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April, 2024

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Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



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A Message from our President

Women Still Hold Fewer Than a Third of All Municipal Offices

Last week, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) released their 2024 report on women in municipal offices across the United States. According to CAWP, "This dataset offers insights into women's representation in local elected roles, including mayoral positions, city councils, and equivalent offices. **Women hold just 32.3% of municipal offices**, while men accounted for 67.1%, closely mirroring figures from 2023."

Their findings for women in municipal office include:

- **Top states:** Colorado, **Nevada**, and Oregon topped the list with the highest percentages of women, with 46.1%, 44.3%, and 43.2%, respectively.
- **Bottom states:** Nebraska (19.2%), Mississippi (19.7%), North Dakota (20.0%), South Dakota (23.0%), Alabama (23.1%).
- States that climbed the rankings significantly since 2023 include:
 - Indiana (29.1%) (+7 spots) | Tennessee (29.2%) (+6 spots) | Georgia (31.8%) (+5 spots)
- States that fell in rankings since 2023 include:
 - Alaska (37.3%) (-10 spots) | Montana (32.7%) and Delaware (28.4%) (-9 spots) | Rhode Island (31.2%) (-7 spots)
- A comparative analysis with <u>state legislature representation</u> reveals variations in gender parity between municipal and state-level offices across different states.

Looking at *some* of Nevada's 2024 candidates, the numbers bear out the CAWP report:

OFFICE	DEMOCRAT		REPUBLICAN		OTHER		TOTALS	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
US SENATE	2	1	11	2	5	1	18	4
CD1	0	1	5	0	6	0	11	1
CD2	0	0	2	0	2	1	4	1
CD3	0	2	6	1	1	0	7	3
CD4	2	0	3	0	2	0	7	0
LEGISLATURE	27	41	39	25	6	2	72	68
EDUCATION	11	9	13	3	5	7	29	19
CITY COUNCIL &	7	10	28	15	12	11	47	36
TOWN BDS*								
ABOVE TOTALS	49	64	107	46	39	22	195	132

Rock on, Nevada!

Marla Turner

President

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

*Clark County only



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TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

"Question 3: Open Primaries and Top 5 Ranked Choice Voting"

Members = \$30 Non-Members = \$40





April 11, 2024



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11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



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MARCH

Mar 14
Meeting

APRIL

Apr 11 Meeting

MAY

May 9
Meeting

JUNE

June 13
Meeting

JULY

July 13
BBQ & Pool
Party
NO Meeting

DEC

AUG

Aug 8
Women's
Equality Day
Meeting

SEPT

Sept 21
Spotlight
Dinner
NO Meeting

OCT

Meeting

Oct 10

NOV

Nov 14

Meeting

v 14 Dec 14

Holiday Party
NO Meeting



Carol's Corner By Carol Chesnut



Climate Crisis

How Global Climate Chaos Causes Both Border Problems and Inflation

©Carol Chesnut

Where have all the flowers gone? Why are we having a global mass extinction event?

It's fairly simple, really. As the atmosphere and the ocean warm, we move out of the benign saddle point in temperature and rainfall which made growing food crops and meat animals as low in risk as they have been and increases the number and severity of catastrophic climate events: hail, high winds, droughts and floods, which destroy crops. Food becomes scarcer and more expensive to produce, and those costs get passed on to all consumers. The reason the atmosphere is warming is that burning fossil fuels releases by products of carbon dioxide and methane, both of which are potent at retaining heat in our atmosphere and blocking its release back into space. We burn more and more fossil fuels to produce the energy we all rely on to heat our homes, run our transportation, and to generate electrical power we increasingly rely on to operate our phones and our massive data centers. We need a source of power we can turn on instantly to cover the base load to keep the electricity flowing and only nuclear and fossil fuel-based generation make that possible. Sun and wind power help to cover generating more but are far too variable to keep the generating going as it must to keep from shutting the whole grid down.

The extra heat also melts glaciers everywhere, although the heating and melting are most pronounced at the poles. The melting water cools the oceans and raises the water levels in them. This will eventually alter the pattern of ocean currents with potential to increase the variability in the weather and increase the frequency and strength of catastrophic events as well. In addition to that, most of the world relies on the yearly release of melt from them to have potable water to drink, bathe in, and water crops.

Ergo, once fertile farm and ranching lands have massive continuing droughts and cook the crops and grasses where they once flourished. Giant fires sweep through them, releasing even more carbon dioxide and methane.

Famines ensue, and people flee to areas where food and water are still available to feed their families, and where order is more likely to exist as they try to evade the "Road Warrier" conditions in their own countries.

