



NEWSLETTER

February 2025 ISSUE#: HV012

Mercer We the People of Hopewell Valley is a steady source of news to heal the accelerating erosion of our fundamental freedoms nationally and locally.

Embrace our First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Source: <https://billofrightsintstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>

Kind regards,
Publius Bonhomme Richard, Editor

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Email us at: info@mercervethepeople.com

Please email us to be included for future newsletters.

Printed copies of the newsletter will be made available at Rosedale Mills and local library. Any other suggested location(s) please let us know.

Call for Contributors!

MercerWe the People of Hopewell Valley is looking for contributors to write articles, especially informing the community about what is happening at local meetings. If you're interested in writing for us about that or any other topic, whether it is monthly or as needed, please reach out to us at info@mercervethepeople.com

THE END OF AN ERROR. THE GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICA BEGINS RIGHT NOW.



Photo: by Holly Patrick for The Independent US, Donald Trump takes oath of office as he is sworn in as 47th US President, January 20, 2025



Photo courtesy of Christine Ruhl, "The Awakening at Sunrise." St Michael's Preserve Park on loan from Grounds for Sculpture, Hopewell Township NJ

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Education

What's Happening in HVRSD Schools?

HVRSD Board Of Education Meeting January 27, 2025 at Bear Tavern Elementary School

By The Wall of Ed

Agenda: <https://go.boarddocs.com/nj/hvrSD/Board.nsf/Public#tab-meetings>

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQRROltzzwo>

The next BOE meeting will be on Monday - February 24th, 2025

(@Toll Gate Elementary School) 5:30pm tour with the meeting following at 425 S Main Street at 6:30pm.

Students Express Disapproval of Smart Passes Implementation at Timberlane Middle School and Central High School

After winter break CHS and TMS implemented a tracking and monitoring Smart Pass System that requires students to request an online pass for them to leave class to use the restroom, use the printers, fill up their water bottle, or visit another teacher or faculty member. Students must designate exactly where they are going, and then wait in an online queue to be given permission to leave class. Once the student returns to class, they must hit end pass so the system knows that they returned.

Students have raised serious concerns about this new system and expressed their frustration at the board meeting. Here is a recap of their concerns:

Distracting: Only three people are allowed in the bathroom at one time, so students must wait in class for the queue to go down to zero so they can request a pass. Meanwhile, the bathroom could be empty, as the student needs to return to class to check back into the system. It is also distracting to be watching and waiting for the queue to go down as you're trying to concentrate on completing school work.

Not Enough Time: They are allotted 7 minutes to leave class, which may not be enough time in some cases. In that 7 minutes, if you want to print something after using the bathroom, you could easily run out of time and you are only allowed one pass every 40 minutes, otherwise the teacher has to over-write the system. There could also be emergency situations, like an upset stomach or a heavy period, and a student may feel uncomfortable sharing that information with a teacher, leading the child to feel anxiety about using the bathroom.

Invasion of Privacy: Many students feel it is an invasion of privacy to be tracked and monitored by a third-party system. They feel the system is inefficient and over-complicated. They feel the drawbacks don't outweigh a slight security benefit of teachers and faculty being able to track students. They also feel that going to the bathroom is a natural function and not something to be tracked in this dystopian way.

Inconvenient: Additionally, students are not on their computers 100% of the time. If they are working on something on paper or reading a book and need to leave class, they must get out their chrome book, power it on, log in and create a pass. All of these steps seem unnecessary and inconvenient, when raising your hand should suffice. Several students have had their computers die while they were using the restroom, which caused issues.

One student spoke during public comment and said, “High School students should have the trust to go to the bathroom, and teachers should be able to devote their time to doing their jobs effectively, rather than monitor us like elementary school students.” This policy imposes stricter restrictions than those typically applied to elementary students, creating an environment that more closely resembles inmate confinement than a classroom setting.

