that it was Deborah Sampson.

An indentured servant, Sampson joined the Continental Army in May 1781 -- though some reports place the year at 1782 -- and because women were not permitted to serve in the military, she disguised herself as a man by the name of Robert Shurtleff.

Sampson was injured multiple times, sustaining a sabre wound to her head and a gunshot wound to her thigh. According to one source she allowed a doctor to look at her head wound but removed a musket ball from her thigh herself for fear that her secret would be discovered if she sought medical attention.

According to a 1975 Army Times story, after Sampson fell gravely ill, her attending physician, Dr. Barnabas Binney, discovered her gender, but kept it a secret.

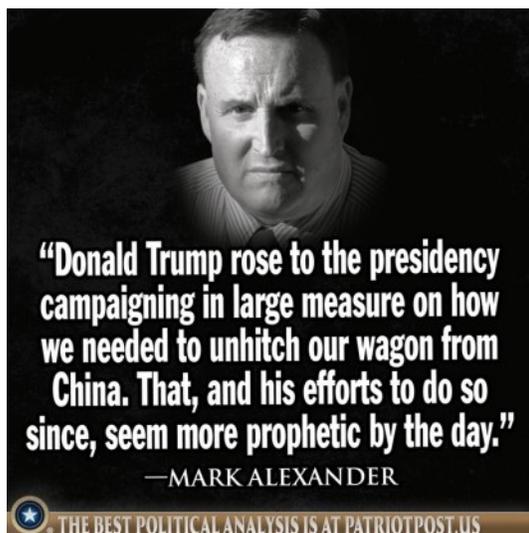
However, her ruse would be short-lived. The doctor's niece became enamored with the battle-tested young soldier, and not wanting to lead her on, Sampson wrote a revealing letter, which the woman's uncle showed to the unit's commanding officer.

General George Washington authorized her honorable discharge from the Army and she returned to her home in Massachusetts in 1784.

Following the advice of patriot Paul Revere, Sampson lectured in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

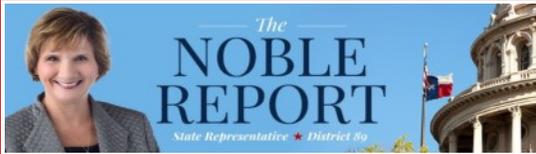
Sampson died April 29, 1827, and was buried at Rock Ridge Cemetery in Sharon, Massachusetts.

Her tombstone reads 'Deborah wife of Benjamin Gannett, dies April 29th, 1827, aged 68 years'. The reverse side of her tombstone reads 'Deborah Sampson Gannett, Robert Shurtleff, The Female Soldier Service 1781-1783'.





Legislative Report



Today, as we begin to cautiously reopen the Texas economy, I thought it would be a good time to give you a behind-the-scenes look at what's been happening. I will also cover a good bit of the Unemployment Claims process and questions that we frequently deal with in our District Office. Hang on... it's going to be a long one.

I spend the majority of my days on conference calls and on calls with constituents. Boy howdy, if we learn anything from this crisis, we need to learn how the mute button works on our phones during conference calls --the stories I can tell about this subject... My daily calls range from White House briefing calls (President Trump joined us on one call), state-wide leadership calls with the Governor and other officials, calls with Collin County Economic Recovery Taskforce. Every call gives important information on how I can best help our fellow Texans during this time.

This week, the Texas Workforce Commission added to their homepage an [Interactive Map](#) showing Unemployment Insurance Claims by region. Sadly, the map shows that as of Monday of this week, 8,396 residents of District 89 have filed for unemployment. The total number of residents from Collin County who have filed is 43,343.

Since we get so many calls asking for help, I wanted to share an update with you on unemployment benefits and also provide some helpful insight into the process of applying for those benefits. If you are blessed to still be employed, you probably know a friend who needs this information. Feel free to forward this email to them.

Here are questions that have come up so often, that I thought I'd cover them first:

If you were fired for a good reason (not coronavirus related, but due to your job performance, not showing up to work, assaulting another employee, etc.), you will not qualify for unemployment benefits.

If you are paid benefits that you do not qualify for, you will have to pay back the overage. (Be sure to be accurate on the information you provide the TWC to avoid this.)

If your employer has offered you your old job back, and you do not return to work, you will lose your benefits. There are some specific exceptions that the Governor announced just yesterday:

At High Risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Household member at high risk: People 65 years or older are at a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

Diagnosed with COVID: The individual has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered.

Family member with COVID: Anybody in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 by a source authorized by the State of Texas and is not recovered and 14 days have not yet passed.

Quarantined: Individual is currently in 14-day quarantine due to close contact exposure to COVID-19.

Child care: Child's school or daycare closed and no alternatives are available.

Since March 8th, the Texas Workforce Commission has received over 1.9 million claims for Unemployment Insurance. Over \$1.8 billion in Unemployment Insurance benefit payments have already been paid to Texans affected by COVID-19.

The agency is now operating eight call centers from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, seven days a week, with approximately 1,200 people answering calls each day. Call volumes remain high with 700,000 – 800,000 calls coming in each day. Even with this, we are still hearing from many of you that you are unable to get through. We expect this to get better as many folks go back to work and others start receiving unemployment benefits.

Both traditional Unemployment Insurance benefits and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits -benefits made available through the CARES Act to the self-employed and contract workers- are both now available to be paid. The Extended Benefits portion of the CARES Act will be available soon. Many of those calling my office are anxious about this- I understand completely. Hopefully, those funds will be dispersed quickly. TWC continues to work with the U.S. Department of Labor to implement these benefits for those Texans who have exhausted their unemployment benefits and remain unemployed due to COVID-19. Earlier this week, the Texas Workforce Commissioners adopted emergency rules that were necessary to implement these benefits, so progress is being made at both the Federal and State level.

If you have already used up your unemployment benefits, you do not need to reapply. Texas Workforce Commission will begin sending messages very soon to all Texans whose benefits were exhausted and who might now qualify for the extended benefits. Watch for that email.



Legislative Report

Continued from Page 6

Please know that my office is ready to assist you if you run into issues throughout the application process. If you need help, please email District89.Noble@house.texas.gov. You may also reach us at our district office phone number: 972.423.6542. While we are working from home, we are very much on-the-job.

STEPS IN THE CLAIMS PROCESS

Everyone can learn more about unemployment benefits available to you and apply [here](#).

As the Texas Workforce Commission is processing your claim, you will begin to receive correspondence (either by mail or electronically in your TWC Correspondence Inbox) based on the preference you indicated when you applied. Everyone, regardless of their preference, will receive an initial packet in the mail.

At any given time during the claims process, you may receive a notification that the Texas Workforce Commission needs more information from you in order to process your claim.

We have heard from many folks who, because of their frustration with the process, go on-line and submit another application. Please, please, please do not do this, (unless you are asked by TWC to do so). It will hold up your claim and delay your receiving benefits. It makes it look like two different folks are using your information to submit a claim.

Also, please do not call the Texas Workforce Commission to check the status of your claim. The high volume of calls TWC is receiving daily is also delaying the process for everyone. It is best to check the status of your claim online.

