

DONKEY TRACKS

MARCH, 2026

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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



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Happy St. Patrick's Day



**"There is no greater
agony than bearing
an untold story
inside you."**

Maya Angelou



President's Message

What a start to a new year!

Thank you all for making reservations for our lunch meetings. Our attendance has been spectacular. Just a reminder that if you haven't renewed your membership for 2026 or if you would like to join, an application can be filled out online at www.womensdemo.com. If you are interested in participating on any committees, please contact us. We love to have our members involved. You bring fresh ideas to our club.



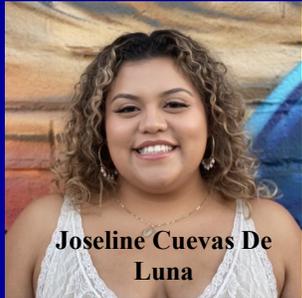


Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



Baby Come Back!

“Rebuilding & Retaining Young Leaders
In The Democratic Party”



Joseline Cuevas De
Luna



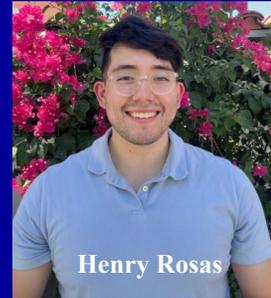
Angelyn Tabalha



Alexiz Jenkins



Natalia Jordan



Henry Rosas

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2026

Place: **Copa Room - 1st Floor**

255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

Go To West Portico - Park Free - If Full, Use Free Parking In Rear Of Hotel

Members = \$35 * Non-Members =
\$40 Pay Online [HERE](#)
If You Plan To Pay At Door
RSVP [HERE](#)

All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



“A Conversation With Congresswoman Susie Lee”



Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026

Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor

255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

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

Extra Parking In Back Lot

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

Members = \$35 * Non-Members =

\$40 Pay Online [HERE](#)

If You Plan To Pay At Door

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All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend

OPINION: He's No Prize: Trump's Ignoble Gestures Reminds Us How Far We've Slipped

By John L. Smith



The MGM Resorts International float during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in downtown Las Vegas on Jan. 15, 2024. (Jeff Scheid/The Nevada Independent)

President Donald Trump spent much of last week [whining](#) about not receiving the Nobel Peace Prize and threatening to steal Greenland. His mewling included a Jan. 18 text to the prime minister of Norway written in a tone reminiscent of a middle school breakup note.

“Considering your country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace,” the head of the most powerful nation in the world wrote, adding that he was still, like, peace’s BFF.

Trump had enough time to attend a football game, but he had to be chided by the press before acknowledging the

life and legacy of a genuine American peacemaker, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

When he took his show on the road to Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum, Trump unleashed a rambling, reckless and racially tinged speech that has many observers calling him out for echoing [White Replacement Theory](#) talking points.

It was [far from the first time](#) Trump has race-baited and gleefully dehumanized immigrants and threatened to deport American citizens who question his actions. His latest diatribe at Davos should have appalled even his most obsequious congressional lackeys, but of course that’s not what happened.

After he finished ridiculing our allies, vilifying immigrants, repeatedly confusing Greenland with Iceland and boasting of his Scottish-German lineage, Trump then backpedaled on the Greenland heist, canceled his latest tariff threat and declared victory.

As if his speech had never happened, he enthused on Truth Social, “Based upon a very productive meeting that I have had with the Secretary General of NATO, Mark Rutte, we have formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region.”

Compare Trump’s diatribe to the [powerful rebuke](#) delivered by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and you’ll be reminded not only of how far Trump has fallen, but also how unimpressed even our best allies are by his bluster and blather. One line that will leave a mark: “Middle powers must act together because if you are not at the table, you are on the menu.”

Another worth remembering: “We should not allow the rise of hard power to blind us to the fact that the power of legitimacy, integrity and rules will remain strong — if we choose to wield it together.”

When it comes to building meaningful alliances, Trump is Nero with a blowtorch. Meanwhile, the country’s economy sputters under his hyperbolic sleight of hand, his [\\$1 billion-a-seat “Board of Peace”](#) side hustle founders, his placations of Russia haven’t slowed aggression against Ukraine and his Justice Department is [holding back 99 percent](#) of the Epstein pedophile investigation files.

In 1964, the same year of his cross-country journey, King [made a brief stop in Las Vegas](#) and brought two audiences to their feet with his clarion call for nonviolent protest and racial justice. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later that year for his tireless dedication to ending racial inequity and improving civil rights in a nation that touts itself as a place where “all men are created equal.”

King accepted the honor on Dec. 10 in Oslo, Norway, in the name of the peaceful movement he inspired and led. His acceptance speech lasted approximately 12 minutes and is well worth [reading](#) and [watching](#). It will remind you who King was — and who Trump is not.

Excerpting King’s words doesn’t do them full justice, but some lines jump off the page:

“Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.”

“I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history.”

“I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.”

Of all the words this lover of peace spoke that day, his final lines are the most apropos for our purposes:

“I think Alfred Nobel would know what I mean when I say that I accept this award in the spirit of a curator of some precious heirloom which he holds in trust for its true owners — all those to whom beauty is truth and truth beauty — and in whose eyes the beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more precious than diamonds or silver or gold.”

Genuine brotherhood and peace more precious than diamonds or silver or gold?

Donald Trump would call such a man a rube.

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.

Memos From Morgan

By Morgan St. James



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE HAS POWER

Opposition

The news cycle grows more bizarre and unbelievable every day. Is there an end in sight?

A new year has begun, but if we expected a fresh start, if we hoped impossible situations would somehow become more normal or believable, the opposite has happened. One thing is certain: the Democratic Party must form a solid front in Congress, and unfortunately, that is not always happening. Republicans, by contrast, hang together whether they believe in an act, bill, or action or not. While that does not reflect integrity, it does demonstrate solidarity, and that unity allows them to barrel through legislation that should be impossible to pass. Our rights and our democracy are collapsing before our eyes.

Venezuela is a prime example. Without Congressional approval, on January 3, 2026, acting on instructions from Donald Trump, the United States conducted an overnight military strike on Venezuela and captured the nation's leader, Nicolás Maduro, and his wife. The operation marked a dramatic escalation after months of rising tensions and U.S. military buildup. That same day, during a news conference, Trump said the United States would "run" Venezuela until "we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition." And somehow, it gets worse.

A \$500 billion deal for Venezuelan oil was announced, with some of the proceeds theoretically going to Venezuela. However, according to a former administration official familiar with the matter, the funds were sent to Qatar rather than being held in U.S. banks or transferred directly to Venezuela. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Newsmax that cash from the oil sales would eventually flow into Venezuela. If Qatar sounds familiar, it should. They "gifted" Trump a \$400 billion jet that he can keep when he leaves office.

Massachusetts Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren responded to Semafor, which first reported the funds going to Qatar, stating: "There is no basis in law for a president to set up an offshore account that he controls so that he can sell assets seized by the American military." Time will tell how this unfolds.

Meanwhile, Nobel Prize winner María Corina Machado "gifted" her medal to Trump in an attempt to gain his favor. He grinned as he accepted the medal he has coveted for so long, but that was the end of it. There was no offer to put her in power. The Nobel Committee later clarified that the medal cannot be transferred or shared. So although Trump now possesses the medal he long desired, she remains the winner, not him.

Now let's turn to ICE.