Cost: Students noted a simple paper sign-in/sign-out sheet would be cheaper than paying for a costly sophisticated smart pass technology system. With the district already making budget cuts in several areas, they urged consideration of more affordable alternatives.

After hearing the statements made by the students, a few board members said that they want to hear more about the smart pass system to make sure it makes sense or if they need to further tweak it. Mrs. Riley, principal of CHS, is expected to present to the board on this topic.

There is a student led petition circulating, if you would like to read or sign it, please click here: https://www.change.org/p/alter-the-bathroom-and-hall-pass-systems-at-hopewell-valley-central-high-school?redirect_reason=guest_user

Parents Outraged at Large Class Sizes at Bear Tavern Elementary School

Many parents spoke during public comment voicing concerns about rising class sizes at Bear Tavern. In many cases Bear Tavern is already at capacity hindering learning and attention within classrooms. While some new students who move into the district are being re-routed to Stony Brook the class size concern is still prevalent at Bear Tavern. Parents are concerned that ongoing development is only worsening the issue. Parents felt that teachers are struggling to manage such large classes, especially compared to other district schools with significantly smaller class sizes. In response, the district is considering redistricting throughout Hopewell Valley to help ease the strain on Bear Tavern.

Parents Express Distain Over Health and Safety “Guidelines”

Several parents raised concerns about lice protocols, emphasizing that the “guidelines” are not mandatory but merely recommendations. They urged the district to adopt more practical policies, similar to those in neighboring districts. One parent noted that the CDC once recommended kindergarteners wear masks for six hours a day—a guideline now under scrutiny in Senate committee hearings. This example was cited to illustrate the erosion of public trust and the need for common-sense decision-making.

Moving Forward After Bond Referendum Failed

After September’s Bond Referendum failed, HVRSD is considering a second referendum vote during the next General Election (November 4, 2025), with a price tag of \$85M (vs the \$89M that failed). The board and district administration have listened to community feedback and made slight adjustments to the proposed scope of the new referendum. They are also planning on hosting Board of Education meetings at each school location so that parents can tour the schools and see what is needed for themselves. The January meeting was held at Bear Tavern and the next tour will be held at Toll Gate with the meeting following at the Board Office.

HVRSD has decided to remove the turf fields and CHS restroom/concession building project from the referendum. This time they are proposing two questions, and question 1 must pass for question 2 to pass. The first question addresses critical needs that keep each building safe, dry, and comfortable. Those projects are \$59M. The second question, which has an expected cost of \$26M, addresses the need to increase space for children to help alleviate over-crowding at Bear Tavern and Toll Gate.

Hopewell Township has “promised” to use some of the funds received for the PILOT program to help HVRSD with its overcrowding problem and new addition construction costs, but their hands are tied due to a lawsuit that was brought by Pennington and Hopewell Boroughs. In other words, those funds are still not guaranteed to the district. Dr. Treece said that she has been meeting with the leaders of the municipalities to try to figure out a solution and suggested that we speak with them as well to voice our concerns at Township Meetings.

The Board of Education is expected to vote on the amount of the referendum at the next meeting on February 24, 2025. Please see this presentation for more information about each project:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nj/hvrsd/Board.nsf/files/DDC4TL0D1D...>

Annual Audit- Our Budget is Maxed Out, Cuts are Needed

Bob Colavita presented his annual budget review. He said that maximum reductions have been made over the past several years. Staff salaries and benefits take up 79% of our budget and costs of everything are increasing. Mr. Colavita noted the district is being forced to make some major cuts moving forward. Dr. Treece is asking each school to look at their individual budgets to see what can be cut that will have the least impact to children.