Once you have submitted a claim:

The first notice you receive may be a Statement of Benefits informing you of the potential weekly amount you can receive if the Texas Workforce Commission determines that you are indeed eligible for benefits. This statement is **not** an approval of benefits.

Most importantly, watch for a notification directing you to begin making bi-weekly payment requests. NOTE: you will begin making payment requests before your claim has been approved. You can make these requests by phone (through an automated tele-serve) or online. You will be assigned a day (either Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday) to make your requests. Thursday, Friday and Saturday are days available to anyone who missed their regularly scheduled day. It is essential that you continue to make these bi-weekly payment requests on your scheduled day.

While your claim is being reviewed, you may also receive Claim and Payment Status notifications.

If you are a traditional employee (W2) your weekly benefit amount will be determined by the quarterly wage reports submitted to TWC by your employer. If you qualify for benefits, you will automatically receive the additional \$600 per week through July 25th. You do not need to apply for the \$600.

If you are self-employed or a contract worker, you may initially qualify for the minimum Pandemic Unemployment Assistance weekly amount of \$207. (plus the additional \$600). Once you are approved, you will begin receiving \$807 per week, and you will be directed to submit your 2019 Tax Return to verify your wages. If you have not yet filed your 2019 return, you have time. December 26th is the deadline to submit your return to the Texas Workforce Commission. TWC will use your tax return to verify your wages and adjust your benefit if appropriate. If your benefit is determined to be more than the \$207 weekly benefit, TWC will make up the difference going back to the date you became eligible.

Finally, when your claim has been approved, you will receive a Determination of Benefits notification. This notification will have a definitive statement that the Texas Workforce Commission has determined that you are eligible to receive weekly unemployment benefits. Remember, you will continue to make your payment requests as long as you are receiving unemployment.

Unemployment benefits, including the additional \$600 per week, are subject to income taxes. You can elect to have Texas Workforce Commission withhold taxes at 10%.

Due to COVID-19, the Texas Workforce Commission is temporarily waiving the required work search, but remember, if you are offered your job back, you will no longer be eligible for unemployment.

With each passing day, more and more Texans are ready and able to get back to work. As Texans, we have a proud heritage of innovation. As we look to opening up both Collin County and our state, I'm excited to look to our citizens for innovative ways to keep themselves, their fellow residents and their places of business safe for us all.

Thank you for the honor of serving you. Till next time....

Candy Noble

The Job-Killing, Ice Cream-Eating Liberal Democrats

by Newt Gingrich

We are watching the birth of the job-killing, ice cream-eating liberal **Democratic Party**.

After a week of blocking more money for American small businesses, **Speaker Nancy Pelosi** decided it would be effective to show up on “*The Late Late Show with James Corden*” to communicate her human side. It was a bizarre interview with the woman who had stopped \$250 billion in aid for small businesses and their employees.

I served with three Democratic speakers of the house (**Tip O’Neill**, **Jim Wright**, and **Tom Foley**). It would be unthinkable for one of them to be as tone deaf as Pelosi was here. There she was, in front of her *two Wolf Sub Zero refrigerator-freezers*. Frankly, Callista knew what a **Wolf Sub Zero refrigerator** was, but I sure did not. I Googled it.

Wolf’s own description is: “Find the best luxury refrigerators for your needs with Sub Zero full-size stainless steel or custom panel refrigerators, freezers and undercounter refrigerators.” They range in price from \$9,000 to \$23,000 a piece.

So, while voting to starve small businesses, Pelosi wanted America to see her in front of “the best luxury refrigerator.” She then went a step further and explained, “and we just restocked the ice cream for **Easter Sunday** because we were, shall we say, enjoying – I don’t know what I would have done without ice cream.”

It was perfectly “progressive Democrat” of her to want us to share her pain when she was causing pain to millions of small business owners, their employees, and families. While many Americans were gathered around their **Easter** tables praying and wondering what they would do without income or a job, she was blocking small business support and wondering what she would have done without ice cream. By the way, you, too, can get the ice cream she was bragging about having delivered – five pints for \$58 before tax.

The **Marie Antoinette** parallel is a little eerie. You may be pinching pennies and eating peanut butter and crackers, but her highness, the **Princess of San Francisco**, is smothering her anxieties at \$11.60 a pint while making you go bankrupt. **James Woods** tweeted: “Her two refrigerators cost together \$24,000 for her specialty chocolate ice creams, but she hates the small business owners of America. Let them eat cake.”

What makes the Pelosi attitude so infuriating is the fact that the **small business payroll protection plan** has worked far better than anyone thought possible. The **Small Business Administration** working the nation’s banks has gotten \$350 billion into the economy in 14 days. Before the **Trump Administration**, \$30 billion in an entire year was a major SBA effort. Now, it had managed to loan \$349 billion in two weeks.

The Wall Street Journal captured the current reality on April 16: “For seven long days, Democrats have been blocking a \$250 billion refill for the **Paycheck Protection Program**, and on Thursday morning the loan fund finally ran out of money. ‘Every **Senate Republican** was ready to act today,’ **Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** said on the Senate floor Thursday. ‘But **Democrats** would not let us reopen the program.’

“On Thursday the **Labor Department** said another 5.2 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week. That brings the total in four weeks to a mind-bending 22 million. The **Paycheck Protection Program** is meant to blunt this trauma, and so far it has approved 1.6 million forgivable loans to small businesses. The idea is to keep companies stable amid the pandemic, so they can retain workers. Without this cash infusion, it’s hard to fathom how much worse the economic data might look. . . .

“The longer **Democrats** refuse to provide financing for small businesses after government cut off their revenue, the more Americans will have every right to conclude that **Mrs. Pelosi** and **Mr. Schumer** are responsible for the worsening economic destruction.”

Even a knowledgeable **Democrat** thought Pelosi was profoundly wrong. As **Jim Saks** reported in RollCall: “**Karen G. Mills**, who led the **Small Business Administration** during **President Barack Obama’s** first term, has a message for top **Capitol Hill Democrats**: Refill the so-called **Paycheck Protection Program’s** coffers now and ask questions later.

“The SBA program, established as part of the \$2.3 trillion **COVID-19** aid package to help battered small businesses, ran out of cash to make new loans on Thursday morning, barely two weeks after it began taking applications.