And that, in turn, means more and more asylum seekers at the borders of better functioning civil states.

What can we do to try to control the chaos? We must strengthen our borders, update our immigration policies, use less fossil fuel, fortify our power grid, and maintain a functioning government. We must fund scientific research and use the knowledge that results. These are all policies the Biden administration is trying to put in place. And they are what the MAGA idiots want to toss aside.

This ought to make the election of Democrats as a way of implementing scientific and political remedies to mitigate the effects of global warming clearly necessary to avoid complete collapse of functioning economic and supply systems possible! Alas, among some it means the opposite. They seek a strong-man savior to wreak vengeance on those whom they blame for the crisis. But the blame is deliberately shifted to those that the powerful deem weak and unable to defend themselves, while the world devolves to hunger games that feed the billionaire overlords growing greed and lust for power. And they are the ones growing fat on disaster capitalism and funding and fostering violence and mistrust among the world's people. And putting those who opt for the powerful over the rest of us on our Supreme Court.

It is up to our voters to choose. Which will it be?



Letters To An American

Heather Cox Richardson

In the past few weeks, Josh Kovensky of *Talking Points Memo* has deepened our understanding of the right-wing attempt to impose Christian nationalism on the United States through support for Trump and the MAGA movement. On March 9, Kovensky explored the secret, men-only, right-wing society called the Society for American Civic Renewal (SACR), whose well-positioned, wealthy, white leaders call for instituting white male domination and their version of Christianity in the U.S. after a "regime" change.

On March 19, Kovensky explained how that power was reaching into lawmaking when he reported on a September 2023 speech by Russ Vought, a key architect of the plans for Trump's second term, including Project 2025. In the speech, which took place in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Vought explained the right wing's extreme border policies by explicitly marrying Christian nationalism and an aversion to the pluralism that is a hallmark of American democracy. Vought argued that the U.S. should model immigration on the Bible's Old Testament, welcoming migrants only "so long as they accepted Israel's God, laws, and understanding of history."

These religious appeals against the equality of women and minorities seem an odd juxtaposition to a statement by United Auto Workers (UAW) union president Shawn Fain in response to the claim of the Trump campaign that Trump's "bloodbath" statement of last Saturday was about the auto industry. Fain is also a self-described Christian, but he rejects the right-wing movement.

"Donald Trump can't run from the facts," Fain said in a statement to CBS News. "He can do all the name-calling he wants, but the truth is he is a con man who has been directly part of the problem we have seen over the past 40 years—where working class people have gone backward and billionaires like Donald Trump reap all the benefits....

"Trump has been a player in the class war against the working class for decades, whether screwing workers and small businesses in his dealings, exploiting workers at his Mar a Lago estate and properties, blaming workers for the Great Recession, or giving tax breaks to the rich. The bottom line is Trump only represents the billionaire class and he doesn't give a damn about the plight of working class people, union or not."

In the 1850s the United States saw a similar juxtaposition, with elite southern enslavers heightening their insistence that enslavement was sanctioned by God and their warnings that the freedom of Black Americans posed an existential threat to the United States just as white workers were beginning to turn against the system that had concentrated great wealth among a very few men. While white southern leaders were upset by the extraordinary popularity of

Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the 1852 novel that urged middle-class women to stand up against slavery, it was Hinton Rowan Helper's 1857 *The Impending Crisis of the South: How to Meet It* that made them apoplectic.

Hinton Helper was a white southerner himself and showed no abolitionist sympathies in his deeply racist book. What that book did was to show, using the statistics that had recently been made available from the 1850 census, that the American South was falling rapidly behind the North economically. Helper blamed the system of slavery for that economic backwardness, and he urged ordinary white men to overthrow the system of enslavement that served only a few wealthy white men. The cotton boom of the 1850s had created enormous fortunes for a few lucky planters, as well as a market for Helper's book among poorer white men who had been forced off their land.

White southern elites considered Helper's book so incendiary that state legislatures made it illegal to possess a copy, people were imprisoned and three allegedly hanged for being found with the book, and a fight over it consumed Congress for two months from December 1859 through January 1860. The determination of southern elites to preserve their power made them redouble their efforts to appeal to voters through religion and racism.

In today's America, the right wing seems to be echoing its antebellum predecessors. It is attacking women's rights; diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; immigration; LGBTQ+ rights and so on. At the same time, it continues to push an economic system that has moved as much as \$50 trillion from the bottom 90% to the top 10% since 1981 while exploding the annual budget deficit and the national debt.