Never in our lifetime could we have imagined this kind of pseudo-military assault on our country from within. With a budget larger than the entire military budgets of many nations, these goons descend on whichever blue cities are targeted by Trump, Stephen Miller, and Kristi Noem. Armed to the teeth with assault weapons, tear gas, flash bangs, and more, they wear camo or black uniforms, masks, and when deemed necessary, gas masks. They move through neighborhoods in large packs, terrorizing residents, smashing car windows, dragging people from vehicles, and gassing peaceful protesters who are exercising their constitutional right to assemble.

They force their way into homes. They enter schools and shopping malls to seize whomever they target, all without warrants. This bears no resemblance to a legitimate effort to find and deport undocumented immigrants who are criminals, as they continually claim. This is the terrorization of a population simply because they can.

Even murder is not beyond them. Renee Nicole Good was shot in the face by ICE agent Jonathan Ross. Video evidence debunks his claim that she struck him with her car, yet he now alleges internal injuries. She is dead. A GoFundMe page raised over a million dollars for him. This is not justice.

There are judges who are attempting to uphold the law and the Constitution. There are a handful of Republican members of Congress who have dared to say publicly what others admit behind closed doors. But it is not enough, and we cannot wait until November in the hope of a blue tsunami. Public opinion matters. Protests matter. They have already helped. Articles of impeachment against Kristi Noem have been introduced.

But it is time to take the gloves off. Democrats need a strong message and unified, aggressive leadership. We can no longer be the “nice guy.” What we are witnessing



Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES, lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber and has been writing for over twenty years. She has 21 books in publication and over 600 published articles on diverse subjects. Morgan has appeared on radio, podcasts, television and author's panels. Her books include the Silver Sisters Mysteries series co-authored with her real life sister Phyllice Bradner, the Revenge is Fun series, stand-alone novels, the Writers' Tricks of the Trade book and short stories in six Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Morgan co-authored the multi award-winning memoirs: Rob and Cheryl Cuccio's Incest, Murder and a Miracle and Bella Capo's No More Crying Angels.

www.morganstjames-author.com
<http://writerstricksofthetrade.blogspot.com>
[http:// https://morgan-stjames.blogspot.com/](http://https://morgan-stjames.blogspot.com/)

Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



This is not my parents' America, nor is it the one that raised me. We were the protest generation—the 'in-your-face' believers who were convinced, with every fiber of our being, that we were born to change the world. We were the flower children and the experimenters, navigating a whirlwind of history where a 'third option' was always within reach. We had agency. We had a voice. What do we have now that even comes close?

Today, the digital fog of social media and the surge of AI have clouded the collective mind, making it harder to trust even our own eyes. We have traded the warmth of community for the cold hollow of self-promotion. When did inhumanity become the main course on our plates? When did we become numb to the abuse of power—not just in the halls of government, but in the way we treat the person standing right next to us? In this new era, lying has become a dialect and deception is the only game in town.

I am tired, and I am scared. We should all be terrified of the inheritance we are leaving our grandchildren. We are watching the pillars of Democracy and Freedom crumble into ash, handed over to those who seek to incinerate our institutions rather than uphold them.

But I refuse to be a spectator to our downfall. I want to be part of the resurrection. I want to build, not break. I want an America where the color of your skin never dictates your worth, and where the law is a shield for the innocent, not a weapon for the powerful. If you break the law, you pay the price—but you don't get to drag the soul of this country down with you.

It is time to stop documenting our decline and start demanding our ascent. Let us stand side-by-side, sharing the tools we have to dig ourselves out of the mess we allowed to happen. Let us be kinder, more involved, and brave enough to call out a lie the moment it is spoken. Let's reclaim the rule of law, the strength of our Constitution, and the heartbeat of our Democracy. Let's bring America home.



The Legacy of WDC

The Coming Reckoning: How Taxation Without Representation Will Break America

By Brian Daitzman

Taxation without representation. The most powerful political phrase in American history is resurfacing—because the condition it names was never fully resolved.

The United States began not as a true democracy, but as a sectional compromise—an agreement among regions with conflicting economic systems, political priorities, and moral commitments, embedded in institutions deliberately designed to limit direct popular rule.

The Civil War ended secession but not minority rule (*institutional power exercised without majority support*): the capacity of a smaller share of the population to control national power through institutional design. Reconstruction collapsed, and *Plessy v. Ferguson*—a Supreme Court ruling—legally sanctioned racial apartheid, enabling segregation, voter suppression, and political exclusion for nearly a century.

Those mechanisms were not dismantled. They were modernized.

Gerrymandering diluted representation without formally denying the vote. The House of Representatives was effectively locked at 435 members by the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929, ensuring that representation would thin as the population grew. The Electoral College translated these distortions into governing authority, sometimes allowing fewer votes to yield national power. Together with Senate malapportionment and a dense lattice of federal veto points, these structures convert population minorities into durable governing leverage without requiring explicit disenfranchisement.

Under President Donald Trump, these long-standing imbalances have taken on an overtly operational form. Federal power has increasingly been exercised in ways that Democratic-led states argue function as pressure or punishment: the conditional provision of services, the withholding or delay of congressionally authorized funds, and the expanded use of federal law-enforcement and security authorities in American cities. In early 2026, for example, the administration temporarily froze billions of dollars in child-care and family-assistance funding while oversight disputes were litigated, prompting judicial intervention. State officials described the move as politically coercive; the administration characterized it as lawful oversight and antifraud enforcement. Similar disputes over disaster-relief allocations and immigration-related grants have reinforced the perception of conditional governance (*services treated as leverage rather than guaranteed rights*), even as supporters insist these actions fall squarely within executive authority.

When residents of those states continue to pay federal taxes while services are delayed, conditioned, or withdrawn, the resemblance to the original colonial grievance becomes difficult to ignore.

Today, these unresolved structures—minority rule, vote dilution, and conditional governance—are converging again. The result is not merely polarization, but a legitimacy crisis: the most serious institutional stress test of the American political system since the Civil War...



Greetings Clark County Democrats!

I am thrilled to share this Call to Convention for the 2026 Clark County Democratic Party County Convention. [Please view the Call to Convention letter here.](#)

The 2026 Clark County County Democratic Convention will take place on

Saturday, March 28, 2026
9am-4pm
East Las Vegas Community Center
250 N Eastern Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89101

for the purpose of electing Clark County Delegates to the Nevada Democratic Party State Convention, adopting our county platform, seating the new Clark Dems Central Committee, and other organizing business.

Please read the below instructions carefully:



Clark County Convention Attendance form and Clark County Central Committee Member Opt-In:

ALL individuals who wish to attend the County Convention and serve on the Clark Dems Central Committee for the next two year period must submit this form **by March 22, 2026:**

[Clark Dems County Convention sign up and Central Committee Nomination Form](#)

Additionally

Nevada State Democratic Convention Delegate Intent Form

ALL individuals who wish to be a delegate or alternate to the 2026

Nevada Democratic Party State Convention on June 13, 2026 in Las Vegas must **additionally** fill out the [**NV State Democratic Convention Delegate Intent form**](#) by **March 22, 2026**.

**Persons wishing to be elected as a delegate or alternate to the State Convention must be registered Democrats residing within Clark County as of February 1, 2026.*



[Nevada State Democratic Convention Delegate Intent Form: Clark County](#)



If you can, please donate! Clark Dems is a grassroots organization run by Volunteers like YOU. Convention attendance is free to all, but we would be very thankful for a \$26 donation to ring in the 2026 election cycle! If you make it monthly, we'll give you a t-shirt! [Click Here to donate](#)

Hope to see you there!

