

DONKEY TRACKS

SEPTEMBER, 2026

#bluetothecore

Visit our web site at:

www.womensdemo.com

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



@womensdemocc



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Dr. Ouida Brown
Inspirationalist



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

Stronger Together

A CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP. SERVICE. IMPACT.
Join us for an inspiring evening as we honor extraordinary women whose leadership and commitment are building a stronger, brighter future for our community.

TOGETHER, WE MAKE DEMOCRACY STRONGER.
TOGETHER, WE WIN.

SUPPORT
OUR EVENT!
BUY TICKETS
PLACE AN AD
MAKE AN IMPACT!



2026 SPOTLIGHT DINNER – "STRONGER TOGETHER"



Saturday Evening
September 5, 2026



6:00 pm – Reception
& Silent Auction
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Dinner & Program



Westgate Las Vegas
Resort & Casino
3000 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Ballrooms, C-F

HONORING OUTSTANDING LEADERS

★ HON. MIRIAM SHEARING
Lifetime Achievement Award

★ ASHLEY LOVELL
Bonnie Bryan Award

★ JULIE-ANN PEEPLES
Francis Perkins Award

HONORING
MARGIE GONZALES
SENATOR ROBERTA LANGE
MARIE RAY SCOTT

*Great company. Powerful stories.
Real change.*

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Your sponsorship helps us elect and support Democratic candidates and advance the values that matter.

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Bring friends, colleagues, and family for an unforgettable evening of celebration and purpose.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW!

PLACE AN AD



Show your support with an ad in our program booklet and reach hundreds of community leaders.

AD DEADLINE: AUGUST 21, 2026

★ TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE. ★

SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP, TICKETS, OR AD TODAY!



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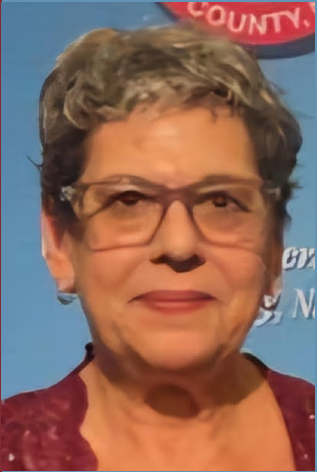
MAIL CHECK PAYABLE TO:
Women's Democratic Club of Clark County
PO Box 34105, Las Vegas, NV 89133



QUESTIONS?
Email: womensdemoclarkcounty@gmail.com

STRONG WOMEN ★ STRONG COMMUNITIES ★ STRONG DEMOCRACY

President's Message



What a summer it has been!

July brought us our Annual BBQ which was a tremendous success with 103 attending. No, that isn't the weather of the day!

August came so quickly and we celebrated our Women's Equality Day with phenomenal women honorees: Dr. Tricia Braxton, Assembly Member Hanadi Nadeem, Rev. Dr. Marta Poling Schmitt, and special recognition to our Thalia Dondero Trailblazer recipient, Natalia Jordan of SEIU 1107. We also gave out our scholarship awards to two (2) outstanding recipients: Suzanna Lazette Lara for the Carol Chesnut Law School Scholarship; and Charlette Cameron for the Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund. That event brought out ninety (90) attendees!

Now, as we prepare for our Spotlight Dinner, I cannot begin to thank all our committee members adequately. I would like to recognize Michelle Abney for Chairing, "Stronger Together;" Judy Klein – Financial Committee with our Treasurer Karen James; and, Rev. Dr. Marta Poling-Schmitt spearheading the Silent Auction with Linda Morales-Kennon, Janis Schoen, and, Dr. Ouida Brown; and, Chris Miller – Program Chair. I want to extend a huge thank you to all of you that have donated items, sat in committee meetings, and purchased tickets and tables. Thank you, Berna Rhodes Ford, for being our Mistress of Ceremonies for our Event.

Breaking from tradition, we will be having a General Membership meeting on Thursday, September 10th at the Tuscan Suites & Casino in the Tuscan Room on the 2nd floor. I am very excited to announce our very own Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar will be our guest speaker.

See you there,

Caren



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Stronger Together

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★ **HON. MIRIAM SHEARING**
Lifetime Achievement Award

★ **ASHLEY LOVELL**
Bonnie Bryan Award

★ **JULIE-ANN PEEPLES**
Francis Perkins Award

HONORING

MARGIE GONZALES

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*Great company. Powerful stories.
Real change.*

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Arrive Early - THE EXCITEMENT BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.!

SILENT AUCTION • LIVE AUCTION • COCKTAIL RECEPTION

THE FUN BEGINS BEFORE DINNER!

Join us in the Reception Area at
6:00 P.M. for an evening of bidding,
socializing, and supporting
Democratic candidates
throughout Nevada.



ENJOY OUR
COCKTAIL RECEPTION



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AUCTION ITEMS



BID ON UNIQUE GIFTS,
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CERTIFICATES, ARTWORK,
JEWELRY, WINE, AND
MUCH MORE!



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**FORMER GOVERNOR
STEVE SISOLAK**



LIVE AUCTION • 6:45 P.M.