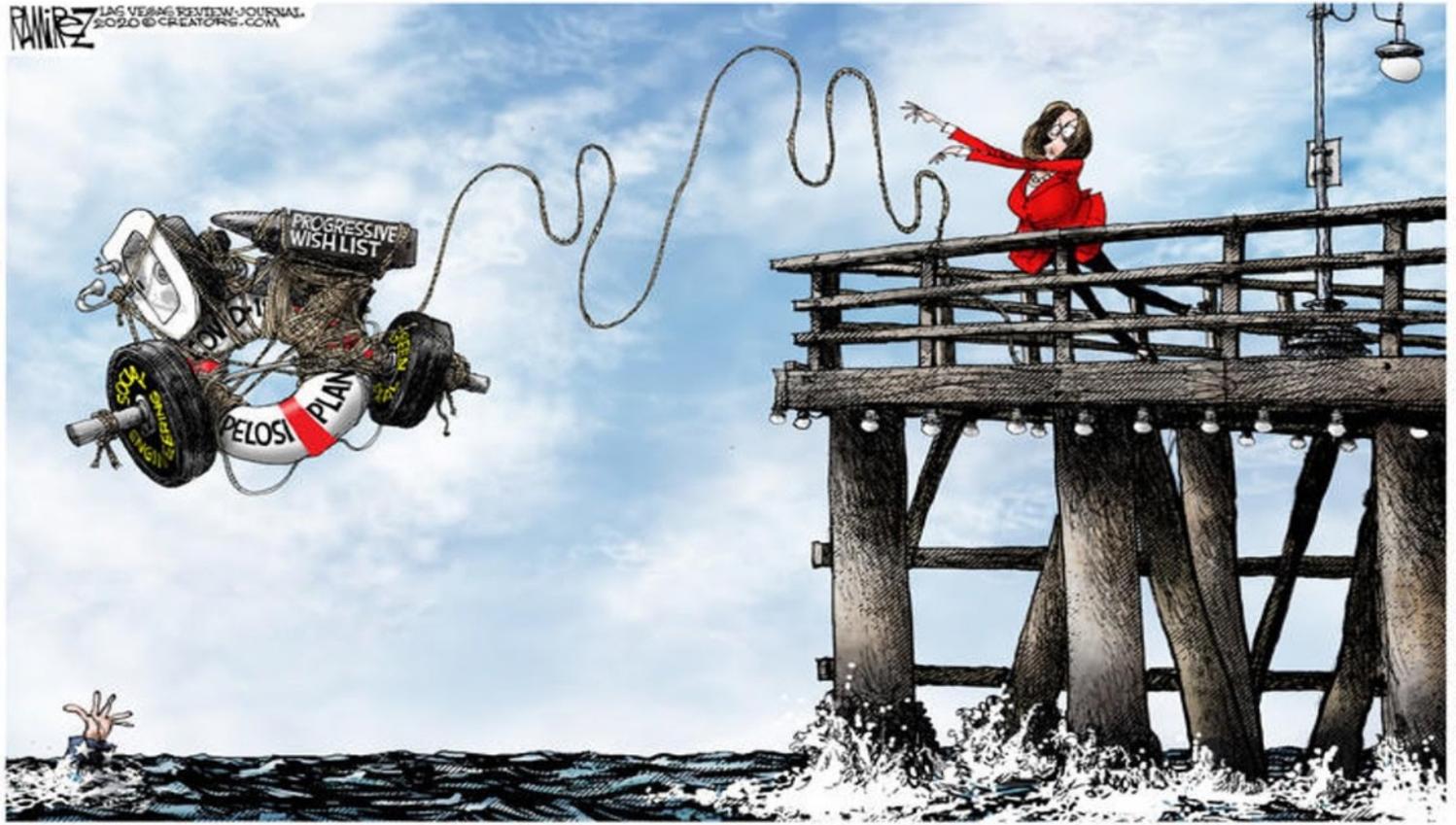
“Congress has to act as soon as possible,” Mills told CQ Roll Call in an interview Thursday, adding that she’s spoken recently with **Democratic** senators and **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s** office. “What I’m saying is: Number one, get the money replenished.” *The Washington Free Beacon* also captured the trap the **Democrats** were drifting into when it said we are entering “the Pelosi Recession.”

A few more Pelosi ice cream-eating, luxurious lifestyle appearances while she’s killing small business will make the election this fall a referendum on “the Job-Killing, Ice Creaming-Eating Liberal Democrats.” This will be a hard argument for Pelosi and the **Democrats** to win. Further, in the midst of this crisis of the economy, small business, and unemployment, where is **Joe Biden**? Does he support the job-killing, ice cream-eating liberal **Democrats**? If he does not, when is he going to speak out?

The case is being made for a deep repudiation of an elite **Democratic Party** that now has total contempt for Americans.

Political Cartoons

RAMIREZ LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL 2020 © CREATORS.COM



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FOR MY LIBERAL FRIENDS WHO HAVE RUN OUT OF TOILET PAPER:



 PATRIOTPOST.US FOR THE BEST POLITICAL ANALYSIS

WE NEED VENTILATORS! PEOPLE ARE DYING! QUICK, LET'S FUND THE KENNEDY CENTER!



 VISIT PATRIOTPOST.US FOR THE BEST HUMOR AND MEMES

I LOST MY JOB

BUT I'LL SLEEP BETTER KNOWING THAT...



Did the Chinese create the Coronavirus on purpose?

<https://frankaquila.wordpress.com/2020/04/07/did-the-chinese-create-the-coronavirus-on-purpose/>

When you look at the most recent viruses, infectious and deadly diseases to hit the world, most have originated from China with strains from other countries linked to the China strain. Avian (Bird) Flu of 1997 originated in China and reemerged again in the Middle East in 2003-2004. In 2003, SARS originated from China. The epicenter of influenza is China, which public health research institutions around the world believe 2009 H1N1 (Swine Flu), which was not directly from China, but the Center of Disease Control believes the reassortment of influenza viruses strains originated from China. The latest from China, COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, is from a family of viruses and is considered the most contagious since it spreads efficiently by air, making it difficult to avoid.

While many believe the Wuhan Wet Markets of China, where live animals including bats, snakes, and dogs are butchered at the market, are the breeding ground for such viruses. Others believe these viruses were made in a Chinese laboratory. Could the Chinese government essentially have a motive to create such a virus and distribute it through a wet and unsanitary environment of blood for it to gain a foothold in another species? Their motivation could be both financial and political.

What would be China's financial gain to create such a virus?

The Communist Chinese government cares little for their people, and therefore cares even less of the citizens of the world. The government could essentially use their own people to distribute the virus throughout the world for their own financial gain. Why? China controls most of the pharmaceutical industry. Therefore, other nations are dependent on drugs to cure such viruses.

Rosemary Gibson, author of [China Rx: Exposing the Risks of America's Dependence on China for Medicin](#), stated America is dependent on Chinese production of pharmaceutical and medical supplies, including 97 percent of all antibiotics and 80 percent of active ingredients needed for domestic drug production. She adds, "Our medicines can be weaponized." "China can withhold them." Eighty-five percent of the American strategic national stockpile of medicines and medical supplies depend on China.

American politicians have been absent on the issue according to Gibson. "Nobody did anything about it". "In fact, no one wanted to even expose it." China controls much of America and is heavily involved in American technology, energy, mining, and holds 1.1 trillion of American debt.

China could easily create a virus, in which China has the majority of the medicines needed to fight the virus. China is profiting on the pharmaceutical side while donating masks, tests kits, and then 1,000 ventilators to New York. Was there any political reasoning?

What would be China's political motivation?