Ashley Lovell
Chair, Clark County Democratic Party

Sabrina Torres
Recording Secretary, Clark County Democratic Party



Can't wait that long to see us?

We can't either!
Join us at our next event:

Mobilize and Mingle

February 21st
at Sierra Gold
2400 N Buffalo Dr

Join us for a casual evening of community connection and shared Democratic values. Come enjoy food, activities, and prizes! And please, invite your friends! The more the merrier.

[Tickets are \\$15 at this link](#) or at the door.





Greetings Democrats!

Gail Knapp, our amazing Parliamentarian, has officially chosen the dates for the Parliamentarian Course and extended the registration offer to us. Classes are every Sunday from February 15 at 2:00 pm. Please see the flyer below.

Here is the registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ruJdNDXoQd6gXy9AHj7KpQ#/registration>

Please share this email with your Executive Boards, club members, or people you know may be interested. Registration is first come first serve up to 500, and other groups are invited as well.

The dates are:

1. February 15th 2:00pm
2. February 22 2:00pm
3. March 1 2:00pm
4. March 8 2:00pm
5. March 15 2:00pm
6. March 22 2:00pm
7. March 29 2:00pm
8. April 5 2:00pm

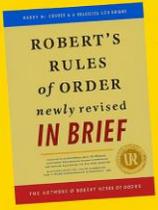
Hope to see you there!
Ashley Lovell

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**REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/ruJdNDXoQd6gXy9A>



THIS BOOK IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE CLASS AND WILL BE REFERENCED THROUGHOUT USE

The DOGE Disaster: One Year Later

Don Moynihan

Elon Musk attacked the appointment of the new head of the New York City's Fire Department, on the grounds that "proven experience matters when lives are at stake" in public services. (Mamdani clapped back, pointing out that the appointee had decades of experience working in emergency services).

It is hard to fathom anyone on the planet less qualified than Elon Musk to opine on the value of public service experience when lives are at stake. And yes, I know that pointing out that Musk is a hypocrite is like pointing out that water is wet. With DOGE, he held extraordinary public power. How did he use it? Across the government Musk put people with zero experience of government services in charge of those services, determining what contracts would be maintained, which employees would stay or go. At one point they fired the guys taking care of nuclear weapons, before rehiring them after some members of Congress got very nervous. Literally hundreds of thousands of people have died because Musk ignored the people with real experience.

So a year on from its creation, its time for a reckoning: What did DOGE do? Lets dig in.

The Effects of DOGE Were Predictable

It is important to distinguish between the formal mission of DOGE ("modernizing federal technology and software to maximize efficiency and productivity") and the reason for its creation. It is especially important to remember that Musk pushed DOGE on Trump, not vice-versa. *DOGE is best understood a political project of an increasingly politically active and right-wing brologarchy.*

The day before Trump took office I laid out out what we might expect from DOGE. I wanted to be hopeful. The idea of DOGE was not a bad one. But having watched Musk cook his brain on social media, and listen to the stated goals of the people sponsoring DOGE, it was hard to maintain such optimism. So my bottom line was this:

Here is a factual description of DOGE: it is a group run by right-wing billionaires who oppose government regulation of their businesses, and benefit from government contracts. It avoids accountability standards that we expect of other groups who seek to influence government. It is not run by people who have a deep knowledge of the function of government, or have much patience with the procedural requirements that flow from laws.

A year later, I feel pretty happy with description. I argued that DOGE would not be like traditional government commission or a sideshow — it would not deliver a report of recommendations that would be summarily ignored. I also argued that DOGE would serve as a propaganda machine to justify an assault on government that would otherwise be deeply unpopular:

Evoking norms like "efficiency" or cutting "fraud and abuse" serves to abstract real cuts to real programs that people depend upon. But with a sophisticated enough messaging operation, maybe you can change the policy before enough people realize what has been taken from them.

Again, this proved fairly accurate. DOGE immediately promised to cut fraud in government. This proved to be a mirage, used to justify cutting services while reducing trust in government. It turns out that 40% of calls to Social Security were not fraudulent and armies of the dead were not collecting benefits. US AID was not distributing condoms to Hamas. Such claims were grounded in internet rumors, fueled by the man who controlled the means to amplify those rumors.

When a case of actual, albeit exaggerated, fraud arose in Minnesota, Musk, Vance and Trump jumped right back on the bandwagon, using it to stop payments to other safety net programs in other states. In this way, what is happening to many public services is what happened to US AID, and what DOGE tried to do across government: claim fraud, cut services.

DOGE as State Capture

My main prediction about DOGE is that it would operate as a form of state capture: a means by which the owner class of Silicon Valley protected their businesses, as well as created new business opportunities to work with government. Their major business complaint against Biden was that he was regulating the growth of crypto currencies and AI. For example, Marc Andreessen's explanation for supporting Trump was: "They just ran this incredible terror campaign to try to kill crypto. Then they were ramping up a similar campaign to try to kill AI. That's really when we knew that we had to really get involved in politics."

To assess the evidence, we need to look not just at DOGE but also the broader tech coalition that lined up behind Trump and benefited from his election. Some of this coalition appears to be opportunistic, seeing the alignment as primarily a business move, while others, like Musk, Peter Thiel, or Marc Andreessen, who were more involved in setting up DOGE, seem to be true believers. Let's take a couple of data points on their gains:

- **Crypto:** Trump has reversed course from Biden-era regulation, writing an executive order to encourage and deregulate crypto, creating a strategic Bitcoin Reserve and a U.S. Digital Asset Stockpile. Enforcement cases have been largely dropped. Pro-crypto legislation has been passed. Banking regulations have been reversed. In short, the industry got everything it wanted. And yet—for all these sweeping changes—the perception of crypto as a questionable, even illegitimate industry lingers. Not so long ago, Trump himself dismissed crypto as "a scam." His recent embrace of the sector seems transparently connected to broadening his political coalition, and leveraging his position to ensure his family would make billions.
- **AI offers tech leaders another victory.** Trump again revoked Biden era regulations, and also blocked state regulation. He has also green-lit the use of AI within government, with DOGE leading the push. While AI offers less obvious means of corruption than Crypto, the competition between the key players in the US allows Trump to run a mini-Apprentice style competition for his favor. For example, the co-founder of OpenAI recently made a \$25 million donation to Trump's PAC.
- **Overseas regulation:** Having defeated American regulation, the brologarchy would like Trump to use state power to advance their business interests elsewhere, like a latter-day East India Trading Company dependent on the coercive power of the British Empire. The U.S. has sanctioned and imposed travel bans on Europeans engaged in tech regulations or drawing attention to online radicalization, a treatment normally reserved for gangsters and dictators. When X was fined for violating E.U. regulations, the U.S. threatened to fine European companies and to upend trade agreements. At one point, JD Vance said that US support for NATO could be pulled because of European countries regulation of Musk's companies.
- **Foreign opportunities:** If the comparison with the East India Trading Company sound outlandish, consider also that key members of the tech coalition have been encouraging and stand to profit from Trump's efforts to capture Greenland. Key parts of the brologarchy are openly pro-imperialist and see U.S. territorial expansion as a way to pursue their vision of "network states" free of government oversight.
- **Key allies and contracts:** Across government, you can see the new political power of Silicon Valley reflected in appointments. Whereas in an earlier era, they typically came in to provide advice on science and technology issues, or to modernize government, many more now are running core parts of government. David Sacks, an ally of Musk and Andreessen, was appointed as a special advisor on crypto. An Andreessen employee, Scott Kupor, runs federal government personnel. A

former Palantir executive is the Chief Information Officer at OMB. Another Musk ally heads NASA, an area where Musk has critical interests.