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1 Bedroom Deluxe

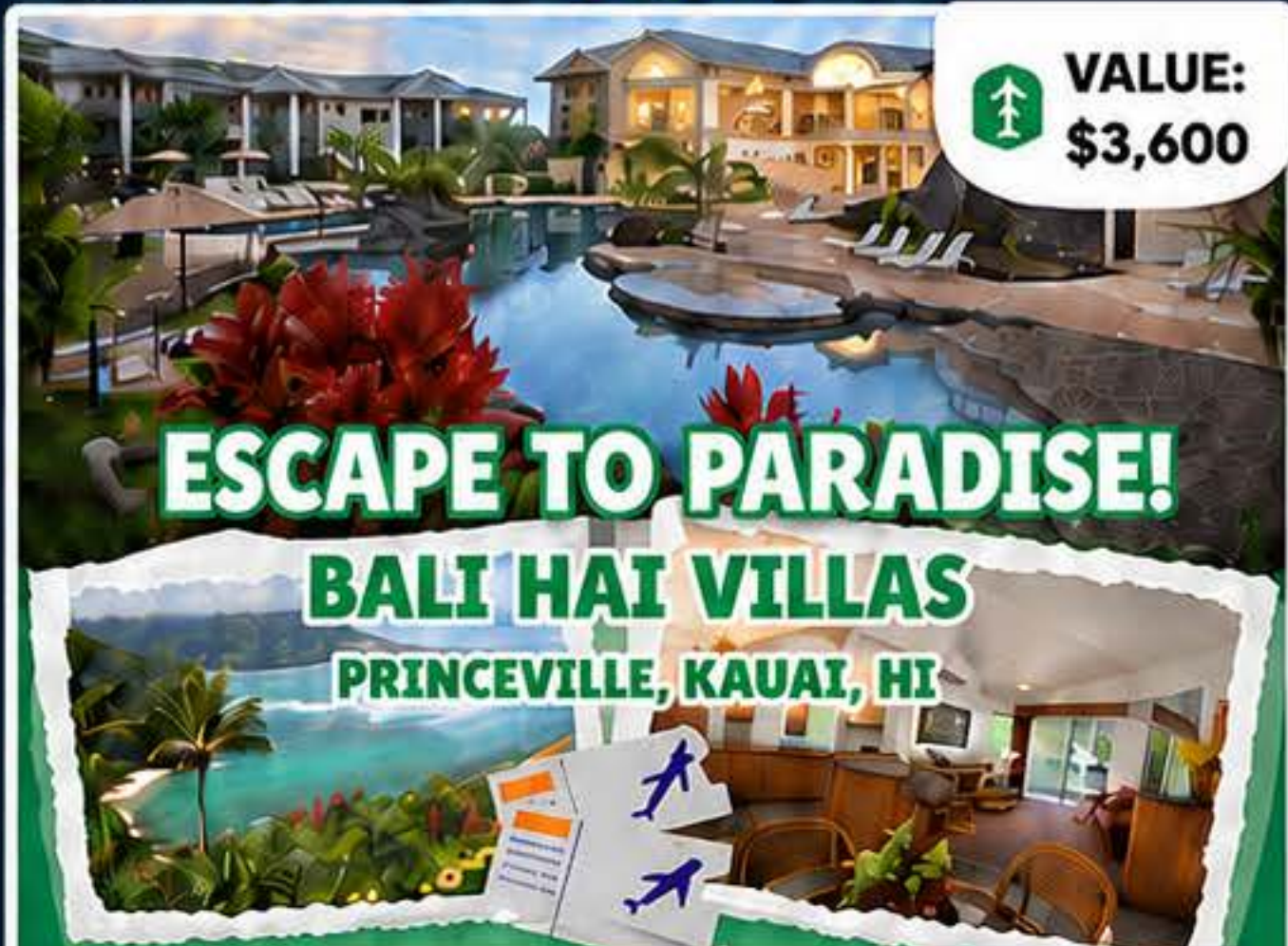
Accommodates
4 Guests
Fitness Center
Game Room



Partial Kitchen

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December 23 - 30, 2026

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VALUE:
\$3,600

ESCAPE TO PARADISE!
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PRINCEVILLE, KAUAI, HI

CHECK-IN:
Sunday, November 22, 2026
4:00 P.M.

CHECK-OUT:
Sunday, November 29, 2026
10:00 A.M.



**COCKTAIL
RECEPTION**



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AUCTION**



**LIVE
AUCTION**



**AMAZING
VACATIONS!**

*Support Our Mission...
and Treat Yourself!*

Every bid helps the Women's Democratic Club
of Clark County continue supporting Democratic
candidates and protecting the values we all share.



COME EARLY. ENJOY THE RECEPTION. BID OFTEN. WIN BIG!



Voter Protection & Integrity



Guest Speaker
Secretary of State



Cisco Aguilar

Date: Thursday, September 10, 2026

Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor

255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

Use 2nd Portico (West Side), Park Free, Use Elavator

Extra Parking In Back Lot

Time: 11:30 a.m.-Registration; Noon - Luncheon/Program

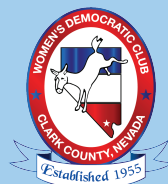
Members- \$35 * Non-Members - \$40

Pay Online [HERE](#)

If You Plan To Pay At The Door

RSVP [HERE](#)

All Registered Democrats Are Welcome to Attend



OPINION: Trump Stumps In Las Vegas, Unpacks His Own Warped Reality

By John L. Smith



America's gold-leaf salesman-in-chief [came to Las Vegas](#) Wednesday to remind Nevadans just how good we have it.

President Donald Trump's pitch to the converted at the Red Rock Resort touched on well-worn themes and grievances in a political-climate-controlled atmosphere where he could boast about securing the world's largest oil stockpile without bothering to explain why gasoline prices remain so high. But it was a time set aside for the suspension of reality and niggling facts.

To call Trump a braggadocious bully breaks no new ground, but to his credit he was at the top of his game. The confidence man was right on brand as he delivered an advertisement for himself with a high level of energy that surely made his critics cringe. They keep waiting for him to fall over, and he keeps defying gravity.

Now that he's peppering his weaving oratory with allusions to "socialism" and "communism" should the Democrats prevail in the midterms, we have more news of imminent dangers to look forward to. And as we know, the salesman loves few things more than imminent dangers. The man who learned about hustling the people and the press at the foot of the merciless Machiavellian [Roy Cohn](#) continues to follow his hero's playbook.

As advertised, the Trump rally was intended to serve as a political booster shot to the top of the Nevada GOP ticket. I'm guessing those who attended in person saw it as a success and fall into the category of the officially vaccinated. There was enough time for Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony (R) to celebrate the vanquishing of imminently [dangerous transgender athletes](#) from American sports despite the fact the NCAA reports [fewer than a dozen](#) among a half-million participants. Beyond that, Anthony spent much of his warmup speech repeating the word "socialist" in connection with the "Dumocrat Party."