Here is a list of what the district is considering:

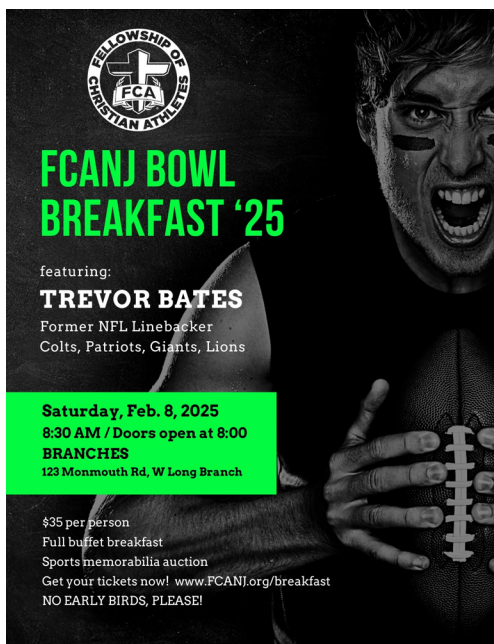
The impact of further reductions

Maximum reductions have been made over the past several years. Further reductions **will** impact programming and facilities moving forward in the following ways:

- Class Size Increases
- Elimination of, or charging the full cost for, courtesy busing
- Further Reduction of Supplies
- Elimination or phase out of World Language Course of Study
- Elimination of Auto Shop
- Elimination or reduction of District funded Field Trips
- Reinstate Athletic and Extracurricular Fees
- Restructuring of K-12 Exploratory offerings
- Elimination and/or consolidation of administrative positions

Please review the recording for full details. 1st Public comment begins at the 2:28:00 mark and 2nd Public comment starts at the 4:04:28 mark. Yes, two and half hours and four hours respectively is a long time for the public to patiently wait to state their comments in 3 minutes or less. In addition, if you'd like to attend any of the public meeting including school board and Township meetings you can find those listed in the Public Corner of this newsletter.

Local News



FCANJ BOWL BREAKFAST '25

featuring:
TREVOR BATES
Former NFL Linebacker
Colts, Patriots, Giants, Lions

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025
8:30 AM / Doors open at 8:00
BRANCHES
123 Monmouth Rd, W Long Branch

\$35 per person
Full buffet breakfast
Sports memorabilia auction
Get your tickets now! www.FCANJ.org/breakfast
NO EARLY BIRDS, PLEASE!

Get your tickets at: <https://fcanj.org/breakfast>



HOPEWELL VALLEY BULLDOG BLOSSOM RUN

5K
RUN/WALK
MARCH 22ND, 2025

WHEN
1M Fun Run @ 8:45 AM
5K Run/Walk @ 9:30 AM

WHERE
Hopewell Valley
Central High School

TO REGISTER
Scan QR code to the left or visit
WWW.HOPEWELLVALLEY5K.COM

RAIN, SNOW, OR SHINE Event!
T-Shirts for All Registrations Received by February 20, 2025
Others while Supplies Last!!

AGE GROUPS			REGISTRATION 5K/FUN RUN	
15 & Under	16-19	20-29	Now - 2/20.....	\$30/\$20
30-39	40-49	50-59	2/21 - 3/22.....	\$35/\$25
60-69	70-79	80-89		

Proceeds to benefit the HVCHS PTO Class of 2026 & 2027 senior events.
The HVCHS PTO Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization with tax exempt status under IRS Law.

Register at: <https://hopewellvalley5k.com/>



Go for the Gold
7 Skills for Winning at Marriage

Saturday February 22, 2025
1:30pm - 4:45pm
FREE
St. James Parish Center
115 East Delaware Avenue
Pennington, NJ

Followed by 5:00pm Mass and a Marriage blessing!

Discovering the Path to Happiness, Healing and Harmony in Your Home

All married couples are invited to this event!

Dynamic Presentation by
Coleen Kelly Mast, M.S. Life Coach,
National Speaker, and EWTN Radio
Talk Show Host of "Mast Appeal"

A Great Valentine's Gift!

REGISTER NOW!

Babysitting available upon request.
Families can attend Mass together at the end of the event.