Silicon Valley sees the federal government as a potential goldmine of new contracts as it pivots increasingly to national security. But who is capturing who? After Musk threatened to expose Trump's connection to the Epstein files and start his own political party, Trump directly threatened Musk's government contracts and businesses. Musk deleted his posts, pledged to keep supporting Republicans financially, and continues to use his platform to advance Trump's agenda. It was a reminder that the richest man in the world is now just one of many brologarchs, allowed to amass a fortune with government help as long as he remains loyal. This is the system they have traded for.

It would be too much to say that DOGE facilitated all of these outcomes, and there is much we do not know about its inner workings. But I do think it is reasonable to say the coalition that pushed DOGE has mostly gotten what it wanted, and that DOGE was part of its ability to establish influence. How much pushback could the DOGE alliance face in an atmosphere where it had the power to remove dissenting voices from government?

But what about the rest of us? Musk described the explosion of one of his space rockets as a "rapid unscheduled disassembly." He did the same with your government.

Inside Trump's Plan To Nationalize Elections

By Frank Figluzzi



DNI Tulsi Gabbard reemerges after months and has a dangerous new role in Trump's election power grab.

On Monday, Trump told podcaster Dan Bongino that Republicans should nationalize the elections. And now we know that Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard is the point person for this assault on democracy.

Her new gig includes a pop-up appearance at an FBI search warrant in Georgia, hanging with agents at the Bureau's Atlanta field office, and hitting up President Trump on her cell phone so he could thank what must have been a bewildered squad of agents for doing his bidding. Now, with Trump's declaration to Bongino, it's clearer than ever that this is all part of a corrupt plan by an authoritarian president to take over our elections.

Gabbard's been serving as President Trump's DNI, leading the entire U.S. intelligence community by coordinating foreign intel collection, analysis and counterintelligence across 18 different agencies. As DNI, she's supposed to ensure the White House receives the most accurate and useful analysis of global developments so policy makers, especially the president, can make smart decisions in the national interest. Yet Gabbard was apparently, in government parlance, under assigned. Now the conspiracy queen with a penchant for dictators seems awfully busy trying to enable a wannabe dictator.

Last week, we learned that the DNI, who has no criminal investigative authority, spent the last several months looking for election fraud in the 2020 presidential election. We're told that is why she showed up at a Fulton County, Georgia, election facility with the FBI as they executed a court-authorized search to seize all voting ballots and records related to the 2020 presidential election. Understandably, Gabbard's new gig, and the discovery that Trump ordered her to Atlanta, drew instant concerns and ominous warnings about what this means for the future of free and fair elections America.

Senator Mark Warner (D-Va.), Vice Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, stated: "The involvement of the director of national intelligence in a domestic criminal matter — far outside her statutory role — only deepens those concerns and demands immediate scrutiny."

The concerns are valid, and not just because the DNI is involved. In his recent trip to Davos, Trump pronounced to world leaders there that "people will soon be prosecuted" for their role in the 2020 election. How does he know that unless the fix is in, despite any known grand jury indictments or arrests?

Outrageously, the president is directing Gabbard by her own admission and even personally addressing FBI field agents as part of a delusional doubling down on a fantastical quest to overturn his election loss.

The DNI must know that in the Georgia election every ballot was cast on paper, those paper ballots were counted three times, three different ways, including once entirely by hand, and with observers from both candidates and their parties. The vote tally never changed. The election was certified by Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a Republican. The courts rejected every attempt by Trump to challenge the results. So, we must ask, now that Trump has admitted he wants to nationalize the elections in at least 15 places, how might he go about it?

In December 2025, Fulton County officials conceded that they found 315,000 unsigned tabulator tapes in the 2020 election. Those are the paper receipts generated when someone votes – and each of them is supposed to be signed by poll workers. But a lot weren't. That doesn't indicate fraud; it doesn't mean 315,000 people didn't vote or didn't vote for the candidates they intended. Likely, it means poll workers were sloppy, overworked or untrained. In fact, Georgia Secretary of State Raffensperger characterized this as a clerical error that would not have impacted the election outcome. Nevertheless, expect Trump and his DNI to pick up this snafu and run with it by alleging that Georgia is incapable of overseeing its elections. That's what I fear the Fulton County FBI spectacle is really about – not the 2020 election, but the next one. Not just in Georgia, but nationwide.

America's elections are – by design, administered by the states, not the federal government. For many people, here and abroad, that might sound unwieldy and even chaotic. Why would we have 50 different entities administering an election, particularly when it involves national office? But there is method to the madness. Constitutionally, Congress is empowered with setting basic standards for elections, while the states are authorized to carry out those elections. This check and balance prevents a single point of failure, or corruption, if the federal government were to run the whole show. Remarkably, despite so many cooks in the proverbial kitchen, the broth doesn't get spoiled. Fraud is surprisingly rare.

Fulton County is just the start of a likely Trump strategy to declare that states can no longer be trusted to carry out national elections. He'll use DNI Gabbard and other henchmen to "find" fraud where it doesn't exist and cast doubt in the minds of American voters about whether they should even bother voting. That could lead to voting machines being seized by the military or by US Marshals, particularly in places where Trump can find a willing Republican governor, U.S. Attorney, or district court judge. It would also lead to chaos at polling places.

Yes, such attempts will face withering court challenges all the way to the Supreme Court. Fulton County has already stated it is suing over the FBI's seizure of all of the county's ballots. But by the time each attempt by Trump to turn our democracy into a dictatorship is challenged in court and makes its way to the highest court in the land, what will be left of an election process that has long been the envy of the world?

Do I believe the judicial branch will hold strong under this assault? I think so. But, would you want to bet on this Supreme Court doing the right thing?

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



Tens of thousands of Minnesotans took to the streets today in bitter cold temperatures with wind chills of -20°F (-28°C) to protest the occupation of Minneapolis and St. Paul by federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Status Coup News interviewed a protester walking down the street holding a sign that said: “CLASSIC NAZI BLUNDER: INVADING IN WINTER.”

The protester compared ICE agents to the Ku Klux Klan, noting that both wore masks and raided immigrant communities. He went on: “You know, there’s like all this talk of revolution. We’re the counterrevolutionaries, right?”

He explained: “[T]here is a minority who is trying to create a post-law, orderless, lawless society, where their might makes right. And because, you know, they have guns and are willing to use them, they think they can suspend the Constitution, suspend habeas corpus..., suspend civil liberties, generally speaking.”

He continued: “[T]here was a memo that came out that said that they think they can break into people’s houses without warrants, you know, basically just like, trust us, which is, you know, fundamentally against the Fourth Amendment. And so if you look at the amendments, I mean, they’re trying to tear it down the First, they’ve gassed people, they’ve shot people, you know, hit people with beanbag guns and batons for exercising their First Amendment rights, they don’t want people to, you know, exercise their Second Amendment rights, and certainly their Fourth, but also the Fourteenth, you know, basically, they’re attacking the whole Constitution.”