And maybe, given an unlimited campaign checkbook, this will still play in Nevada. But I'm betting it won't. Of the bunch swooning for Trump's approval, Gov. Joe Lombardo (R) has the most at stake. By being perceived as cuddling up to Trump in what's shaping up as a competitive race against state Attorney General Aaron Ford (D), he risks alienating independent voters who are tired of the noise and feeling the economic pinch. On Wednesday, Lombardo dropped the pretense with his late entry into the ring-kissing contest.

After complaining that his "several attempts" to communicate with the Biden administration "fell on deaf ears," Lombardo said, "With President Trump, that communication is reciprocal." But "productive conversations," as Lombardo put it, don't equate to tangible results for Nevada despite the GOP's majority in both houses of Congress. Lombardo's comfortable communication with Trump, for instance, hasn't prevented the president from continuing to harass leaders of nations whose citizens have long been big contributors to Nevada's tourism economy.

Trump scored big with his celebration of the "no tax on tips" policy, a throw-in to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, featuring the [sixth-largest tax cut](#) in U.S. history with [most of those cuts](#) benefiting wealthy Americans. As an aside, Trump credited a Las Vegas waitress with the inspiration for the plan, which makes her one of the more qualified advisers in his circle.

"Quite often, when the press and the media run him down, they think about, you know, 'He's taking care of his billionaire friends,'" Lombardo continued. "But those billionaire friends provide jobs. And unless you take care of them, those jobs are absent."

Take care of them?

Nevada has the [fifth-highest unemployment](#) rate in the country the last time I checked.

When Trump enthused, "The tariffs have made us rich," did Lombardo or any of the other candidates in the room pause to wonder who he was talking about?

The thought apparently didn't cross Lombardo's mind as he fell in step with the Democrats-as-socialist-communists talking points. "The government doesn't have the ability to hand out infinite amounts of money," he said. "That's not how economies work. That's why they are pushing socialism so hard. But President Trump has changed that whole mindset."

That he has.

This is a person who last week unleashed [a barrage of 48 posts](#) in a single stretch, many of them juiced by AI images of him in the company of historical figures such as George Washington and John F. Kennedy, announcing a bombing of Iran, parading a handcuffed space alien and tweaking critics Bruce Springsteen and Chris Christie.

Perhaps foreshadowing his upcoming Vegas vacation, he posted an image of himself as a flat-bellied Elvis in a white jumpsuit, which is only considered sacrilege in Sin City. What he was thinking sharing an image of himself in papal robes is anyone's guess.

For those keeping score, the man once so fascinated by the [pronunciation of "groceries"](#) declined to address high food prices in front of supporters who would go hungry before fact-checking him.

Trump being Trump inevitably meant pausing to take the working press to the woodshed as purveyors of "fake news" while failing to appreciate the irony that he has been the source of most of it.

Iran war all but over? They can't wait to make a deal. We'll bomb the hell out of them if they don't. Or not. But in the meantime, enjoy the latest update on the creepy gilded White House makeover and the national reflecting pool petri dish.

This is Trump's reality. If this was a movie, it would be titled *The Matrix: End of Times*.

Red pill? Blue pill? Better have one of each. There's still three months to Election Day.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

Happy Birthday



SEPTEMBER

Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
Councilman Richard Cherchi
Nancy Downey
Brenda Ingargiola
Elaine Hurd
Karen James
Ed Long
Gregory Mitchell
Julia Salas
Elizabeth Taylor
Jill Zinner

OCTOBER

Beverly Abderrahman
Judge Crystal Eller
Jonathan Jones
Minndie Lloyd
Tya Mathis-Coleman
Assembly Member Daniele Monroe Moreno
Rita Ransom
Morgan St. James
Calvin Sandoval
Judge Jennifer Schwartz
Bonnie Swadling
Barbara Wolfe
Denise Wright

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for North Las Vegas

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DANIELE MONROE-MORENO

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North Las Vegas, NV 89031

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ALEX PERESZLENYI

FOR NV Assembly District 29

A Democrat born and raised here in
your neighborhood fighting for YOU
not corporations or the
"Political Status Quo"

Take Nevada Back
Alex will stand up to Donald
Trump, ICE, Joe Lombardo, and
stop corporate handouts

Invest in a Fair Economy
Make corporations pay their fair
share and stop energy companies
like NV Energy from price gouging

Affordable Housing
Stop corporate home ownership,
cap rent increases, and hold
bad landlords accountable

GET INVOLVED: ALEXFORNEVADA.COM

ALEX PERESZLENYI

FOR NV Assembly District 29

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**Primary Election Day
JUNE 9th**

VOTE BY MAIL OR IN-PERSON

**Early Voting
MAY 23rd-JUNE 5th**

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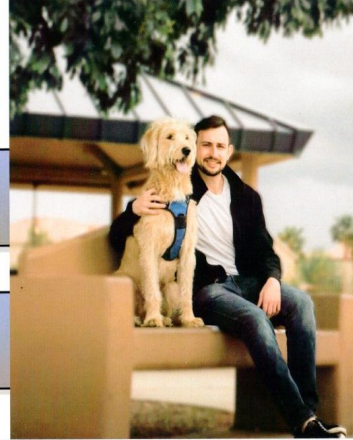
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Elect Alexandra Beth McLeod

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 31

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Alexandra Beth McLeod

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Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



On Thursday, August 13th, we celebrated some truly phenomenal women at our Women's Equality Luncheon!

A very special thank-you to Congresswoman Dina Titus for always stepping up to MC our luncheon. It has become a wonderful tradition, and she never disappoints!

I also want to thank the Women's Democratic Club Board, our members, friends, and families who joined us to honor **Dr. Tricia Braxton, Assembly Member Hanadi Hadeem, and Rev. Dr. Marta Poling Schmitt**. We were also honored to present the coveted **Thalia Dondero Trailblazer Award** to **Natalia Jordan**—what an honor, and what a worthy recipient!