Signup at: <https://thecatholiccommunityofhopewellvalley.org/events/go-for-the-gold-7-skills-for-winning-at-marriage>

Election Integrity

Citizens For NJ Election Integrity To Host Second Annual Election Integrity Conference

By Mark Demo

Hamilton, NJ – Citizens for New Jersey Election Integrity is proud to announce its **Second Annual Election Integrity Conference**, taking place on **Friday, March 7, 2025**, at the **Hilton Garden Inn, 800 Route 130, Hamilton, NJ**. This year's event will focus on **ballot initiatives and referendums in New Jersey**, with particular attention to communities governed under the **Faulkner Act**.

As New Jersey prepares for a vitally important Gubernatorial election year, election integrity takes center stage in the Garden State.

This conference will provide an opportunity for community leaders, advocates, and concerned citizens to gain insights provided by Matt Moench, partner at King, Moench & Collins LLP into **New Jersey's ballot initiative and referendum processes**. Matt will also highlight how voters can engage more effectively in **Faulkner Act municipalities**, where local governance structures often shape the way citizens can propose and vote on key issues.

Additionally, the event will feature Bill Eames from Working Together New Jersey providing a **legislative update** covering recent developments and proposed changes to **New Jersey's election laws**. This session will provide attendees with up-to-date information on pending bills and regulatory changes that could impact election administration and voter participation in the state.

Other speakers and panelists are **yet to be confirmed**, but the agenda will include a panel discussion with Citizens for New Jersey Election Integrity, experts, policymakers and grassroots leaders, to provide in-depth details about our election integrity efforts throughout the state, and how citizens can get involved.

Event Details:

Date: Friday, March 7, 2025

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 800 Route 130, Hamilton, NJ

Focus Topics:

- Ballot Initiatives and Referendums in NJ
- Special Focus on Faulkner Act Communities
- Legislative Update on Election Integrity Issues

Registration for this event is not yet available. For more information on the conference, please contact **Citizens for New Jersey Election Integrity** at info@citizens4njei.org

About Citizens for NJ Election Integrity

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity is a non-partisan organization dedicated to ensuring fair and transparent elections in New Jersey. The group advocates for electoral reforms, improved voter verification processes, and public education on election integrity. For more information, please visit <http://www.citizens4njei.org/>.

Media Contact: Mark Flaherty, Communications Director
Citizens for NJ Election Integrity
914-473-2038 • Mark.Flaherty@citizens4njei.org

For further inquiries or to schedule an interview, please contact C4NJEI at the information provided above.



Election 2024, 2025

Will Teachers Cost New Jersey Democrats the 2025 Governor's Race?

By Kevin Mooney originally published in Restoration News (January 6, 2025)

Democrats' financial advantage could dissolve as teachers exert their free speech rights.

New Jersey teachers who differ with their union's politics appear poised to revolt in the months leading up to the state's 2025 gubernatorial campaign.

With tax records providing further evidence that membership dues are primarily used to benefit the left-of-center causes, free speech activists anticipate that more teachers may be inclined to leave the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA).

The union, which currently represents about 200,000 educational professionals in the state, is a major funder of the New Jersey Democratic Party. During the 2021–22 election cycle, the NJEA PAC spent more than \$1 million supporting candidates in New Jersey with 86 percent of it favoring Democrats.

But that's not the whole story. Americans for Fair Treatment (AFFT), a national nonprofit group devoted to protecting the First Amendment rights of teachers and other public education employees, made a critical discovery. AFFT found \$6 million in NJEA dues, tucked away in the form of a grant, that flowed to a second NJEA-affiliated PAC, Garden State Forward, from 2020–2021. As an independent expenditure committee (IE), Garden State Forward serves as a conduit for funneling unlimited sums of money to political groups.

"There are all sorts of ways that unions will move money around, so it doesn't look like they're spending dues on politics," Isabel Blank, AFFT's communications director, told Restoration News. "This is just one particularly glaring example that members should pay attention to. The union will say the donations to the PAC are optional and they can opt out, but what we found here shows this is not true.

"The only way to avoid making political contributions is to opt out of being a union member all together."