In his assertion that the Trump administration is engaged in a radical attempt to remake the American government while those trying to stop them are protecting our traditional government, the Minnesota protester was echoing another midwesterner from our history who also had to contend with a minority that had seized control of the federal government and was trying to rewrite the history of the United States of America to justify using the government to enrich themselves.

On February 27, 1860, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois spoke at New York City’s Cooper Union.

Five years before, in his controversial annual message of December 1855, Democratic president Franklin Pierce had ignored the Declaration of Independence and, in service to the elite southern enslavers who ran the Democratic party, retold the founding of the United States as a republic of “free white men.” The rights and privileges of belonging to that republic did not include “the subject races” of Indigenous or Black Americans, the president said.

He called out as fanatics and partisans those northerners, living in free states, who obeyed state free laws and protected enslaved Americans who had escaped from the South. They were radicals who rejected the federal law

demanding their return to their enslavers. Even worse, they opposed the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act that overturned the 1820 Missouri Compromise prohibiting the spread of human enslavement to the American West.

At Cooper Union, Lincoln rejected Pierce's rewriting of American history. He also retold the history of America. In his version, though, that history was one in which the Founders opposed enslavement and those who stood against those trying to create a white man's republic were the nation's true counterrevolutionaries.

Resting his vision on the Declaration of Independence, the nation's foundational document, he defended the principle of human equality and told Democrats: "[Y]ou say you are conservative—eminently conservative—while we are revolutionary, destructive, or something of the sort. What is conservatism? Is it not adherence to the old and tried, against the new and untried? We stick to, contend for, the identical old policy on the point in controversy which was adopted by 'our fathers who framed the Government under which we live;' while you with one accord...spit upon that old policy, and insist upon substituting something new.... Not one of all your various plans can show a precedent or an advocate in the century within which our Government originated."

Lincoln was on solid historical ground when he reminded Americans of his era that those trying to impose a new system of white nationalist oligarchy on the nation were the true radicals, while those defending equality were conservatives.

The colonists who threw off the rule of King George III also stood firmly on the idea that they were protecting long-standing principles of self-government that British officials were trying to replace with tyranny. In the Declaration of Independence, the Founders called out "a long train of abuses and usurpations [that] evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

After enumerating the many ways in which the king had usurped the powers of Englishmen that had been established over centuries, beginning with the 1215 signing of the Magna Carta, the Founders launched a new nation. And then, when the Framers wrote a constitution for that new nation, they were careful to place within it a bill of rights to protect Americans from the rise of another tyrant.

Now the Trump administration is made up of radicals who are ignoring that Constitution and that Bill of Rights in their open attempt to create a white nationalist nation.

The man on the streets of Minneapolis today was right to call out the administration's assault on the First Amendment that protects freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right of people peaceably to assemble.

Thanks to an unsealed State Department memo, we learned today that the administration revoked the visa of Tufts University student Rümeyşa Öztürk and detained her for six weeks solely because she co-authored an op-ed in the student newspaper calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The administration concluded that her op-ed "may undermine U.S. foreign policy by creating a hostile environment for Jewish students and indicating support for a designated terrorist organization."

ICE agents arrived in Maine this week, and one took pictures of a legal observer's car, prompting her to remind him that it is legal to record their actions and to ask why he was taking her information. He answered: "'Cause we have a nice little database and now you're considered a domestic terrorist." He appeared to be referring to Trump's September 25, 2025, memo NSPM-7 that describes opposition to the administration's policies—opposition protected by the First Amendment—as "domestic terrorism."

Rachel Levinson-Waldman of the Brennan Center noted that this dramatic expansion of the legal framework for domestic terrorism appears to be the administration's argument for suggesting Renee Good was a domestic terrorist after ICE agent Jonathan Ross killed her. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem falsely claimed that Good tried to run over Ross, calling it "an act of domestic terrorism," and Vice President J.D. Vance suggested that protesters are engaging in "domestic terror techniques."

But, as Levinson-Waldman explains, domestic terrorism has a specific definition in the law: actions that are dangerous to human life, violate criminal law, appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, or to influence the government by intimidation or coercion, and occur primarily in the U.S. "To actually be called a 'domestic terrorist,'" she writes, "an individual must commit one or more of 51 underlying 'federal crimes of terrorism,'" which involve nuclear or chemical weapons, plastic explosives, air piracy, and so on.

The Minneapolis protester was right about the administration's assault on the Fourth Amendment as well. On Wednesday, Rebecca Santana of the Associated Press reported that ICE has been breaking into homes under the authority provided by a secret memo of May 12, 2025, signed by the acting director of ICE, Todd Lyons, saying that federal agents do not need a judge's warrant to force their way into people's homes.

This is a direct assault on the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which says the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated," and establishes that the government can violate those rights only after a judge agrees there is probable cause of a crime and signs a warrant.

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) warned: "Every American should be terrified by this secret ICE policy authorizing its agents to kick down your door & storm into your home. It is an unlawful & morally repugnant policy that exemplifies the kinds of dangerous, disgraceful abuses America is seeing in real time. In our democracy, with vanishingly rare exceptions, the government is barred from breaking into your home without approval from a real judge. Government agents have no right to ransack your bedroom or terrorize your kids on a whim or personal desire."

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The Minnesota protester was also right to call out the administration's assault on the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees that no state shall "deprive any person"—not citizen, but person—"of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." It is this principle that is at the heart of the challenges to the administration's rendering of immigrants to foreign countries without due process.

Instead of rooting itself in the real history of the United States of America, Ali Breland of *The Atlantic* noted on Wednesday, the Trump administration is embracing Nazi propaganda, trying to convince Americans that the nation's roots are not in human equality but in the hierarchical system of European fascism. Rejecting the idea of liberty and equality proposed in the Declaration of Independence and defended by people like Abraham Lincoln as the nation's foundational principle, they are trying to define the United States of America in an entirely new way: one made up of white Protestants who, in their minds, "belong" to the land here. Rather than a nation based in ideals, they want a nation based in "blood and soil."

In the 1770s, and again in the 1850s, everyday Americans recognized the radicalism of those extremists who were trying to erase the nation's principles and the rule of law, ignoring the longstanding rights of the people to liberty and equality and instead trying to impose a despotism.

Today a protester in Minneapolis, one of those tens of thousands who filled the streets in below-zero weather to demand that ICE end its violent occupation of their city and its abuse of immigrants and people of color, made it clear that Americans in 2026 still believe in the nation's founding principles of equality and the rule of law, and they utterly reject the right wing's blood-and-soil radicalism.

OPINION: Holding Out Hope For Nevada's Most Woebegone Lake

By John L. Smith



The storm billowed and boiled ahead of us as we drove north on U.S. Route 95. By the time we reached Hawthorne in parched Mineral County, snow-shrouded Mount Grant loomed like an ice fortress above tempestuous Walker Lake. With its jade shallows and angry blue depths trimmed in whitecaps, the lake made a spectacular sight. My wife, Sally, and I travel this road often and never cease to be wowed by the ever-changing panorama of the ancient reminder of Pleistocene-era Lake Lahontan and the receded inland sea. Every time we skirt it, we are reminded that the driest state in the union continues to deplete and poison its own precious water resources.