We celebrated two outstanding scholarship recipients as well. **Suzanna Lazette Lara**, our **Carol Chestnut Law School Scholarship** recipient, shared her inspiring story and her commitment to advocating for civil rights and protecting our most vulnerable. **Charlette Cameron**, recipient of the **Renee Diamond Scholarship**, is making her mark by founding the AANHPI Caucus within the Young Democrats of Nevada, where she currently serves as Chair.

Every year, I am amazed by the caliber of our honorees and scholarship recipients and by all they have given to our community and our state. They truly embody the spirit of Women's Democratic Club!



And now, the excitement is building as we approach our **71st celebration of Women's Demo at our "Stronger Together" Spotlight Dinner 2026!** Our incredible Spotlight Committee has been working for months to make this our most memorable evening yet.

I want to thank every member of our team who has volunteered their time, energy, and heart to make this event a success. We are looking forward to an unforgettable evening celebrating phenomenal women, reconnecting with friends, enjoying a wonderful dinner, and bidding on exciting Silent and Live Auction items.

Michelle Abney, Chair

Dr. Ouida Brown

Dawn Dudas

Ida Gaines

Yelé Glaster

Karen James

Kara Jenkins - Silent Auction

Judy Klein - Finance Chair

Senator Roberta Lange

Danna Lovell

Chris Miller - Program Chair

Linda Morales-Kennon - Silent Auction

Rita Ranson

Rev. Dr. Marta Poling Schmitt - Silent Auction Chair

Janis Schoen - Silent Auction

Sharon Segerblom

Caren Wolfson

"Stronger Together" is our biggest event of the year—and its success allows us to provide much-needed financial support to Democratic candidates.

Let's make it an **over-the-top success!** Join us, celebrate with us, bid with us, and help us continue the important work of Women's Democratic Club.

Together, we are truly Stronger Together!

Re-Elect **JUDGE JOANNA KISHNER** 

District Court Judge, Dept. 31



www.JudgeKishner.com
Joanna@JudgeKishner.com
 702-357-5510

Follow Judge Kushner

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 - SERVED AS JUSTICE COURT JUDGE PRO TEAM AND SMALL CLAIMS REFEREE.
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NEVADA ASSEMBLY

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Erica is a first-generation college graduate, a former teacher and the daughter of a Filipino immigrant. She is:

- **INVESTING IN EDUCATION** by passing the largest education budget in the state's history and increasing teacher pay.
- **PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE IN NEVADA** from extremist attacks.
- **LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**
- **FIGHTING FOR EXPANDED HOUSING OPTIONS** in East Las Vegas and throughout our state.
- **WORKING TO INCREASE LANGUAGE ACCESS**, including more options for multilingual ballots as well as prescription drug labels being provided in a patient's language of preference.

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FOR NEVADA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 14

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ERICA MOSCA
FOR NEVADA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 14

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For District Court Judge Department 28

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Danielle Tarmu

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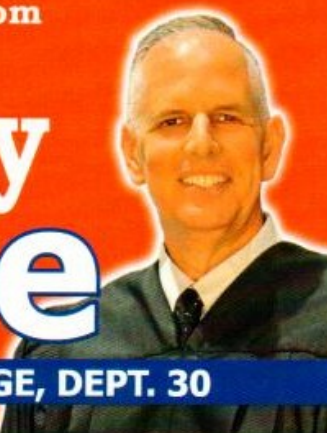
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Re-Elect **Judge Jerry Wiese**



DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPT. 30

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Judge Jerry Wiese

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2026

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J. Ken Diaz
Claudia Fabian
Attorney General Aaron Ford
Harriet Goldstein
Lance Hendron
Amanda Klein
Matt Lay
Amanda Pellizzari
Staci Walters
Dr. Glynda White
Denise Wright

FEBRUARY

Marilyn Caston
Nancy Downey
Judge Tara Clark-Newbertt
Pam Jones
Carol Nerby

MARCH

Sunshine Arterburn
Riva Lantaya
Elizabeth Lilly
Melissa Martinet
Tya Mathis-Coleman
Karmen La'Shaun Miller
Virginia "Ginny" Okawa
Judge Jennifer Schwartz

APRIL

Minddie Lloyd
Michelle Sklar

MAY

Eileen Eady
Amy Reagan
Elaina Smith

JUNE

Shenea Booth
Stephanie Itkin Goodman
Judge Kerri Maxey
Alex Quagge
Calvin Sandoval
Janet Tweed
Judge Jerry Wiese

JULY

Brenda Ingariola
Gregory Mitchell
Joyce Patterson Rodgers

AUGUST

Assembly Member Hanadi Nadeem
Barbie O'Quinn
Hardeep Dee Sull
Esmeralda Villeda

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 2026

Cecia Alvarado
Jan Biggerstaff
Elizabeth Taylor
Ann Underdahl

Thank You

FOR JOINING OUR COMMUNITY!

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



Today the Trump administration asked the United States Supreme Court to let it build Trump's ballroom where the East Wing of the White House used to be. Trump ignored Congress and its authority over government building projects when he tore down the East Wing and began construction of a 90,000-square-foot ballroom on the site. He claimed initially that there would be no cost to taxpayers for what he estimated to be a \$200 million project; already estimates have risen to at least \$900 million to be "covered primarily by taxpayers."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation sued to stop construction, and lower courts have agreed, saying the ballroom requires congressional approval, although they have permitted construction of an underground bunker to continue. On August 7 an appeals court wrote: "We are aware of no instance in American history in which a President unilaterally and using privately collected funds demolished substantial portions of the White House that Congress authorized to be built and American taxpayers paid for. Until now."

Nonetheless, construction has continued, and now U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer is telling the Supreme Court the ballroom is critical for national security and that it is too late to stop the project. He claims it is "65% complete" and has "a 250-person crew working 20 hours a day, 7 days a week to keep the Project ahead of schedule and under budget." The administration wants the Supreme Court to step in to allow Trump's vanity project to continue.

The timing of Trump's request that the Supreme Court allow him to ignore Congress and the law in order to spend taxpayer money on a vanity project provides a dramatic contrast to the actions of the government ninety-one years ago.

On August 14, 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. While he had already put in place new measures to regulate business and banking and had provided temporary work relief to combat the Depression, this law permanently changed the nature of the American government.