Yesterday the far-right Republican Study Committee (RSC), which includes about two thirds of all House Republicans, released a 2025 budget plan to stand against Biden's 2025 budget wish list. The RSC plan calls for dramatic cuts to business regulation, Social Security, Medicaid, and so on, and dismisses Biden's plan for higher taxes on the wealthy, calling instead for more than \$5 trillion in tax cuts. It calls the provision of the Inflation Reduction Act that permits the government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies over prices "socialist price controls."

Biden responded to the RSC budget, saying: "My budget represents a different future. One where the days of trickle-down economics are over and the wealthy and biggest corporations no longer get all the breaks. A future where we restore the right to choose and protect other freedoms, not take them away. A future where the middle class finally has a fair shot, and we protect Social Security so the working people who built this country can retire with dignity. I see a future for all Americans and I will never stop fighting for that future."

Biden's version of America has built a strong economy in the last two years, with extremely low unemployment, extraordinary growth, and real wage increases for all but the top 20%. Inequality has decreased. Today the White House announced the cancellation of nearly \$6 billion in federal student loan debt for thousands of teachers, firefighters, and nurses. Simply by enforcing laws already on the books that allow debt forgiveness for borrowers who go into public service, the administration has erased nearly \$144 billion of debt for about 4 million borrowers.

At the same time, the administration has reined in corporations. Today the Department of Justice, along with 15 states and the District of Columbia, sued Apple, Inc., for violating the 1890 Sherman Antitrust Act. They charge that the company, which in 2023 had net revenues of \$383 billion and a net income of \$97 billion, has illegally established a monopoly over the smartphone market to extract as much revenue as possible from consumers. The company's behavior also hurts developers, the Department of Justice says, because they cannot compete under the rules that Apple has set.

At the end of February, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sued to block the merger of Kroger and Albertsons, a \$24.6 billion takeover affecting 5,000 supermarkets and 700,000 workers across 48 states. The merger would raise grocery prices, narrow consumer choice, and hurt workers' bargaining power, the FTC said. The attorneys general of Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Wyoming joined the FTC's lawsuit.

The benefits of the administration's reworking of the government for ordinary Americans have not gotten traction in the past few years, as right-wing media have continued to insist that Biden's policies will destroy the economy. But as Shawn Fain's position suggests, ordinary white men, who fueled the Reagan Revolution in 1980 when they turned against the Democrats and who have made up a key part of the Republican base, might be paying attention.

In June 2023 the AFL-CIO, a union with more than 12.5 million members, endorsed Biden for president in 2024 in its earliest endorsement ever. In January the UAW also endorsed Biden. Yesterday the United Steelworkers Union, which represents 850,000 workers in metals, mining, rubber, and other industries, added their endorsement.

Just as it was in the 1850s, the right-wing emphasis on religion and opposition to a modern multicultural America today is deeply entwined with preserving an economic power structure that has benefited a small minority. That emphasis is growing stronger in the face of the administration's effort to restore a level economic playing field. In the 1850s, those who opposed the domination of elite enslavers could only promise voters a better future. But in 2024, the success of Biden's policies may be changing the game.

Sharing Our Legacy By Judy Klein



It's about that time of year when we start going through our homes and try to clean out our closets. I don't know about you but I have cleared items away for decades and am finally at the point where I could just pick up and move without a care! I was fortunate to have friends that wanted my old memories (items I treasured) and they all have new homes. That brings me to the Presidential Election, 2024!

I can imagine President Biden thinking he is still building memories and hasn't completed all the tasks he set out to accomplish. He would like a second term to finish the business at hand and continue with his future wish list. He'd love to have a majority in the Senate and Congress to codify Roe v. Wade; lower child care; lower prescription drugs; tuition-free community college; an assault weapons ban; and, higher tax on richer Americans. He will need us to accomplish all of this and keep his memories to share with those he loves.

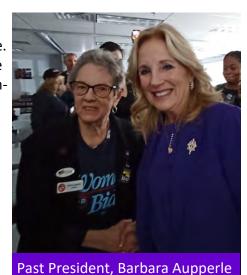


Now, can you imagine Donald Trump's wish list or what his memories will be? Of course we know! We are not about to give him that opportunity. He had his chance and failed horribly. I certainly wouldn't want to be clean-up for him on any level of his life. This is a human that doesn't want women to have reproductive freedom; is against healthcare; calls January 6th convicts, hostages; gave us generations of right-wing federal judges; changed the Supreme Court for generations with 3 right-wing appointments; he withdrew from the Paris Agreement; tried to destroy NATO; idolizes and praises Putin; found Kim Jong Un, North Korean leader to be his new best friend; put children in cages; promised to bring more jobs to America; gave tax cuts to the upper 1%; never understood foreign policies; and, numerous other bad decisions while in the White House. We don't want to give him another chance to take away more and become a leader for life. He should have the opportunity to live a life filled with anything but a golf cart, a ball and a club in the reality life of Club-Fed!