Flanked by the Wassuk Range, [Walker Lake is stunning](#), shrinking — and very near dead. It is fed more in theory than reality by the Walker River, which winds from the Sierra Nevada east through some of the state's increasingly corporate farming communities. Thanks to more than a century of over-appropriation and ever-increasing demand, the [damaged river](#) exhausts itself in what's been described as “an ooze of mud” as it seeps into a terminal lake whose waterline has dropped more than 150 feet in little more than a century.

Rumors of its death aren't exaggerated, but this generational tragedy implicates many co-conspirators. As we were passing through, we were so distracted by the lake that we nearly missed the turn for The Bighorn Crossing, a [sagebrush café](#) and convenience store that serves the best food for many miles in every direction. It is there we met its proud proprietor, Tony Ruse, who just may be the most optimistic man in Nevada.

After all, Ruse believes woebegone Walker Lake, as beautiful as it is biologically bereft, can make a comeback. He appears to be betting everything on that long shot after turning a shuttered bait and tackle shop into the Bighorn, which has been [celebrated](#) for its remarkable cuisine.

Many environmental scientists might not agree with Ruse's heartfelt hunch. Nevada's own history of resource exploitation stacks long odds against such an ecological feat. A newcomer to this fight, Ruse has kindred spirits in the members of the Walker Lake Working Group, addressing the outsized problem since the 1980s, and the [Walker Lake Paiute Tribe](#), witnesses to the depletion and desecration of its sacred waters for generations.

Ruse took a circuitous route back to Hawthorne after graduating from Mineral County High School in 1986. He traveled widely in Europe and Asia, where he studied and worked with hotel and restaurant operators in Switzerland and South Korea. (That explains why the café's menu includes Korean barbecue and grilled salmon with wasabi aioli along with its formidable burgers.)

When Ruse returned, he saw much had changed, but not for the better.

“I graduated from this area and had friends and family here,” he says. “I was dismayed at how poorly Mineral County was doing compared to the rest of Nevada, and also how Walker Lake had shrunk. The fishing was gone, and the boating was gone, and the economy was gone. I remember restaurants being here, motels being here, fishing and boat races being here. All of that was here and it was all gone now. ... To see this place run-down as much as it was, I just felt really bad.”

He converted the careworn former tackle shop (which he recalled opened the year he graduated high school) into the Bighorn, and these days his activism includes a seat on the [Mineral County Commission](#). After a recent conversation with him, I suspect it's Walker Lake that's always on his mind.

"Walker Lake is a million-year-old native lake (that's) absolutely ... part of Nevada, part of our identity and nobody seemed to care — especially on the state level," Ruse says. "Like, why do we not have a license plate? ... We've lost over seven species of fish, is my understanding. ... The loons are gone. Many species of birds are gone. We have no idea, actually, what we've lost. Nobody here is taking an account of the situation from the state.

"People consider this just a Hawthorne or a Mineral County problem. I say it isn't. It's a state of Nevada problem." Ruse and others like him believe Walker Lake needs the support of those with the political clout and social conscience necessary to resuscitate it. That's a lot to ask in Nevada. Even with such an unlikely confluence of like-mindedness in polarized times, it would take many years to nurse back to health.

But, he asks, if a precious water resource in the nation's driest state isn't worth preserving, then what is?

"You come over and you look and you see that Hawthorne is doing so poorly," he says. "The village of Walker Lake is almost nonexistent. We are the only business on the lake and we are struggling to stay here because of just the lack of reasons to stop. But I'm going down with the ship."

Some will write off the plight of Walker Lake as another poisoned waterhole in a land that can ill afford the loss. I'm on the side of those who believe there must be a way to balance the interests of a greater good with expanded farming and long neglect.

Nearby Hawthorne has long been known for its patriotic celebrations and behemoth U.S. Army ammunition depot. A healthy Walker Lake would rejuvenate more than water and wildlife; it would recharge a windswept county in a place that fast-growing Nevada has largely forgotten.

Surely posterity would smile upon a town that one day celebrates the return of Walker Lake to an ecosystem that supports fish and migratory fowl, a place we cherish as more than a dazzling still life in the cold Nevada desert.

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.

Good bye Cronkite. Hello Trump.

By Jennifer Schulze

The new owners of CBS and their handpicked propagandist are all-in on a MAGA makeover — eager to spin, spike, and edit (or not) news content to keep Trump happy.

Forget Bari Weiss. Ignore David Ellison and his zillionaire father, Larry. Tony Dukoupil? Please. Donald Trump is the one calling the shots at CBS News.

With stunning speed, the storied mainstream news network jettisoned editorial independence, reputation, and hard-earned trust. To make Trump happy, CBS now behaves more like state-TV in Russia, Iran, and North Korea where a government strongman controls the message. Yes, Fox, Newsmax, Twitter and other MAGA media outlets are also proudly spewing Trump propaganda 24/7. But now it's quickly and intentionally becoming a part of CBS News, too. Recent examples abound:

- [Putting a Trump-friendly, unverified story out about 'internal bleeding' injuries to the ICE officer who shot Renee Good.](#)
- [Agreeing not to edit a Trump interview after being threatened with a lawsuit](#) (and leaving news coverage of that threat to other news outlets)
- [Burying the damaging 60 Minutes piece on the Trump administrations use of the CECOT torture prison](#)
- [Emphasizing Trump's false version of January 6th](#)
- [Asking softball questions of Trump officials](#)
- [Doing an awkward on-air salute to Secretary of State Marco Rubio](#)

It won't stop there.

The new owners of CBS and their handpicked propagandist are all-in on making CBS into a pro-Trump outlet, eager to spin, spike, and edit (or not) news content.

Trump wanted a team he could trust to do his dirty work, and he couldn't have found a more compatible bunch to dismantle the nearly 100 year-old-fact based news organization once known for reporting some of the nation's biggest stories with honesty and depth.

News is not the Ellisons' business. But they do have a lot of businesses. Businesses that benefit from government favor. I can almost hear the conversation in one of their many mansions. What do you give a President who has everything? And just like that, CBS news ended up in a box with a cute

ribbon. Next thing you know, Trump forces the sale of TikTok to the Ellisons and a whole lot more is now on the table.

The Bari Weiss Wrecking Ball

MAGA-coded Bari Weiss is Ellison's perfect accomplice. Journalist Elizabeth Spiers [describes Weiss](#) as a designated courtier, a feckless water carrier for the 1-percent and someone who is "producing a line of propaganda masquerading as news coverage that serves the interest of her patrons—in this case, David Ellison, whose interests are served by protecting Donald Trump." Add that to Weiss' news-free resume and a career built on a visceral hatred of mainstream news media (including CBS News) and you can see how burning down the house of Murrow, Cronkite, Couric and Stahl is right up her alley.

It also helps that she has gained serious MAGA cred for her support of Trump. Anyone who fell for the feint that Weiss was "politically homeless" has not been paying attention. Journalist Matt Johnson did an [excellent deep dive](#) into Weiss and calls her *Free Press* blog a "more artful and less shrill version of the anti-woke alarmism that permeates the right-wing media ecosystem."