Independent expenditures are campaign communications that advocate for the election or defeat of certain candidates, but they are not done in coordination with any candidates. Another advantage IEs like Garden State Forward have is the fact that candidates who benefit from IEs have no obligation to report on those expenditures.

As a political force, the NJEA packs a wallop, says AFFT member and retired Monmouth County teacher Sue Fischer. Although she was pleased with some of the work her union did at the county level, Fischer discovered the most of her dues went to the NJEA and the National Education Association.

"The NJEA is one of the wealthiest and most powerful teachers' unions in the whole country," Fischer explained. "Before I retired, I learned that as union members we were paying some the highest dues in the whole country."

Fischer estimates that she was paying about \$1,200 per year in union dues, of which roughly \$900 benefited the NJEA and another \$200 went to the NEA. Just \$25 went to the Monmouth County Education Association, her local union.

It was while she was attended a conference in Denver, Colorado earlier this year that Fischer learned more about how the dues structure for the NJEA fits into a larger national picture. The conference organized through the Freedom Foundation, a free market think tank, brought Fischer into contact with teachers from across the country.

"If we are not paying the most dues in the whole country, we are certainly close to it," Fischer said. "I found out, for example, that the California teachers are paying about half of what do in terms of dues."

Fischer first became attuned to how out of step the union was with her own values after perusing the NJEA's magazine. One issue, for example, was devoted to promoting the 2016 presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state.

"I remember there was one issue that had Hillary Clinton's mug shot on the cover," Fischer said. "That was an eye opener for many of us since the magazine was supposed to be for teachers, but instead it was just all political. You open it up and they are promoting policies like abortion and 99 percent of the time they were promoting Democrats for office."

Reasserting Free Speech Rights

When the U.S. Supreme Court strike down union mandates for public sector workers in 2018, Fischer seized on the opportunity to free herself from paying for politics she does not support. In *Janus v. AFSCME*, the high court invalidated state laws that require public employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of their employment.

"The decision came down the day after school let out in 2018," Fischer recalled. "Me and a few of my colleagues immediately put in to opt out from being part of the union."

But Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat who benefits from union donations, attempted to preempt the *Janus* ruling with "opt out" rules that were ultimately in conflict with the court's decision, Fischer said.

"If you read the ruling, it said that public employees had to knowingly opt in to joining a union," Fischer continued. "This means you have to give your consent, but Murphy was trying to bypass the ruling and make it as difficult to leave as possible, so we sued."

In *Fischer v. Murphy* (2021), the plaintiffs argued that the actions Murphy took prior to the Janus ruling were unconstitutional. Although the case was dismissed at the federal level in January 2021, Fischer said her litigation had the benefit of raising awareness among teachers.

"When the Janus ruling first came out there were crickets, no one knew," Fischer said. "But the huge takeaway from our lawsuit is that word got out that teachers had rights."

Fischer, who retired in 2019, is aware of more teachers now deciding to leave the NJEA. While it's difficult to determine exactly how many so far, she expects the trend to continue. Fischer credits Mike Lilley, the president and founder of the Sunlight Policy Center of New Jersey, for consistently highlighting the money and influence behind the NJEA.

Blank, AFFT's communications director, envisions a scenario where more teachers withdraw from unions at the state and national level, but find a way to support "local-only" unions.

"This distinction is important," Blank explained, "because individuals who continue to pay dues to their local, even after withdrawing from broader state or national affiliations, likely feel disillusioned with how larger unions allocate resources. However, they still recognize the value of the work that local unions do. Rather than suggesting workers continue to do this, a better change would be for locals to disassociate from national and state-level unions."

As more teachers opposed to the NJEA's politics continue to leave the union, New Jersey could conceivably become more politically competitive. There are already some suggestive trendlines. Vice President Kamala Harris won the state over Donald Trump by a mere 5 points. That makes the 2024 presidential contest in New Jersey the closest in more than three decades. But it's not the only example of a statewide race that turned out to be surprisingly competitive in recent years.