Candidates have filed and have put their future in our hands. As voters, we should be wise and make good decisions on selecting Democrats in the Primary Election. Once we clear the Primary, we vote up and down the ticket for all our DEMOCRATIC candidates!

I am very proud of the candidates running for office and wish them all a good race. I want to thank each and every one of them for taking the plunge! I know they are missing family time and occasions to become a public servant. This is a family commitment and I appreciate all the families that gave them the green light.

Thank You to All Candidates!



joined other Democrats to welcome First Lady, Jill Biden.

BIRTHDAY

March

Amy Ayoub
Nichole Bhat
Dwayne Chesnut
Leaha Crawford
Judge Carolyn Ellsworth
Capucine Holmes
Radhika Kunnel
Iman Joseph
Carolyn Murray
Mariteresa Rivera-Rogers

April

Christian Bishop
Assemblywoman Venicia Considine
Joe Dalia
Michelle Gorelow
Judge Belinda Harris
Assessor Briana Johnson
Jovan Jackson
Senator Roberta Lange
Connie Munk
Judge Danielle Pieper
Lynn Wolfe





I'm writing this in Canada, Banff to be precise! Politics seem to be the same but Canadians are not as much in your face as we are in the good old USA! When we have demonstrations on the Streets, it's quite a scene, but here, not so much! Apparently there are folks who are not so happy with Justin Trudeau! When we arrived in British Columbia we saw a few folks with flags but we couldn't figure out what was going on, but the next time we saw people, with flags, we paid more attention and realized they were protesting their Prime Minister Trudeau! We then read the newspaper and there was a huge article on Lying! The gist of the article was how he had been lying. They talked a few instances where he had not been truthful! OMG!

Next paragraph? The subject was our serial liar, ex-president, DJT! It was perfect! He was the main subject of a politician who lies and went on and on about how every time he opens his mouth the most outrageous stuff comes out of his mouth! Trudeau doesn't even come close. Then the article, which was three full newspaper pages, was how lying was a natural thing that politicians do! It's horrifying.

How did we get here or have we always had this problem and it's become so prevalent that we can't ignore what has become normal? As someone who spent years in politics, as a professional, was it going on then? Probably, but it's become so normal that when we hear an elected official speaking, we wonder if they're telling a truth or is it the "same old, same old?"

Are we now electing people who are simply unethical or has the job made them that way? I know I'm asking lots of questions in this article, but I'm struggling for answers. Is the quest for power, driving the need to lie, so they can retain their positions, or are they not who we thought we had voted for in the first place? I wish I knew.

How do we judge candidates at election time? I find myself remembering candidates that I worked for, that I voted for and wondering if they were honest! That's a terrible place to be. I want to believe that people run for office because they want to help folks, but now I wonder if that's so!

I find myself having more respect for many Republicans these days. Yep! But, they seem to be leaving Congress in big numbers because they don't support Trump! They can't and I'm finding a new respect, and would respect them more if they would tell that truth instead of the usual, "I want to spend more time with my family" trope that we've heard from so many over the years! I want honesty!

As a voter, we have one of the most important elections in my life. One of the most worse serial liars is running to be the President again and, of course he's lying his way in! This is the year that we must be more pro-active and get out there and contribute dollars (if you can financially) and of course, ORGANIZE! That starts with talking to everyone about why we must re-elect Joe Biden, and tell Trump it's time for him to "spend more time with his family"! I know you can do this, because like me, you believe in our Country and feel strongly that you and your vote will make the difference! Do it!



December

Misty Haji-Sheikh Iovan Jackson Jonathan Iones Iman Joseph Babette Seuman Nana Jimmy Vega Launa Waldrop

January

Tricia Braxton Mikki DeJurnett Lynn Wolfe

February

Madilyn Cole Judge Cynthia Cruz Melynda Flaggard Julia Salas

March

Joe Dalla
Assemblyman Max Carter
Michael Haji-Sheikh
Venise Karris
Mishon Montgomery
Assesmblyman Duy Nguyen
Deidre Radford
Julia Salas
Maura Shapiro
Nancy Sherer



The Biggest Contrast In The Upcoming Election (Other Than Democracy vs. "blood in the Streets" facism) By Robert Reich



One of my goals in this daily letter to you is to give you the facts and analysis you need to make informed decisions, especially political ones — and equip you to spread the word to others. So here goes on social security.