Happy Birthday



MARCH

**Cecia Alvarado
Amy Ayoub
Marilyn Caston
Hon. Carolyn Ellsworth
Kathy Carlson
Dwayne Chesnut
Leaha Crawford
Jennifer Gibbs
Ruth Harper
Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Lori Lamson
Linda Morales-Kennon
Deidra Radford**

APRIL

**Venicia Considine
Michelle Gorelow
Judge Belinda Harris
County Assessor Briana Johnson
Senator Roberta Lange
Lisa Levine
Ashley Lovell
Connie Munk
Debra Ochoa
Judge Danielle Pieper
Marta Schmitt
Sherry Strothers
Jennifer Valesquez**

Ice Was Built To Go Rohue. Trump Just Took The Leash Off.

By Kristoffer Ealy

Kristoffer Ealy is a political scientist, political analyst, and professor in Southern California. He teaches American Government and political behavior, with a focus on political psychology, voting behavior, and political socialization.



So right on cue—for the second week in a row—I’m back at my keyboard making a last-minute edit because federal immigration enforcement has killed another person in Minnesota.

Alex Jeffrey Pretti is dead after being shot by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis, and the first thing the Trump administration did—again—was roll out a version of events that asks you to ignore your own eyes. The official line leans on “self-defense,” but video, eyewitness accounts, and even Gov. Tim Walz’s reaction after reviewing footage point in a very different direction. This is the part where I’m supposed to pretend the truth is unknowable, that we all just need to “wait for more information,” while the spin machine gets a head start. I’m going to write about this in fuller detail soon.

I saw that USA Today headline about Renée Good’s father being a Trump fan, and I had the same reaction a lot of you probably did: Wait... so now we’re doing character witness updates for the dead? And that little detail—who her father liked, who he voted for, what bumper stickers were on his car—shouldn’t matter at all. A woman is still dead. An ICE agent still pulled the trigger. But the headline made one thing painfully clear: the way Washington talks about ICE depends on whether the victims can be framed as “acceptable,” “relatable,” or conveniently adjacent to somebody’s political tribe. That’s not public safety. That’s PR triage.

And it got me thinking about the centrist framing I keep hearing: “What ICE is doing right now is really, really bad ... but we shouldn’t ‘abolish’ ICE.” I’ve heard versions of it from the center, from cable news types, and—if we’re being honest—from some Democrats who keep treating ICE like it’s a basically normal agency that is merely having a rough patch. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, for example, urged Trump to pull ICE agents out of U.S. cities after the Minneapolis killing, warning that raids were “terrorizing communities” and were dangerous. But even in that posture—condemn the tactics, plead for a pullback—you can still feel the carefulness, the reluctance to say the obvious part out loud: this agency has been a problem on purpose for a long time. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries has used the language of “major reform” for ICE and DHS in recent comments, which is at least an acknowledgment that something is deeply wrong—but it also quietly smuggles in the idea that the core thing is fine if we just tweak the knobs.

If you’ve been following me from before *Lincoln Square*, before I became a Substack bestseller, you already know this about me: I am not a fan of ICE. Never have been. Never will be. I wrote about what ICE did in Los Angeles during Trump’s first term years ago, and I didn’t “discover” the agency’s cruelty in 2026 like it’s a new hobby. I’m consistent on this because ICE has been consistently what it is.

And here's the piece Democrats—especially the “let's be reasonable” wing—seem to be having a hard time swallowing: Donald Trump didn't get into the White House and magically transform a respectable agency into a trash organization. What Trump did was take a trash organization and, through the miracle of Trump magic pixie dust, make it worse—louder, more reckless, more performative, more trigger-happy, more indifferent to consequences. The difference is not that Bush-era ICE was “good” and Trump-era ICE “went rogue.” The difference is that one era wrapped the cruelty in bureaucratic restraint, and the other era treats cruelty like a campaign rally.

So when we talk about ICE's origins, we have to tell the truth plainly: ICE was founded under George W. Bush. I know a lot of people in Washington don't love saying that out loud, because next to Trump, Bush gets repackaged as a choir boy—like the only thing he ever did wrong was mispronounce “nuclear” and look confused at a door handle. However, a lot of evil came out of that administration: the catastrophic failures surrounding 9/11, the forever-war machinery that followed, the unnecessary Iraq War that even many of the people who sold it now admit was based on lies or fantasy-grade intelligence, and the cultural permission structure that allowed Middle Easterners, South Asians, Sikhs, and anybody who looked “close enough” to be treated like walking probable cause.

And yes, the public justification was “stopping terrorism.” I'm not naïve about the reality that nation-states have to monitor threats. But the Bush-era “security” posture also functioned as a license to racially profile—with a straight face, in a suit, with a flag pin, and with the kind of polite language that lets cable news hosts nod along like they're discussing zoning laws.

One of the clearest examples—one that matters for this ICE origin story—is NSEERS: the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System. This was the “special registration” program created after 9/11 that required certain noncitizen men and boys (ages 16 and up) from designated countries to register, be fingerprinted, photographed, and repeatedly report to the government. It overwhelmingly targeted people from Muslim-majority countries and the broader Middle East/North Africa region. The results were as ugly as you'd expect: tens of thousands complied, thousands were placed into removal proceedings, families were disrupted—and the program became infamous not for catching terrorists, but for sweeping up people on technicalities and targeting communities based on nationality and religion. Even years later, immigrant-rights organizations and civil liberties groups pointed to the same bottom line: NSEERS produced fear and deportations, not meaningful counterterrorism success.

That matters because it's part of the blueprint. The potential for ICE to become what it is right now was always there. It's been there from inception. And the truly uncomfortable truth—yes, fact-checking included—is that ICE did not appear in a vacuum where only Republicans signed the paperwork and everybody else was asleep at the wheel. ICE came into existence through the creation of the Department of Homeland Security after 9/11. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 passed with bipartisan votes: the Senate passed it 90–9, and the House passed it 295–132. That means some Democrats, in the political climate of the time, gave the greenlight for the DHS mega-structure that ICE would live inside. People can argue about intent, fear, public pressure, and the emotional reality of that moment in American history—and I'll even grant that plenty of lawmakers were acting out of panic, not malice. But “panic” is not a magic eraser. We're all coming to terms with the downstream consequences now.

And here's where the centrist nostalgia kicks in. Because a lot of traditional Democrats—and especially the ones who socialize with the Georgetown Republican class—are friends with Bush-world people, or at least friends with the idea of Bush as a “normal” Republican. Some of them long for the days when Bush was the worst Republicans had to offer, because it was easier to argue with that kind of evil. It was evil that still cared about the optics of being seen as evil.

That's the real difference between Bush and Trump, and frankly between Trump and most Republicans in D.C.: they knew the art of subtlety. Be cruel, but not too obviously cruel. Put in policies that disproportionately hammer brown communities, but also tell them, "Hey, if you're good and you come the 'right way,' you can still be part of the American dream." Make them audition for their humanity. Make them perform gratitude. Make citizenship feel like a reality show where the prize is not being treated like a threat.

Republicans have said the quiet part out loud for decades when they thought it was politically useful. The quote that gets repeated—often attributed to Reagan—is some version of "Hispanics are Republicans; they just don't know it yet." The cleanest way to state this without mangling attribution is: it's widely credited to Reagan-era Latino outreach lore and often connected to Reagan's strategist Lionel Sosa recounting the sentiment, even when the exact phrasing and provenance get messy. The point isn't whether Reagan said it into a microphone with a teleprompter behind him. The point is the strategy it represents: hurt you with policy, flatter you with rhetoric, and then act shocked when you notice you're bleeding.