Jack Ciattarelli, a former Republican assemblyman and businessman, nearly unseated Murphy in the 2021 gubernatorial race losing by less than a percentage point. Ciattarelli is running for governor again, but faces a crowded Republican primary with seven other challengers. On the Democratic side, NJEA president Sean Spiller is running for governor alongside five other candidates.

Kevin Mooney is a Senior Investigative Researcher for Restoration News.

Read and access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/will-teachers-cost-new-jersey-democrats-the-2025-governor-s-race>

Why Biden Is The Worst U.S. President Ever -- And The Silver Lining To This Catastrophic Presidency

By Rajan Laad, December 9, 2024 in American Thinker

Voters have delivered another devastating blow to the Biden administration after the emphatic defeat of Vice President Kamala Harris.

A recent poll for the Daily Mail newspaper revealed that voters think Joe Biden is the worst president in almost 50 years.

Biden performed worse than another one-term President, Jimmy Carter. Carter suffered a landslide defeat in 1980 for presiding over double-digit inflation and a botched effort to rescue American hostages in Iran.

The survey of 1,006 registered U.S. voters released Friday asked them to rank the nine elected presidents from the last 55 years in order from best to worst.

The poll also revealed that Biden's approval rating dropped from 41% to 37%, due to his decision to issue a sweeping pardon of his son Hunter. More than 52% of respondents thought the pardon was wrong.

It is essential to state that this isn't some poll conducted by a right-leaning outfit, in the same poll Barack Hussein Obama did rather well in the poll with 41 percent approving and 20 percent disapproving.

Legendary newsman and historian Bill O'Reilly calls Biden the second-worst president in U.S. history. O'Reilly rates James Buchanan who was in office from 1857-1861 as the worst. O'Reilly blamed Buchanan for allowing the Civil War.

So what makes Biden the worst president in the last 50 years?

We first look why Biden didn't deserve to be in the White House in the first place.

The 2020 Democrat primary was rigged in favor of Biden.

Biden was doing rather poorly, in the beginning. It took an endorsement from South Carolina Senator James Clyburn to get the Black vote and clinch Super Tuesday.

In time Biden's primary rivals Sanders, Buttigieg, and Klobuchar quit and endorsed him. Hence Biden was installed as the nominee.

The 2020 presidential elections were rigged in favor of Biden.

Important news of Hunter Biden's shady foreign deals was suppressed and discredited.

Mark Zuckerberg donated \$419 million to nonprofit organizations to tamper with the administration and infrastructure of the 2020 election. These organizations lobbied for universal mail-in voting which caused record-breaking 64 million Americans to cast their ballots by mail. Unmonitored private drop boxes for ballots were allowed which are vulnerable to fraudulent practices such as ballot-stuffing.

In the end, Biden was installed in the White House.

Biden's rapidly declining mental and cognitive faculties made him an ideal puppet for the establishment.

Most presidents remain focused on how history will judge them.

But Biden struggles to remember his way around the White House lawn, Biden's handlers knew that the concern of his legacy wouldn't even cross his impaired mind.

From the White House, the establishment began wreaking havoc on Americans using Biden as a rubber stamp.

The border was left open allowing a record-breaking number of illegal aliens to cross over. This stealing of resources and jobs that are meant for taxpaying citizens. But the real peril is that some of the aliens could be criminals and terrorists.

The open border facilitated the smuggling of illicit narcotics which has led to the drug crisis in the U.S.

Inflation soared to sky-high levels, making basic items unaffordable for regular Americans.

The supply chain crisis has caused a shortage of essential commodities.

Biden mismanaged the COVID-19 pandemic and forced vaccine mandates.

Biden's ill-planned withdrawal from Afghanistan left that country unstable and in the hands of America's enemies, undoing all development in that region.

The Taliban is now in charge of that troubled country and al-Qaida also has a base.

The Afghanistan disaster emboldened Russia to intervene militarily in Ukraine.