During a typically rambling and incoherent interview last week, Trump <u>admitted</u> he would cut Social Security and Medicare if reelected. "There is a lot you can do in terms of entitlements, in terms of cutting and in terms of also the theft and the bad management of entitlements."

Trump has tried to walk back the remarks, saying that when he used the word "cutting" he didn't actually mean "cutting," and that Social Security has a lot of waste. (In fact, Social Security is well managed, and theft or fraud is rare.)

But there's no question Trump and his Republican allies want to cut Social Security and Medicare.

Here's why. At the heart of their economic agenda — at least the portion they're sharing with their super-wealthy backers — is another giant tax cut for the super-wealthy and big corporations.

The problem is that this tax cut would cause the federal budget deficit to explode — as did their last tax cut for the wealthy — unless Social Security and Medicare are cut. (Remember that as president, Trump repeatedly included cuts to Social Security and Medicare in his official budget proposals.)

This is why Trumpers have been ramping up calls for cuts in Social Security (or raising the age of eligibility, which is the same thing).

Last week, Daily Wire founder and professional bloviator Ben Shapiro — oblivious to the fact that millions of Americans do hard work that takes a toll on their bodies — urged that the retirement age be raised. "No one in the United States should be retiring at 65 years old. Frankly, I think retirement itself is a stupid idea unless you have some sort of health problem." Turning Points USA founder Charlie Kirk echoed Shapiro: "I'm not a fan of retirement. I don't think retirement is biblical."

I want to be clear with you about Social Security. (I was once a trustee of the Social Security Trust Fund, so I know about this issue.)

Even without another Trump Republican tax cut for the rich, America still faces a pending problem financing Social Security. (Medicare is less problematic because the rise in health care costs has slowed, probably due to the Affordable Care Act.)

That's because the American population is aging, with a rising ratio of retirees receiving Social Security benefits to workers paying into Social Security.



Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Social Security Act in 1935. Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, who devised the system, is just behind him.

The Congressional Budget Office expects that over the next 20 years, spending on Social Security and Medicare will rise by about 3 percentage points of GDP.

In their annual report, the trustees of the Social Security Trust Fund said that Social Security will be able to pay full benefits for another decade but thereafter faces a significant funding shortfall. Unless something changes, after 2034 it will be able to pay only about 80 percent of scheduled benefits.

But this pending problem in no way requires cuts to Social Security benefits or increases in the retirement age.

In sharp contrast to Trump, Biden correctly <u>asserts</u> in his new budget that Social Security (and Medicare) can remain solvent by raising taxes on high incomes rather than by cutting benefits.

The problem isn't that the giant baby-boom generation is sucking up too many Social Security benefits. The Social Security trustees anticipated the boom in boomer retirements. This is why Social Security was amended back in 1983, to gradually increase the age for collecting full retirement benefits from 65 to 67. That change is helping finance the retirements of boomers (like me).

So what did the trustees fail to anticipate in 1983 when they raised the retirement age for collecting full benefits? Answer: the degree of income inequality in 21st century America.

Put simply, a big part of the American working population is earning less than the Social Security trustees (including me) anticipated decades ago — and therefore paying less in Social Security payroll tax.

Had the pay of American workers kept up with what had been the trend decades ago — and kept up with their own increasing productivity — their Social Security payroll tax payments would have been enough to keep the program flush.

At the same time, a much larger chunk of the nation's total income is going to the top than was expected decades ago.

Here's the thing: Income subject to the payroll tax is capped. Not a single dollar of earnings in excess of the cap is subject to Social Security payroll taxes. This year's cap is \$168,600.

Which means, for example, that Jeff Bezos finished paying all his Social Security payroll taxes due this year at around 7 minutes into January 1.

The Social Security cap is adjusted every year for inflation, but the adjustment is tiny compared to what's happened to incomes at the top.

As the rich have become far richer, more and more of the total income earned by Americans has become concentrated at the top. Therefore, more and more total income escapes the Social Security payroll tax.



The obvious solution to Social Security's funding shortfall, therefore, is to lift the cap on income subject to the Social Security payroll tax, so the super-rich pay more in Social Security taxes.

To make sure it's the super-rich — and not the upper-middle class — who pay, it makes sense to eliminate the cap altogether on earnings in excess of, say, \$400,000.

As it happens, Biden's plan does exactly this.

So there you have it: Trump and his regressive mouthpieces want to cut Social Security so they can give another giant tax cut to the super-rich.

Biden wants to save Social Security by having the super-rich — who have become far richer over the past several decades — pay more Social Security taxes.

The contrast couldn't be more obvious or more important. Please help get the word out.



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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