The Social Security Act established a federal system of old-age benefits; unemployment insurance; aid to homeless, dependent, and neglected children; funds to promote maternal and child welfare; and public health services. It was a sweeping reworking of the relationship between the government and its citizens, using the power of taxation to pool funds to provide a basic social safety net.

The driving force behind the law was FDR's secretary of labor, Frances Perkins. She was the first woman to hold a U.S. Cabinet position and still holds the record for having the longest tenure in that job: she served from 1933 to 1945.

Perkins brought to the position a vision of government very different from that of the Republicans who had run it in the 1920s. While men like President Herbert Hoover had embraced the idea of a “rugged individualism” in which men provided for their families on their own, Perkins recognized that the vision of a hardworking man supporting his wife and children was more myth than reality: her own husband suffered from bipolar disorder, making her the family’s primary support. She understood that Americans had always supported each other.

As a child, Perkins spent summers with her grandmother, with whom she was very close, in the small town of Newcastle, Maine, surrounded by a supportive community. In college, at Mount Holyoke, she majored in chemistry and physics, but after a professor required students to tour a factory to observe working conditions, Perkins became committed to improving the lives of those trapped in industrial jobs. After college, Perkins became a social worker and, in 1910, earned a masters degree in economics and sociology from Columbia University. She became the head of the New York office of the National Consumers League, urging consumers to use their buying power to demand better conditions and wages for the workers who made the products they were buying.

The next year, in 1911, she witnessed a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in which 146 workers, mostly women and girls, died. They were trapped in the building when the fire broke out because the factory owner had ordered the doors to the stairwells and exits locked to make sure no one slipped outside for a break. Unable to escape the smoke and flames, the workers—some of them on fire—leaped from the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors of the building, dying on the pavement.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire proved to Perkins that voluntary organizations would never be enough to improve workers’ lives. She turned toward using the government to adjust the harsh conditions of industrialization. She began to work with the Democratic politicians at Tammany Hall, who presided over communities in the city that mirrored rural towns and who exercised a form of social welfare for their voters, making sure they had jobs, food, and shelter and that wives and children had a support network if a husband and father died. In that system the voices of women like Perkins were valuable, for their work in the immigrant wards of the city meant that they were the ones who knew what working families needed to survive.

The overwhelming unemployment, hunger, and suffering during the Great Depression convinced Perkins that state governments alone could not adjust the conditions of the modern world to create a safe, supportive community for ordinary people. She came to believe that, as she said: “The people are what matter to government, and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life.”

Perkins met FDR through her Tammany connections, and when he asked her to be his secretary of labor, she told him that she wanted the federal government to provide unemployment insurance, health insurance, and old-age insurance. She later recalled: “I remember he looked so startled, and he said, ‘Well, do you think it can be done?’”

Creating federal unemployment insurance became her primary concern. Congressmen had little interest in passing such legislation, claiming that unemployment insurance and federal aid to dependent families would undermine a man’s willingness to work. But Perkins recognized that the Depression had added pressure to the idea of social insurance by emphasizing the needs of older Americans. In Long Beach, California, Dr. Francis Townsend had looked out of his window one day to see elderly women rooting through garbage cans for food. Appalled, he came up with a plan to help the elderly and stimulate the economy at the same time. Townsend proposed that the government provide

every retired person over 60 years old with \$200 a month, on the condition that they spend it within 30 days, a condition designed to stimulate the economy.

Townsend's plan was wildly popular. More than that, though, it sparked people across the country to start coming up with their own plans for protecting the elderly and the nation's social fabric.

It also spurred Congress to action. Perkins recalled that Townsend "startled the Congress of the United States because the aged have votes. The wandering boys didn't have any votes; the evicted women and their children had very few votes. If the unemployed didn't stay long enough in any one place, they didn't have a vote. But the aged people lived in one place and they had votes, so every Congressman had heard from the Townsend Plan people."

FDR put together a committee to come up with a plan, but committee members could not make up their minds how to move forward. Perkins continued to hammer on the idea they must come up with something, and finally locked the members of the committee in a room. As she recalled: "Well, we locked the door and we had a lot of talk. I laid out a couple of bottles of something or other to cheer their lagging spirits. Anyhow, we stayed in session until about 2 a.m. We then voted finally, having taken our solemn oath that this was the end; we were never going to review it again."

By the time the bill came to a vote, it was hugely popular. The vote was 371 to 33 in the House and 77 to 6 in the Senate.

When asked to describe the origins of the Social Security Act, Perkins mused that its roots came from the very beginnings of the nation. When Alexis de Toqueville wrote *Democracy in America* in 1835, she noted, he thought Americans were uniquely "so generous, so kind, so charitably disposed." "Well, I don't know anything about the times in which De Tocqueville visited America," she said, but "I do know that at the time I came into the field of social work, these feelings were real."

With the Social Security Act, Perkins helped to write into our laws a longstanding political impulse in America that stood in dramatic contrast to the 1920s philosophy of rugged individualism. She recognized that the ideas of community values and pooling resources to keep the economic playing field level and take care of everyone are at least as deeply seated in our political philosophy as the idea of every man for himself.

In a 1962 speech recalling the origins of the Social Security Act, Perkins reflected: "Of course, the Act had to be amended, and has been amended, and amended, and amended, and amended, until it has now grown into a large and important project, for which, by the way, I think the people of the United States are deeply thankful. One thing I know: Social Security is so firmly embedded in the American psychology today that no politician, no political party, no political group could possibly destroy this Act and still maintain our democratic system. It is safe. It is safe forever, and for the everlasting benefit of the people of the United States."