President Trump has been exposing how China takes advantage of America since the presidential run of 2016. He renegotiated tough deals with China on trade after taking down their economy through tariffs. China knows they cannot take advantage of America like they have in the past and with another four years of President Trump in office, he will continue to do what is best for America, which is not what is best for China. China had motivations to disrupt the American economy in an effort to influence the 2020 election for a Democrat, which would be beneficial to China and the Democrat party. The Chinese regain their dominance over American production and resources and the Democrat party leadership gains their control assisting China.

As Gibson noted, "no one wanted to expose" how China has taken advantage of America; no one until President Trump. Trump has closed many of the economic loopholes against China that were created by Joe Biden.

A Forbes headline last year summed up China's position: "Joe Biden Is the Only Man Who Can Save China in 2020". How and Why are the Chinese warm to Joe Biden? China negotiated hard with Trump when Biden announced his candidacy. However, as Biden began to fade, China began to negotiate. Now, with a resurgence of his campaign, Biden provides an opportunity for China to assist.

Joe Biden has given deals and absolute power to China at the expense of American workers. In February 2012 Biden called China a "new partner" that would help to meet "global challenges," and said Americans "welcome this competition". . . . The result was a loss of millions of American jobs at the benefit of China. Bernie Sanders even stated, "Since the China trade deal I voted against, America has lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs."

At the same time, we may remember Biden's quid pro quo against Ukraine and the substantial payoff to Biden's son. Well, the same payoff happened in China. While in China, Biden struck a deal at the same time his son, Hunter and 2004 Democrat presidential candidate, John Kerry's stepson, Christopher Heinz, who were on a board of a Shanghai-based private equity firm, struck a deal with China's state owned bank to create a \$1 billion joint investment fund, netting the younger Biden and Heinz millions according to the New York Post.

Warmer ties to China through other Democrats include multimillions to Diane Feinstein as her husband's transactions with China while she lays legislation for continued trade deals. Then the FBI arrested Feinstein's limousine driver as a Chinese spy recently.

Though a Democrat Chinese operative named Rose Pak, she controlled California Democrat politicians before her death in 2015, including Nancy Pelosi and Alameda County DA and Attorney General, Kamala Harris who overlooked human trafficking, drug running, and allowances for China controlled cartels to gain a major foothold in California.

Would China create a virus to assist Democrats by taking down the American economy? It is to their advantage both economically and politically to do so. And seeing how many Democrats refuse to point of human rights violations by China, it is apparent China has a warm relationship with Democrats.

The Democrats have hysterically labeled President Trump as a Russian agent; but the partnership of corruption is tied to China and the Democrats as Biden is their Chinese asset to "Make China Great Again"!

Frank Aquila is president of the South San Joaquin Republicans and author of the book, "Sarah Palin Out of Nowhere". He can be emailed at mantecarepublicans@yahoo.com

Well, That Unraveled Quickly

Jeffrey A. Tucker, April 16, 2020

Thinking back to February 28, 2020, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It published an article called "[Covid-19 — Navigating the Uncharted](#)" signed by Anthony S. Fauci (THE Fauci), Clifford Lane, and Robert R. Redfield.

It reported an existing COVID-19 case fatality rate of 2% but further pointed out that infections show "a wide spectrum of disease severity." "If one assumes that the number of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic cases is several times as high as the number of reported cases, the case fatality rate may be considerably less than 1%" or perhaps as high as the flu seasons of 1957 and 1968, but is nowhere near "a disease similar to SARS or MERS, which have had case fatality rates of 9 to 10% and 36%, respectively." To be sure, they said, mitigating the disease could require "isolating ill persons (including **voluntary** isolation at home), school closures, and telecommuting where possible."

Now, what precisely happened between February 28 and two weeks later? This will be studied for many years to find out precisely how governors and mayors, through a series of unscientific, panicked, unjustified, and morally egregious actions, crushed under foot the world's strongest economy while the media cheered. We'll be discussing the whys and whats for a generation.

The point is that it is all unraveling as fast as it came. Donald Trump's press conference on April 16, 2020, was clearly a turning point. In my ideal world, we would have officials up there telling the truth that the course we took as a nation was catastrophic in countless ways (except for all the panicked deregulation undertaken just so that the food and medicine could continue). But I'm realistic: we can hardly expect politicians to bow down and beg forgiveness.

Of course they will take credit for whatever good happens. I'm an idealist, not a utopian. The truth is that a virus doesn't care about borders and it doesn't obey government edicts. Even now, there is so much we do not know about this "invisible enemy" but we have learned vast amounts about the visible enemy.

Our political culture is rooted in the great myth that whatever happens in society is due to them, and this presumption bites us any time there is some emergency: they have a penchant toward control in the name of the precautionary principle. In this case, it made the U.S Constitution and human rights generally null and void for a full thirty days. And we had no choice but to comply. It was a grotesque experiment in totalitarianism. Families ripped apart, people's businesses and jobs destroyed, essential surgeries delayed, despair spread throughout society.

Now we know. Never again.

The lockdowns were presented to us under the need to "flatten the curve" for hospital capacity, but there isn't one curve and we didn't have enough information even to say where one city was on any curve. There were some days of difficulty in hot spots but many hospitals in the country, due to the order that they not do elective surgeries, started [furloughing workers](#). The reality of many empty hospitals in the middle of a pandemic was too much to process. So we spent the next two weeks searching for new justifications to keep the lockdown in place. Those started to sound affected and even fraudulent very quickly.

What's important about the three-phase process that Trump enumerated with no set time timetable is that it flips the burden of proof. We have suddenly gone from a world in which governors have presumed that cracking down, forbidding, suppressing, denouncing, shutting down, arresting, and jailing are presumed to be good medicine, to a world in which we treat a virus as a disease to mitigate and the suppressors have to justify their actions else face the wrath of the tens of millions of victims. In many ways, it was a brilliant move. In short, the hounds have been called off. Let us not underestimate what this could mean.

Another important point about the three-phase plan: it is focused on the facts of the case. Not model-based predictions. Not someone's ideology. Not political posturing. Not the fallacy of authority. The opening is based on the on-the-ground realities. The facts have never justified the suppression. Nor do they justify continued suppression for one hour more. The facts will set us free.

This week has been a wild ride. On Monday, the American Institute for Economic Research became the first prominent voice in American public life to state what needed to be said: "[Liberation from Lockdown Now](#)." David Henderson's masterful article was shared by hundreds of thousands of people. Later that day, the governors of five states worked with the White House on a plan to open up. *The Wall Street Journal* the very next day echoed our editorial, while citing AIER in another section of the paper. Over the following three days, the whole tenor and mood of the country began to change. There were street protests in five states. The anger was intensifying even as governments realized that they could not keep this up.

Well, That Unraveled Quickly

Jeffrey A. Tucker, April 16, 2020

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You can review all our research and editorials and news at this link: [Crisis](#). There are more than 200 articles there.

And here I write on Thursday night, swept away with an exuberance that the light has finally dawned. Of course the partisan wrangling will continue for months. There will almost certainly be holdouts, governors who cast about for reasons to keep the country locked down longer than needed. And there will be more cases simply because testing is going to be more widely available. We will likely and eventually come to realize that far more of us were infected than we knew and for longer than we knew.