Trump doesn't do subtlety. Trump doesn't do the "come the right way" pantomime as anything more than a prop. He does domination. He does spectacle. He does the kind of state violence that wants to be filmed because it plays well on the internet. Which brings us back to Renée Good.

When the killing happened in Minneapolis on January 7, the early posture from the Trump administration and its allies leaned into the familiar playbook: treat the victim like a threat, justify the use of force as inevitable, frame the agent as the endangered hero doing a dangerous job. Then the story developed, more reporting came out, and the public outrage didn't evaporate on schedule. And suddenly we get this pivot: Trump publicly suggesting that ICE agents will "make mistakes."

2025



January

Ashley Delobel
Claudia Fabian
Attorney General Aaron Ford
Harriet Goldstein
Amanda Klein
Matt Lay
Denise Wright

February

Marilyn Caston
Judge Tara Clark-Newberrrt
Carol Nerby

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December 2025

Cecia Alvarado
Jan Biggerstaff
Elizabeth Taylor
Ann Underdahl

Trump Could Interfere With The Midterm Elections. You Can Help Defend Them.

By The Editorial Board Of The NY Times



Election integrity in the United States can be a fraught subject. Merely raising the prospect that a future election might be compromised makes many democracy experts uncomfortable. It can undermine faith in our reliable, well-run election system and amplify the false claims about fraud that often come from President Trump. Even people who respect the sanctity of elections sometimes malign them. Many Democrats, for example, have wrongly suggested that voter-identification laws undermine the system by causing large declines in turnout.

In truth, American elections have never been more reliable or accessible. For every election, thousands of principled election officials painstakingly update voter rolls, mail information to households, train poll workers, oversee voting and transport ballots with a documented chain of custody. Voter fraud is extremely rare, and voter turnout in the past two presidential elections reached higher levels than in any other over the previous century.

Yet it would be naïve to assume that the status quo is guaranteed to continue. The sanctity of the 2026 elections is indeed under threat. And the reason is Mr. Trump.

He has repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to interfere with elections to benefit himself and his party. He has broken the law to do so and broken longstanding bipartisan traditions. Since he entered politics a decade ago, he has suggested that election outcomes are fair only if his side wins. In 2020, after he lost the presidential election, he attempted to direct a sprawling conspiracy to overturn the result. As it was failing (thanks to the honesty of election administrators from both parties), he encouraged protesters to march to Congress when it was meeting to certify his defeat — and later celebrated their violent attack.

Since he returned to the presidency last year, he has if anything shown a willingness to go further. He has pushed for extreme gerrymandering of congressional districts, outside the normal 10-year cycle, to help Republicans hold the House even if most voters want them out. His Justice Department is building an unprecedented database of voter information that experts fear the administration may use to cast unfair doubt on voters' eligibility. He signed a legally dubious executive order that could force states to reject some mail-in ballots. He

recently told The Times that he regretted not sending the National Guard to seize voting machines after the 2020 presidential election.

The threat took on a new urgency this week, when F.B.I. agents searched an election center in Atlanta related to Mr. Trump's baseless accusations of fraud in 2020. Chillingly, his director of national intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, accompanied agents on the search. As an article in The Times explained, the search "could be used to justify a forced takeover of the elections operation" in Georgia's most populous county, which skews heavily Democratic. It is a reminder of Mr. Trump's willingness to use the tools of state power — prosecutors, national security officials, National Guard members and F.B.I. and immigration agents — in the service of his political interests.

To look at this pattern and conclude that the 2026 midterm elections are safe is to leave American democracy exposed. In a divided country where many elections are close and congressional control could come down to a handful of races, a local disruption affecting turnout or vote counting could have national consequences. If you are somebody who has previously dismissed talk of election interference as overwrought, we understand where you are coming from. Yet we urge you not to assume that the past will repeat itself.

We are relieved to see that an array of civic-minded Americans — including Democrats, independents and Republicans — are responding to the threat and already taking steps to protect the integrity of the 2026 elections. They need help in this nonpartisan endeavor. They have far fewer resources at their disposal than the president does. Much as the editorial board makes annual recommendations of high-impact charities to support, we want to suggest several ways that you can help safeguard democracy ahead of the midterms. We ask you to consider them.

Our first set of recommendations involves actions rather than donations:

- **Work the polls.** In 2024, nearly half of the country's election precincts said they struggled to recruit poll workers. Shortages lead to longer voting lines and overworked election administrators. We particularly encourage young and middle-aged people to sign up: In the last three general elections, fewer than a quarter of volunteers were 40 or younger. (In many states, you can become a poll worker at 16 or 17.) The positions, which are nonpartisan, are paid. You can find out how to apply with the recruitment look-up tool at this link.
- **Watch the polls.** In most states, political parties appoint poll watchers who observe elections to ensure fairness. In some places, nonpartisan groups can also select poll watchers. To find out how to volunteer, start by contacting the Democratic or Republican committee in your county.
- **Don't spread dubious information.** It's surprisingly easy for misleading stories to travel through trusted friends or relatives. Heather Gerken, president of the Ford Foundation, notes that influential disinformation often arrives via a well-meaning peer rather than a random bot. People from both political sides are susceptible to this — whether it was Democratic conspiracy

theories in 2004 about fraud in Ohio or the recent Republican conspiracy theories about 2020. Double-checking information before hitting “share” can keep election conversations grounded in reality.

You can also support organizations that are helping to protect election officials and safeguard the process. All the ones we recommend here are nonpartisan.

- The Election Official Legal Defense Network pairs election officials with pro bono attorneys who can advise them on how to respond to threats and lawsuits, which have increased in recent years. The network was founded in 2021 by a former White House lawyer for Barack Obama and a former election lawyer for George W. Bush. You can donate [here](#).
- The Campaign Legal Center, founded in 2002 by a Republican lawyer who served as chairman of the Federal Election Commission, works to ensure that election rules remain fair. The group is fighting the Trump administration’s demands for voter data and an executive order that would force states to change voter ID requirements and ballot deadlines. There will probably be more litigation ahead of the midterms, especially after a recent Supreme Court decision made it easier for any candidate to challenge election rules. You can donate [here](#).
- The Carter Center, founded in 1982 by Jimmy Carter, has brought its global election monitoring program to the United States. This year, the Carter Center plans to have nonpartisan observers watch elections in Georgia, Michigan, Montana, Nevada and New Mexico. The center will also host civic education events and offer resources for voters and election officials across the country. You can donate to the Carter Center’s democracy program [here](#).

In 1981, Ronald Reagan began his first Inaugural Address by observing that the orderly transfer of authority was “a commonplace occurrence” to most Americans but was “nothing less than a miracle” to much of the world. Our elections remain both commonplace and miraculous. This country should be proud that it can feel so routine for a citizen to drop a ballot in the mailbox or walk down the street to cast a vote. In 2026, we should guard that tradition.



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2026

Please Print

Date	Tax ID
1/1/2026	45-2705571

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Fax _____ Email _____
Facebook _____ X/Bluesky _____

I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
(Only a registered Democrat can be a member)

General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Past WDC Presidents and Current Students: \$15 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation: Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash [] Online [LINK](#) []
Carol Chesnut Law School Fund Donation [LINK](#)

I am interested in participating on the following Committees:
(you will be notified if there are vacancies available)

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[] Political Action [] Political Education [] Pot 'O Gold
[] Program [] Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund [] Social Media/Publicity [] Sunshine
[] Telephone [] Voter Registration

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