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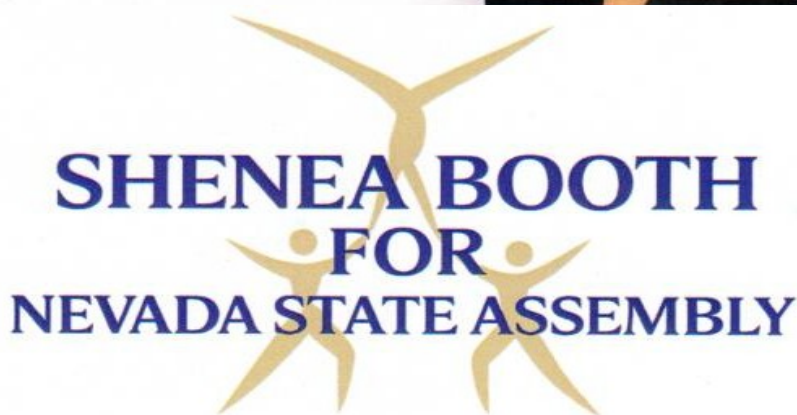
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Big Pahrump Data Center proposal Turns Heads Of Skeptical Residents

By John L. Smith



Can an aggressive PR campaign and windfall promises for a cash-strapped region persuade the cynics and critics?



The sales pitch is on in Pahrump for a project its developers call Manse Technology Campus.

In a media release this week, its promoters made it sound almost like an act of philanthropy. It's an "\$18.4 Billion Investment to Deliver Long-Term Funding for Pahrump Schools, Public Safety and Community Infrastructure."

Long-term funding for Pahrump schools? That sounds like one big bake sale. Such rhetoric is bound to turn heads in cash-

strapped Nye County with its [\\$7 million debt](#) and innumerable unfunded needs. Pahrump has traditionally drawn about as many snake oil salesmen as community-minded altruists, and there's an unmistakable cynicism in its electorate.

[Manse Technology Campus](#) sounds practically collegiate, but it's not a university annex. As presented, it's a massive, privately funded data center complex with a 900-acre footprint. It advertises a projected groundbreaking in 2027 with a five-year buildout — all pending community approval, of course.

Then the good times really get rolling. Per the press release: "At full buildout, the campus is expected to become one of Nye County's largest taxpayers, generating tens of millions annually in never-abated property taxes, support thousands of construction and permanent jobs, and provide significant funding for schools, public safety, infrastructure and other essential public services."

Having played their generous economic benefits card, I should note that the county's \$7 million debt is a math rounding error for an \$18.4 billion data center project — a mere 0.038 of 1 percent of the total investment. The debt may sound like a lot for Nye's taxpayers, but not for Manse parent Gigawatt Development. Perhaps its officials will [create a little goodwill](#) with skeptical county residents by cutting a check and balancing the budget before the project is approved. (Now *that* would be a dynamite PR move.)

The ink is still drying on Manse Technology Campus LLC's corporate paperwork, and that's arched some eyebrows among the county's skeptics. The limited liability company was formed July 15, but with veteran real estate developers Sean Dalesandro and Jeffrey Canarelli associated with the development, there's little doubt it has been in the planning process for months.

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Gigawatt President Dalesandro does not lack for confidence. He says in a press statement, "Pahrump deserves investments that create lasting value for its residents. This project is designed to pay its own way, funding its own infrastructure, using water rights it already owns and keeping power costs off residents' bills. We look forward to earning the community's trust through transparency and open dialogue."

As promoted, the complex, with its closed-loop cooling system, will use less than 300 acre-feet of water per year. That may be an act of conservation in a data center gold rush that is causing national outrage for its copious water consumption, but it's still enough water to service between 600 and 900 homes in an area whose residents have often had trouble with the availability of potable groundwater.

But the [sales pitch](#) is in full force. A data center Q&A was scheduled by Manse officials for July 25 at the Nye County Commission chambers and an open house is set for Aug. 3 at the Pahrump Nugget Hotel & Casino.

Its public relations effort is more polished than some, but not unique. The relief of government debt issue, for instance, has been used as a selling point for data center proposals in Reno and Boulder City. It worked in Reno with the help of a compliant council, which has since been pressured by angry citizens to declare a moratorium on future projects. After Boulder City [residents protested](#) a proposal by Houston-based Skylar Energy Resources, and the spurned company produced a backup approval with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to build on federal land adjacent to the city boundary, the apparent sleight of hand drew the ire of Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV).

Now Boulder City officials are criticizing the company's secretive agreement with the BLM to place a data center on federal land adjacent to the Boulder City boundary. In its July 20 [public notice](#) of its June approval, the BLM website cites a presidential executive order in its fast-tracking of the project. As [The Nevada Independent](#) reported, Titus is drafting legislation that calls for increased transparency and public review of data center proposals on public land.

In states that have been slow to appreciate the high anxiety of the public on this issue — and Nevada is among them — national pushback continues. Despite substantial protest across the country, massive artificial intelligence data center developments continue apace with a handful of exceptions.

This month, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) signed an executive order calling for a moratorium on new hyperscale facilities in that state. With some questioning whether the public backlash puts AI development at risk, large centers that

will consume vast amounts of energy and water resources are moving forward in Texas, Louisiana and elsewhere. As Nevada towns and counties continue to debate the role of data centers in their communities, well-financed developers press forward on multiple fronts.

If approved, the massive Manse Technology Campus data center project is bound to use plenty of heavy equipment. Let's see if its PR steamroller impresses the skeptics in Pahrump.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

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She worked the swing shift six days a week in the bitter waterfront cold, wearing flannel pajamas and wool long underwear beneath her heavy protective gear.

Gibson later moved to Juneau, Alaska, where she joined the Army Transportation Corps. She helped prepare manifests and loading plans for ships carrying supplies to the Pacific theater.

Her drive did not end with the war.

After encountering discrimination in the workplace, Gibson pursued higher education at the University of California, Berkeley. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees, followed by a doctorate in educational psychology.



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The Conditions For A Third World War Are Now Present

By Brian Daitzman

Ukraine, Iran and Taiwan are still separate crises. But the barriers keeping them from becoming one larger war are beginning to erode.



A third world war is not inevitable. The conditions at issue are not a predictive checklist. They are mechanisms through which conflicts that begin separately can start changing one another.

The danger is not simply that several wars are occurring at once. Regional wars can be extraordinarily destructive without becoming direct great-power wars. They remain regional when outside great powers—even

while supplying weapons, intelligence, financing or political support—do not enter sustained direct combat against one another.