In the meantime, we've seen things we never imagined possible, namely seemingly intelligent people howling for weeks for the nationalization of industry, the socialization of production, the imprisonment in our homes, the trillions in pointless spending, the unprecedented amounts of new money created by the Fed, and the countless other awful legal precedents set. The lawsuits will continue to be litigated for a decade.

The core realization we face right now is that it is not possible to stop and start an economy; nor is it possible to distinguish between essential and nonessential. The commercial society is a web in which everyone and everything is connected with everyone and everything else.

Business confidence has been shattered. It will be a long time before trust returns, to say nothing of confidence. We need an ironclad promise from our political leaders that this will not and cannot ever happen again. We won't get that, so as a proxy we need public opinion to rage and for every voice of suppression to experience the fallout.

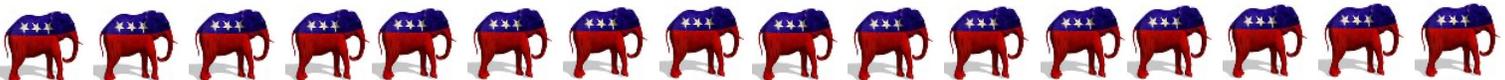
Meanwhile, we are rediscovering what disease mitigation looks like in a free society. The vulnerable isolate voluntarily. Medical professionals get to work. We do our best not to destroy life functioning. The politicians bow out.

The main point is that there is a tomorrow, and tomorrow can be and will be better than today. Let us learn. Let us speak. Let us act. Let us remember our values – we are brave and free – and never permit society and the economy – your life! – to be attacked this way again.

We have survived the Great Suppression.

For my own part, I can't wait to get back to my old happy self. I know you feel the same.

Jeffrey A. Tucker is Editorial Director for the American Institute for Economic Research. He is the author of many thousands of articles in the scholarly and popular press and eight books in 5 languages, most recently [The Market Loves You](#). He is also the editor of [The Best of Mises](#). He speaks widely on topics of economics, technology, social philosophy, and culture. Jeffrey is available for speaking and interviews via his [email](#).



Grandmother going on a toilet paper run, 2020 (colorized)



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Timmy?**

**Timmy: Nancy
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The Media's Obsession with Hydroxychloroquine and Donald Trump

April 7, 2020, PolicyBytes 17.14

The latest mainstream media obsession with President Donald Trump relates to his urging use of the long-time drug hydroxychloroquine.

As [The Hill reports](#), "President Trump on Sunday forcefully touted the use of hydroxychloroquine . . . , wading further into a medical debate that has put him at odds with some of his top health experts."

The media love to remind us that Trump isn't a doctor, as if anyone was confused about that issue. But The Hill's Brett Samuels says he's playing one: "But Sunday's comments marked the furthest he has veered into playing armchair doctor."

I am not a medical doctor either, but I did serve 10 years on a medical school's institutional review board (IRB) for human experimentation. Human-related clinical trials are typically reviewed and approved by an IRB.

Phase III, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials are considered the gold standard—i.e., randomly assigning patients to a group where neither the health care providers nor patients know whether they are receiving the active medicine or a placebo.

That's what doctors want in order to confirm an investigational drug is safe AND effective—and how effective it may be.

Thus, Trump's leading epidemiologist, Dr. Fauci, and many other doctors are often reluctant to tout a medicine's efficacy unless it has run the gold-standard gauntlet, which is both reasonable and prudent.

However, Phase III trials take time, and dying patients don't have much of that.

So it's useful information when multiple doctors in the field, who are actively treating patients with a drug, describe their success—or failures.

For example, [San Francisco's ABC 7 News interviewed](#) Dr. Anthony Cardillo, who has been prescribing hydroxychloroquine in combination with zinc. "Every patient I've prescribed it to has been very, very ill and within 8 to 12 hours, they were basically symptom-free," Cardillo told Eyewitness News. "So clinically I am seeing a resolution."

[Writing in the Wall Street Journal](#), two doctors, one a former Kansas governor, assert, "Our experience suggests that hydroxychloroquine, with or without a Z-Pak, should be a first-line treatment."

And then Dr. Stephen Smith, founder of the Smith Center for Infectious Diseases and Urban Health and who has been treating 72 COVID-19 patients with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, [told Fox News' Laura Ingraham](#), "I think this is the beginning of the end of the pandemic. I'm very serious."

Clinical trials may tell us later how effective the treatment is, what doses and combinations work best, and whether it is more effective on milder or severe cases.

But until then the best information we have is from doctors treating COVID-19 patients and [patients themselves](#).

Many of them are seeing positive results from hydroxychloroquine—and the president is only highlighting those findings.

That's helpful, which is more than we can say for the media's Trump "gotcha" obsession.

Today's PolicyByte was written by Dr. Merrill Matthews, resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation.

On 4 Fronts, How China Quietly Infiltrates American Life

By Jarred Stepman

As the world continues to battle the terrible COVID-19 pandemic that began in Wuhan, China, it also must battle the lack of information or outright disinformation coming from the government where the new coronavirus originated.

If it wasn't already clear before the coronavirus outbreak, China is particularly aggressive in how it tries to control the spread of information, not just in regard to its own citizens, but people around the globe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put these efforts on overdrive.

One eye-opener came when President Donald Trump got aggressive last week with a reporter from Phoenix Television, who first stated that Chinese companies such as Huawei and Alibaba have donated supplies to the U.S.

Then she asked the president: "Are you cooperating with China?"

Trump responded by asking if she worked for China or if her company is owned by the Chinese state.

Despite her denial, the answer essentially is "yes."

But Beijing's influence is far wider than one small-time media outlet that most Americans never heard of.

Here are four major fronts on which China's communist regime tries to spread influence and propaganda outside its borders.

News Media

While many mainstream American media outlets allow themselves to be platforms for Chinese government propaganda, some work directly for the People's Republic of China.

Many of these publications have been working overtime as the Chinese government attempts to distract attention from its early handling of the COVID-19 outbreak and continues to mislead the world about what's happening in China.

Peter Hasson, a reporter for The Daily Caller News Foundation, laid out what exactly Phoenix TV is and how it's connected to the communist government of China.

Hasson found that, according to the outlet's 2018 interim report, China Wise International Limited, a subsidiary of a bank run by the Chinese government, owns a minority stake in Phoenix TV.

Although Phoenix TV is not directly run by the Chinese government, it effectively is controlled by the government. The Hoover Institution, a conservative think tank, listed Phoenix TV in its review of the Chinese-language media landscape.

Hoover called Phoenix TV, which is based in mainland China as well as Hong Kong, a "quasi-official" media outlet of the Chinese government "with links to the [People's Republic of China's] Ministry of State Security."

Despite this, the reporter who questioned Trump is a part of the White House Foreign Press Group and has regular access to press briefings at the White House.

As the Hoover Institution noted, however, Phoenix TV is hardly alone, as there are numerous other outlets directly or indirectly tied to the Chinese government.