World War I and World War II crossed that boundary because the leading powers fought one another directly across multiple theaters. The American invasion of Iraq in 2003 did not. The United States and its coalition overthrew Saddam Hussein's government, but Iraq was not a great power, and neither Russia nor China entered sustained combat against American forces. Scale does not determine the category. The identity of the combatants does.

That distinction matters now. For purposes of the present danger, the United States and China occupy the superpower tier of the international system. Russia, though much smaller economically, remains a nuclear great power capable of threatening the United States and its allies directly. The decisive boundary is sustained direct combat among powers at that level.

Ukraine has not crossed it. Russia is fighting Ukraine directly. The United States and its NATO allies have armed Ukraine, supplied intelligence and supported its defense, but there is no public evidence of sustained direct combat between American and Russian forces. The U.S. intelligence community itself describes the most dangerous Russian threat as an escalatory spiral in Ukraine or another conflict that produces direct hostilities.

Yet the distance between regional war and great-power confrontation is narrowing...

OPINION: We're In That Phase Of The Data Center Rush Where The Corporations Are Fighting

By John L. Smith



An NV Energy lawsuit and continued public pushback are making AI complex developers work for their juicy tax breaks.



Increasingly controversial at both ends of the state, Nevada's data center gold rush is getting more complicated and politically volatile.

Thanks to a rising skepticism from citizen taxpayers, a few critical voices from the state's political class and some pugnacious and [partially redacted litigation](#) filed this week by NV Energy, those pining for a public vetting of this important issue may be starting to see a little daylight.

It rarely pays to say anything nice about a public utility, and I can't quite bring myself to do it now. But NV Energy's [poke-in-the-eye of a lawsuit](#) against Northern Nevada artificial intelligence data center developer Tract certainly spices up what promises to be a long fight for fairness on many fronts.

The utility accuses Tract of attempting to circumvent the Public Utility Commission of Nevada's (PUCN) well-established regulatory process through a private arbitration demand filed June 16 as it presses forward with two projects capable of accommodating the appetite of a major AI technology company the size of, say, Nvidia.

Time appears to be of the essence. In May, [Tract announced](#) through its Fleet Data Centers subsidiary that it had signed a 16.5-year, [triple net lease](#) with a major tenant. NV Energy, meanwhile, has acknowledged that the enormous amount of electricity needed to power current AI data center projects and others in the planning stages will take time and a large investment to service. In the interim, Tract has announced a "temporary" alternative power source in the form of large-scale, privately owned natural gas and diesel generators.

The alternative power source, which generates its own environmental issues, makes me wonder whether the company was moving so fast in the market that it signed a contract before securing the electricity necessary to fulfill it. But that's a subject for another day.

NV Energy argues that, by statute, it is obligated to manage the growth of its infrastructure "responsibly and fairly for all customers." But how do you manage a gold rush?

NV Energy seeks a declaratory judgment and a halt of the demanded arbitration. It calls the PUCN the proper forum for the regulation of electric utilities with the commission duty-bound to protect and serve the public interest as well as provide consumer protection, rate stability and effective long-term planning. In a statement, Tract says its effort to seek pressing private arbitration is justified under its subsidiary's contract with the utility.

Lest anyone is still confused, NV Energy's lawsuit blasts, "The Demand Seeks Regulatory Relief that Only the Commission Can Grant" above a blacked-out redaction.

For its part, Tract is no stranger to the Nevada court system, having successfully entered the state's lucrative data center development picture after tenaciously [defending a lawsuit by in-state rival Switch](#). That's a polite way of saying, this latest legal dispute is only beginning.

It's far from the only dustup on Nevada's data center front.

With 1st Congressional District Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) keen for a fight with the Bureau of Land Management over its chummy decision to [approve a data center project](#) on federal land adjacent to the Boulder City city limits, she and a few

other Nevada elected officials are suggesting substantial changes to the state's generous tax abatements for such projects.

It might make you wonder why more incumbents and challengers are speaking up on this issue. Multiple polls show strong opposition to rapid data center development from registered voters from the two major parties. Some of that opposition appears absolute. Many desire more regulatory transparency, environmental safeguards and protections of water and power resources.

In a [recent article](#) in *Harper's*, Andrew Cockburn offers insight into the ongoing battles over data center development and notes that it's little secret why more elected officials aren't giving voice to their constituents' concerns. Writing about the state of play in Virginia, he observes, "For years, developers and technology companies have enjoyed a hearty welcome from state authorities eager for promised jobs and economic gain." Marching behind a banner of jobs and new technology, those officials accepted generous campaign contributions from developers with an endless fount of funding long after those promises had faded.

Closer to home, one candidate who knows plenty about the law is former state legislator Teresa Benitez-Thompson, now a Democratic candidate for Nevada's deep-red 2nd Congressional District. She told me in an interview earlier this year, "The market itself is providing an incentive that didn't exist in 2015 when a number of those tax abatements were set up," she said. "So, certainly, revisiting the sweetheart deal that they have makes a lot of sense."

It certainly does.

Every Nevada candidate on the 2026 ballot should tell voters where they stand — and with whom.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



On Monday, August 10, Todd Blanche took the oath of office as attorney general, administered by federal appeals court judge Emil Bove, another of Trump's defense lawyers before moving to the Department of Justice, where he was Blanche's top deputy. In that capacity, CNN's Hannah Rabinowitz recalled, he fired career prosecutors and pushed Trump's takeover of the department.

Using Bove to swear in Blanche looked like a victory lap for the Trump team. Although the press was excluded, two other Trump loyalists, FBI director Kash Patel and White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller, attended Blanche's swearing-in.

Retired conservative judge J. Michael Luttig told MS NOW: "Todd Blanche now becomes the symbol of Donald Trump's corruption of the rule of law in America and the actual ruin of the Department of Justice of the United States. This is another shameful act of acquiescence, if not obeisance, by the Senate Republicans; they will bear this badge of shame the rest of their lives.

Never before in American history has an attorney general been confirmed who was as corrupt as Todd Blanche. The Department of Justice is already in shambles."

"And," Luttig added, "he will further ruin the Department of Justice."

As soon as he took office, Blanche issued a memo dramatically expanding executive privilege, which he described as the authority of the president to "withhold certain sensitive information for the public good." Executive privilege has enabled the president to shield conversations with key advisors from public scrutiny with the logic that a president must be able to get a wide range of advice, given freely, by those in the executive branch.

Now, though, the Department of Justice under Blanche says the president can shield "presidential communications with private advisers so long as the communications relate to official presidential decisionmaking." The memo defines as a "private adviser" "anyone the President consults outside the Executive Branch." As John Light of *Talking Points Memo* notes, this definition would enable the White House to defy congressional subpoenas for anyone to whom the president talks.

As Avery Lotz of Axios reports, Democrats had been planning to begin investigations of Trump's corruption if they re-take control of the House and/or the Senate. Recognizing that the White House would stonewall them, they intended to subpoena companies, college officials, and private citizens to testify. The memo, which is not legally binding but which indicates the administration's position, would hamper that effort.

Lotz notes that the administration is already fighting a subpoena in a lawsuit filed by the American Bar Association that orders Trump's senior personal lawyer, Boris Epshteyn, to testify about the deals the Trump administration struck with major law firms early in his second term.

Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA) wrote: "This latest opinion should be seen as a partisan measure to insulate the president and his corrupt activities from Congressional subpoenas when the majority flips."

Thursday was the day that Judge Emmet Sullivan of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia held a status conference in the case of *Phang v. Blanche*. This is a lawsuit brought by independent journalist Katie Phang to force the Department of Justice to produce unredacted versions of documents from the Epstein files that she says were redacted against the explicit instructions in the Epstein Files Transparency Act. With that law, Congress ordered the Department of Justice to release all the files gathered by the FBI investigation into sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein, with redactions only to protect victims, no later than December 19, 2025.

Almost eight months later, the Department of Justice has refused to do so, probably producing about half the files, with many of the documents heavily redacted at the same time that it released some of the victim's names, photographs, and identifying information.

As legal analyst Joyce White Vance explained in her *Civil Discourse*, Phang sued in April for access to an unredacted version of a handful of files, including emails about a "torture video" and sexual activity with girls, as well as notes from FBI interviews with a victim who claims Trump sexually assaulted her when she was 13 and materials in foreign languages, which the Department of Justice has not produced at all. She also asked the Department of Justice to explain why they made the redactions they did, something the law requires but the Justice Department has not done.

In late June, Sullivan granted Phang's request.

But the Department of Justice under then-acting attorney general Todd Blanche, who interviewed Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell shortly before she was transferred to a far less restrictive prison that should have been inaccessible to a sex offender, did not turn over those documents.

So, in July, Sullivan ordered the government to turn over the unredacted documents to him so he could review them himself to see if the decision by the Department of Justice not to release them was correct. Once again, the Department of Justice refused. As for an explanation for why the department hadn't explained the decisions to redact, the Justice Department lawyer told the judge the process was "underway" but couldn't say when it would be done or why translating documents in foreign languages wasn't practical. He claimed the materials the department is withholding are simply duplicates of things that have been released, but offered no proof of that assertion.

Ultimately, as Vance explains, Sullivan asked: ""So you're saying I've learned everything I'm going to learn from the government?" The lawyer for the Department of Justice, Andrew Block, answered: "That's right."

Sullivan wasn't satisfied. "The public has a right to know what the hell is going on in this case. The victims have a right to know. The court has a right to know. The law is still in full force and effect. The court is just ensuring compliance."

To make it clear he was being reasonable, in expectation of a review from a higher court, Sullivan repeatedly told Block he was willing to work with the department, but warned that he had held prosecutors in contempt of court in the past. Sullivan gave Phang's lawyers 10 days to propose an order to deal with the failure of the Department of Justice to comply with his orders to produce the files Phang requested.

The administration is also undermining another popular law. This week, under Trump, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) in the Treasury Department not only ended the registry Congress set up in 2021 over Trump's veto to make shell companies identify their owners, but also destroyed all the data it has already collected.

FinCEN combats money laundering. Congress set up the Corporate Transparency Act after documents leaked to BuzzFeed News and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists in 2020 found that between 1999 and 2017, banks had flagged more than \$2 trillion in potentially laundered money, moved by criminals operating out of Russia, China, Iran, and Syria through shell companies. These are legal entities that don't have physical plants or operations, but can be used for holding and moving money.

Shell companies also meant that the political system in the U.S. was awash in secrecy. "[I]t's illegal for foreigners to contribute to our campaigns," one Democrat reminded Congress in a speech for the bill, "but if you launder your money through a front company with anonymous ownership there is very little we can do to stop you." One of the documents flagged how much Russian money was flowing into the U.S. in 2016 through Deutsche Bank.

The U.S. was the easiest place in the world for criminals to form an anonymous shell company enabling them to launder money, evade taxes, and engage in illegal payoff schemes—Trump's fixer Michael Cohen used a shell company to pay off adult film actress Stormy Daniels to keep her from taking the story of her sexual encounter with Trump public before the 2016 election. So Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act to undercut the shell companies that enabled money laundering in America.

The act required the owners of any company that was not otherwise overseen by the federal government (by filing taxes, for example, or through close regulation) to file a report that identifies each person associated with the company who either owns 25% or more of it or exercises substantial control over it. That report, including name, birth-date, address, and an identifying number, would go to FinCEN. The measure also increased penalties for money laundering and streamlined cooperation between banks and foreign law enforcement authorities.

The plan was to pull the rug out from both domestic and international criminals that take advantage of shell companies to hide from investigators. The measure passed on a bipartisan basis; then-senator Marco Rubio of Florida, now secretary of state, co-sponsored it, calling it the "most significant anti-corruption and money laundering law in decades."

Now the Treasury Department says it will not collect the information the law requires, raising the question of whether the Trump administration is openly refusing to implement a law.



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

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I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
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