One of those is China Daily, an official outlet for the Chinese government, which for decades has aggressively published propaganda in major newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.

The Washington Free Beacon reported that China Daily repeatedly violates the Foreign Agents Registration Act "by failing to provide full disclosures about its purchases."

Social Media

China has, of course, exerted its influence over social media and other widely used platforms.

TikTok, a rapidly growing social media app that allows users to post short videos, has come under scrutiny for its connection to China. TikTok is owned by ByteDance, a company based in China, though the service—like countless other social media and internet platforms—isn't available in its home country.

But TikTok has a massive audience overseas. The app had been downloaded over 750 million times in a year, The New York Times reported in late 2019.

The parent company denies any kind of censorship or tracking of data; however, many accuse TikTok of doing both.

"There continues to be ample and growing evidence that TikTok's platform for Western markets, including those in the U.S., is censoring content that is not in line with the Chinese Government and Communist Party directives," wrote Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in a letter to the Treasury Department in October 2019.

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The U.S. government's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States has launched an investigation into TikTok.

Zoom, which has become a massively popular video service in the time of the coronavirus, has had issues protecting customers from Chinese spies, U.S. intelligence officials told Time magazine.

"More than anyone else, the Chinese are interested in what American companies are doing," Time quoted one of the anonymous officials as saying.

In particular, Zoom's encryption service is what opens up the potential for Chinese spying. According to reports, as of April 18, the company will begin letting customers decide not to route their data through China, which Zoom's CEO admitted was happening before.

Hollywood Movies

The NBA isn't the only organization that has become reliant on China's business to the point that it is willing to let the communist regime intimidate its employees into censoring themselves.

Hollywood's connections to communist China now run deep.

As The Heritage Foundation's Mike Gonzalez said on the "Heritage Explains" podcast, China has enormous power in Hollywood to shape what audiences there and elsewhere see.

The Chinese assert this power by funding movies, including blockbusters such as Tom Cruise's "Mission Impossible: Fallout" in 2018, and demanding censorship so that movie studios can get access to the vast Chinese market.

"American audiences are being submitted to censorship, not our own censorship, but a foreign power's censorship, and a Communist Party censorship," Gonzalez said. "But we get shown a very benign view of China, in which China is a normal country, no different from Paris, or Britain, or Germany. That is not the case, obviously. If you speak against the government in Germany, nothing happens to you. If you speak against the government in China, they'll throw you in jail."

Not only do movie studios bow to censorship, but they now preemptively self-censor to avoid the potential for losing Chinese sales and funding. The takeover of Hollywood is just one element of how China uses our culture-making industries to promote its agenda.

College Campuses

Since 2003, hundreds of so-called Confucius Institutes have opened on college campuses around the United States. Their activities have included pressuring schools to shut down events featuring the Dalai Lama and generally shaping the narrative about Tibet, the Tiananmen Square massacre, and the existence of Taiwan. The Confucius Institutes actually have little to do with Confucius, the ancient Chinese philosopher.

As Charles Homer wrote for the Claremont Review of Books, it would be more accurate to call them the "Mao Zedong Institutes," after the China's first communist dictator. Although the Confucius Institutes operate under the guise of education, Homer noted, "they are really about keeping tabs on Chinese students in America, spreading propaganda, meddling in American politics generally, and performing espionage." A Chinese minister of propaganda, Liu Yunshan, said in 2010 that the institutes have a mission: "Coordinate the efforts of overseas and domestic propaganda, [and] further create a favorable international environment for us."

According to Politico, Yunshan wrote:

With regard to key issues that influence our sovereignty and safety, we should actively carry out international propaganda battles against issuers such as Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, human rights and Falun Gong. ... We should do well in establishing and operating overseas cultural centers and Confucius Institutes.

After Congress passed a bill limiting funding to schools that have a Confucius Institute, many of the institutes closed around the country.

In coming days, Americans and others around the world would do well to reexamine their connection and vulnerability to China's ruthless communist government, which, in controlling its own population, injected a deadly pandemic into the global bloodstream.

Jarrett Stepman is a contributor to The Daily Signal and co-host of The Right Side of History podcast. Send an email to Jarrett. He is also the author of the new book, "The War on History: The Conspiracy to Rewrite America's Past."

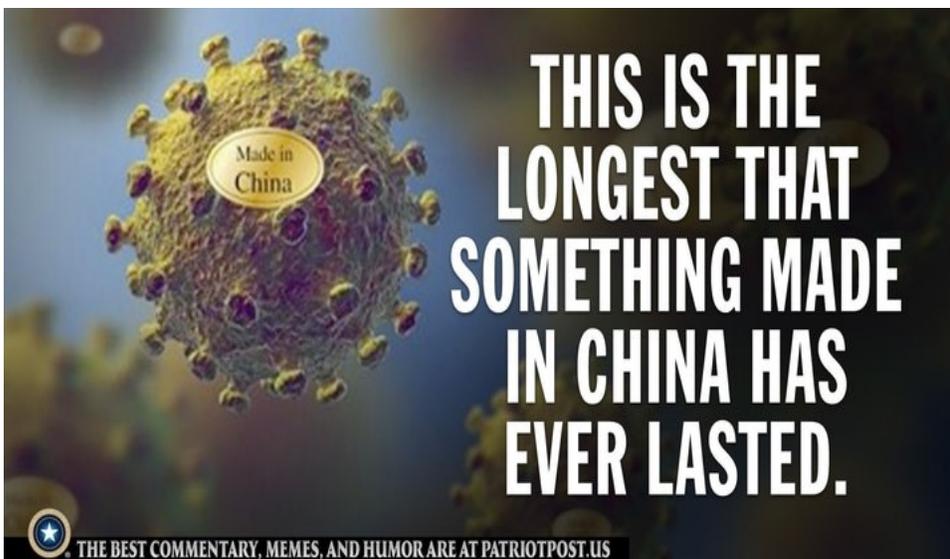
Political Cartoons



****The fact that Democrats are more angry at Donald Trump for looking into Joe Biden's corruption than they are at Joe Biden's corruption, tells you everything you need to know****

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They've named a new STD for screwing the American public out of \$40,000,000 for a false impeachment: "Schiffilis"

The Left Is Calling for Mail-In Voting. Here's Why It's a Bad Idea

By Virginia Allen

Virginia Allen: I am joined by Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow in The Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies and a presidential Trump appointee to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Hans, thank you so much for joining me today.

Hans von Spakovsky: Sure. Thanks for having me.

Allen: Now, the coronavirus is affecting a lot of local and state elections. Many primaries we've already seen have been postponed. But the biggest topic of debate right now is really the presidential election in November.

Some want to see mail-in voting be used during that election really solely as the way that people would vote. And that sounds kind of reasonable at first.

We are coming out of this global pandemic. And, obviously, for some people, that's frightening even this fall to think about gathering and large groups, especially for those who are older or might be immune compromised.

So, at first glance it might be like, well, mail-in voting is not such a bad idea. But what do you think about mail-in voting?

Von Spakovsky: It is something we should only go to if we were absolutely required. And I kind of doubt that the entire country is still going to be shut down on Nov. 3, the date of the general election.

Look, the problem with mail-in voting is basically this, in every state you can vote by absentee ballot, particularly if you're ill or disabled. And we obviously need that.

But all-mail elections have all kinds of security problems. And the reason is very simple, these are the only kind of ballots that are being voted out of sight and out from under the supervision of election officials.

That's why it is, unfortunately, easy to not just engage in fraud in those kinds of elections, but it's also easy for voters to be intimidated. And that's a cause for concern and should be a cause for concern for anyone interested in having an election process that is fair and has good security too.

Allen: ... Former first lady Michelle Obama is really one of those strong voices that is advocating for mail-in voting. And she recently said, "Americans should never have to choose between making their voices heard and keeping themselves and their families safe. Expanding access to vote by mail, online voter registration, and early voting are critical steps for this moment and they're long overdue."

What's your response to former first lady Michelle Obama?

Von Spakovsky: Well, she doesn't seem to realize the contradiction of what she just said. She says we should have all-mail voting because you shouldn't have to endanger your safety. Well, if that's the case, why does she want increased access to early voting?

Early voting is something that about two-thirds of the states have where they open up polling places several weeks before Election Day.

Well, why would she want early voting increased if, in fact, she's worried about people catching the coronavirus by going to a polling place? That doesn't make sense. That makes it look like what she's talking about is basically a partisan objective to increase early voting sites around the country.

Of course, the problem with that is early voting has been shown to actually hurt turnout. And second, it has people voting weeks before Election Day, which often means they can miss important news connected with their choice of who they have voted for.

Anybody who doubts that, just take a look at what happened in the Super Tuesday primary at the beginning of March where you had major candidates—Sen. [Amy] Klobuchar, former Mayor Pete Buttigieg—[drop] out two days and one day before the Super Tuesday primary, and yet hundreds of thousands of individuals had already cast ballots for them in early voting states.

They couldn't call those ballots back. In essence, you had hundreds of thousands of people who wasted their vote on candidates who had dropped out. But, because of early voting, there was nothing they could do about that.

Allen: Wow, wow. So, we see early voting really, traditionally, just complicates things even more.

Von Spakovsky: It does. And it leads to disenfranchisement of voters. She says also, we need expanded access to mail-in ballots.

I don't know what she's talking about when, like I said, in every state you can already vote by absentee ballot if you can't make it to the polls. And certainly, even in the states that require an excuse for absentee balloting, all election officials are going to consider this coronavirus threat to be a sufficient reason to use an absentee ballot.

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By Virginia Allen

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Allen: Let's say I'm a 75-year-old woman and I'm completely capable of going out to the polls, I just don't feel comfortable. Would current election law allow me to still vote absentee?

Von Spakovsky: Well, it probably would if election officials and health officials consider that the coronavirus is still a threat. Although, actually, in many states, folks who are over a certain age, often the age of 65, are automatically allowed to use absentee ballots anyway. So, again, it's not really a problem.

Look, what she is really talking about, what she and other liberals are really talking about is there doesn't need to be an expanded access to absentee ballots and all-mail voting because you've already got access to it. What they're talking about is getting rid of the safety precautions that states have. And I can just give you a quick example of that.

Lawsuits have already been filed in various states, places like New Mexico, this was put into [House Speaker Nancy] Pelosi's coronavirus bill, to require states to automatically mail out absentee ballots to all registered voters rather than having voters send in a signed written request for an absentee ballot.

That's extremely dangerous. Why? Because voter lists are in notoriously bad shape all over the country. They are filled with the names of voters who have moved away. Voters who are registered more than once. Voters who have died but are still on the list.

Mailing out a ballot means that literally tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of ballots will end up arriving at people's homes for folks who no longer live there or for people who are registered at multiple times. They're going to get more than one ballot. Well, how many of those are going to get voted?

And, in places that allow ballot harvesting—and that, again, is something that Pelosi wanted to mandate everywhere—party activists, candidates, political guns for hire, they will be going through neighborhoods trying to collect those absentee ballots to make sure they get voted. And that's why those kinds of procedures are dangerous.

Allen: Yeah. Let's talk for a second about what happened in Wisconsin last week. Many voters, reportedly, they waited in very long lines. And, while people were trying to maintain that social distance, it was a lot of people in one place all outside during the coronavirus pandemic together. Do you think that Wisconsin handled their election the correct way?

Von Spakovsky: I think the problem in Wisconsin was federal courts and others trying to come in and tell them how to handle their election, rather than local officials making their own decision on it.

I would point out that Wisconsin is not one of the epicenters of the coronavirus. They've had very few cases of it. The vast majority of people there were not at risk.

And the state did allow an extension of time for anybody who wanted to vote by absentee ballot, as long as it was postmarked by Election Day. They still had another week for it to get to election officials, either by mail or by folks personally delivering it. So, I actually think they did just fine in handling this election.

Allen: OK. That's really interesting to hear your perspective.

Now, as you were talking about earlier, we're seeing that there's kind of increasing movement on the left to, obviously, push for just kind of more avenues of voting by mail and so forth.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar and [Sen.] Ron Wyden have introduced a bill that would make it significantly easier to vote. The bill would allow anyone to vote by mail and would give people at least 20 days to vote in-person before the Election Day. What are your kind of initial thoughts on this legislation?

Von Spakovsky: Well, there's no need for it because, as I said, states already allow absentee balloting. But her provision, the one with Sen. Wyden, has all these very bad provisions in it that would risk the security of the election process.

To give you an example, look, in states, they don't start counting absentee ballots and early votes until the end of Election Day at the same time they count their ballots. And the reason for that is common sense.

You don't want to start counting ballots two weeks before the election. Because, if those results are leaked out, if they were leaked out to the public, it may deter people from going and voting if they hear that the candidate they were interested in is losing in the early tabulations.

And, if it's leaked out to candidates or political parties, it might give them inside information to change their strategy to see if they can change the outcome of the election.

Yet, Klobuchar and Wyden's bill would force states to start processing and tabulating absentee ballots and early votes two weeks before

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election day. Now, why in the world would you put a provision like that in?

Also, she forces all states to allow early voting. Again, if your whole concern is the coronavirus, why are you forcing states that don't want early voting? Why are you forcing them to do that?

Allen: That seems like it would just kind of be a lose-lose, whether you're conservative or liberal. Do you have a sense of kind of why we would see senators on the left really pushing for, like you said, that early tabulation and counting of votes?

Von Spakovsky: I think they believe that their political consultants will be able to take advantage of that and change strategy, change out their get out to vote activities in races where they're losing in order to manipulate the election results. And I don't think they have a very good objective there.

Another thing, by the way, her bill does is ... legalize vote harvesting in all states. So, even in states that ban vote harvesting, they would now have to allow [it]. Again, that's a bad idea.

For folks who don't know what that means, look, in every state you can either mail back your absentee ballot that you've completed or a member of your family can return it. But, in states that allow vote harvesting, they say anybody can pick up your completed ballot at your home and deliver it to election officials.

That means that candidates, political parties, campaign organizations can come by your house to pick up your absentee ballot and deliver it.

But, the problem with that, of course, is you're giving something very valuable, a very valuable commodity, a ballot into the hands of individuals who have a stake in the outcome.

And we have lots of cases involving absentee ballot fraud in our database at The Heritage Foundation. We have a great database. It now has almost 1,300 proven cases of voter fraud.

We have cases in there where sometimes voters get intimidated in their homes by party activists and others to vote in a particular way. And, at other times, these party activists take the ballots and fill them out instead of the voter filling them out.

That's what happens if you allow vote harvesting, which Sen. Klobuchar and Sen. Wyden want to make legal everywhere.

Allen: So, how many states allow that voter harvesting right now?

Von Spakovsky: It's a little bit under 30 states. Other states ban it. A good example is North Carolina. North Carolina bans vote harvesting. And, if folks are interested in why that's a good idea, all they have to do is look at the 2018 congressional elections in North Carolina, the 9th Congressional District.

Folks may recall, that was the only contested congressional race in the country in 2018. The race was overturned by the state election board because one of the candidates hired a notorious local political consultant with a very bad reputation who engaged in illegal vote harvesting.

The evidence showed that they forged voter signatures, they filled out ballots, they changed votes when they went and collected those absentee ballots from voters in their homes.

Allen: Wow. Now, as you've mentioned, Heritage has a wonderful resource, the [voter fraud database](#), which you help to run. So, when you look at past cases of voter fraud, what percentage of those take place through mail-in voting?

Von Spakovsky: I don't have those numbers in front of me. But I will tell you that a very large percentage of the cases involve absentee ballot fraud.

Allen: Wow, wow. And is this really more of a state issue? I mean, can the federal government really tell states how they can and can't hold elections?

Von Spakovsky: They shouldn't. No.

Look, we have a very decentralized election system. It's the most decentralized of all the Western democracies. That was intentional by the Framers and Founders because they said they didn't think it was a good idea for the federal government, Congress, and the White House to be able to run federal elections, because then they might change the rules to make sure that they stayed in office.

So, elections are administered almost entirely by the states. And that's the way it should stay. We should not have the federal government coming in and telling the states, "Here are the rules," for example, "for absentee ballots," or, "You have to have all-mail elections from now on." That's a decision states should make on their own.

Allen: So, let's say that five or 10 states decide, "Come November, we feel more comfortable holding the election through mail."

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And the other 45 or 40 states decide, "No. We're going to have a traditional election and have people go to polling places and vote." Do you think that would potentially be a good compromise? How would that kind of affect the election?

Von Spakovsky: Well, I do think every state ought to make their own decision about it. But, if states decide to have all-mail election, I hope they will put in the right kind of rules to minimize the opportunity to engage in fraud rather than putting in rules that will make it easy to commit. And there are certain ways to do it and certain ways that it should not be done.

Allen: What is really the best formula for a fair election? What is needed to ensure that those who vote are voting only once, and that they're living, and that there are legitimate votes voting in the correct states?

Von Spakovsky: Well, there is a whole series of recommendations that The Heritage Foundation has made on it. One of the most basic ones is you should have to show a government-issued photo ID when you vote, both in person and/or through the absentee balloting process.

States should require proof of citizenship when you register to vote because there's plenty of cases that we have shown of noncitizens registering and illegally voting in the country.

And states need to be maintaining the accuracy of their voter rolls, regularly checking to make sure people who are dead have been taken off, and regularly checking with other states to find individuals who are registered in more than one state to ensure, again, that you don't have double voting, like one of the cases we just added to our database of a student at the University of New Hampshire who was found guilty of voter fraud for voting in both New Hampshire where he was going to school and in his home state of Massachusetts.

Allen: Interesting. And how big do you really see this debate becoming of mail-in voting ... over the next few months? Do you think that those on the left, like Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats, [will] kind of start to back off of this? Or is this really going to be a fight and a debate until the end?

Von Spakovsky: No. I think it's going to be a big fight and a big debate until the end. Because, when you look at the provisions, for example, that were in her bill, they weren't intended to just affect this election. They were intended for this and all future elections.

So, they are seeing this as an opportunity to put in all these what I consider to be a dangerous and bad changes in election rules in place.

And, if they're not successful in the legislature, I'm afraid they are then going to go to the courts, as has already started happening, to get the courts to force through changes that they can't get through the democratic process, which in itself is very anti-democratic doing it that way.

Allen: Let's switch gears just for a moment. This past weekend, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam signed ... legislation that repeals Virginia's voter ID law, among other things.

And you mentioned voter ID and how important that is. But what would you say in response to those who say voter ID really limits those who can vote in elections and disproportionately hurts low-income Americans?

Von Spakovsky: We know that's not true. The reason we know that's not true is that the first laws requiring a government-issued photo ID to vote went in place back in 2008 in Georgia and Indiana. And then, a number of other states passed it.

So, in fact, we have 10 years worth of data, turnout data, on a number of different states that we can look at. And all of that data shows that voter ID requirements do not keep people out of the polls. In particular, they do not keep, for example, minority voters out of the poll, which is a claim that's constantly made.

Part of the reason for that, of course, is that Americans overwhelmingly already have an ID. Plus, every state that has put in a requirement like this has also put in a provision saying, "If you don't already have an ID, we will provide one to you for free."

So, we've got all of the data we need to show it does not keep people out of the polls.

Allen: Yeah. Well, we really encourage our listeners to check out some of that data and check out some of the resources that we have on The Heritage Foundation website, such as the voter fraud database. And, Hans, we just really appreciate your time today and your insight on this subject.

Von Spakovsky: Sure. Thanks for having me. And I hope the folks that are still in the states who haven't held their primaries yet either get out and vote or request an absentee ballot and get it in.

Allen: Absolutely. Thank you so much, Hans.

Von Spakovsky: Thank you.

This article was part of The Daily Signal podcast on April 14, 2020.

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A friend passed this on to me today. I have never read a post, so worth the time. Please keep this moving.

I want you to stop for just a minute and look at this picture.

I do not know much about politics and I'm not even going to act like I do, and on top of that... this is NOT a political post. This is simply a post that I hope you can find in your heart to think about.

I was moved to tears today just thinking about the weight that he must be carrying. I have 2 girls and a husband and they are the only ones that truly depend on me day in and day out. Even with so few, my anxiety level at times is out the roof and I feel like the weight of the world is on me. I know when he signed up for this role, he was willing to take on whatever, but the magnitude of what we're experiencing has got to be paralyzing. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't but can you imagine? I sat and wondered how he must be dealing with it all. When it's quiet and his head finally hits a pillow after he's been on his feet all day, press conference after press conference...

Does he cry?

Is he even able to sleep?

Is he scared?

Can he shut his mind off?

When I look at our President, I want to see him the way God sees him and I want the Lord to use him for His glory!

Whether he's making you proud or not, I'm urging you to look at this photo and ask the Lord to soften your heart to him, lift him up in prayer. He needs them. He's carrying the weight of the world.



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