Instead of bringing about peace, the Biden administration colluded with the military-industrial complex to extend the war.

Since the war began, the U.S. Congress has voted through five bills providing Ukraine with aid worth \$175 billion. Given the record of corruption in Ukraine and in D.C. one wonders if the funds actually reached the intended destinations.

The war in Ukraine has also attracted over 20 thousand foreign fighters among whom are al-Qaida sympathizers.

There is easy access to advanced weaponry in Ukraine which means they could be sold on the black market or to terrorists or worse terrorists may directly pick them up. The Biden administration could inadvertently end up funding an attack perhaps even on U.S. soil.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas launched the largest-ever terrorist attack on Israeli soil. Over 1,200 men, women, and children, including 46 Americans were slaughtered.

According to Israel, 251 Israelis and foreigners also were abducted on Oct. 7.

Among the hostages are seven Americans who still remain captive.

Biden is the first president to target his political opponents and dissenters with toxic rhetoric openly.

The Biden administration persecuted the protestors of Jan. 6 who were there to express themselves which is their democratic right. Many among the protestors remain in prison.

Parents who were concerned about their children being indoctrinated with liberal propaganda were branded as domestic terrorists.

The blatantly partisan Jan. 6 congressional committee and their Stalinist show trial existed merely to persecute and torment political opponents, and primarily President Trump.

There were myriad purposeless investigations and subsequent indictments of President Trump, the sole aim was to prevent him from running for president in 2024.

There was an FBI raid on Trump's Florida home and property.

A meme creator and social media influencer was sentenced to seven months in prison for posting a joke on Twitter.

There was a FBI raid on the home of a pro-life activist.

These judicial and law enforcement overreaches aimed to scare dissenters and eventually outlaw political opposition.

Biden was seldom held accountable for propaganda wing masquerading as the mainstream news media, the only time they reported factually was when the establishment was preparing to uninstall Biden and install the bumbling word salad chef.

The myriad catastrophes led some to infer that these weren't a result of incompetence but malice, i.e., the establishment was attempting to alter the nation fundamentally.

When Biden was sworn in, many claimed that the grown-ups were back in charge in D.C.

Alas, these 'grown-ups' were corrupt, malicious, and inept causing chaos in the U.S. and around the world.

The constant theme during the four years of Biden's misgovernance is hardship, humiliation, and perils for regular citizens and embarrassment for the U.S. globally.

The polls that are usually wrong, got it right this time, Biden, truly is the worst U.S. president in recent history.

But there is a silver lining to this unmitigated catastrophe of a presidency.

The myriad scandals and disasters alerted regular citizens, not just Trump loyalists, of the value of the MAGA movement and the Trump presidency.

The unprecedented law enforcement and judicial overreach by the Biden presidency revealed the true colors of the D.C. Democrat establishment, not just to the politically engaged but regular citizens and casual news consumers.

If the D.C. establishment was astute they would have allowed the 2020 presidential elections to be fair. Trump would have won and by this time would have been on his way out.

However they overestimated their powers of persuasion and capacity to rig, assuming that they could sway or scare people by targeting Trump and his supporters.

But the rigged elections and myriad instances of overreach scared, enraged, and engaged citizens, not just Trump loyalists.

They realized if this was allowed, the nation would become a one-party state.

This righteous indignation doubtlessly contributed to Trump's landslide victory and the mandate to bring about real change.

Access the article: https://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2024/12/why_biden_is_the_worst_u_s_president_ever_and_the_silver_lining_to_this_catastrophic_presidency.html

My City in Ashes

By Michelle Pollino, January 25, 2025 in Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism

A personal reckoning with the fires and failures of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles is burning. Again. The charred landscape smokes, memories evaporating into the hazy magenta horizon.

On Wednesday, January 8, I drove to work at dawn. The Santa Ana winds ripped through the city, carrying the scent of destruction, while darkened clouds swirled above like thieves bulging with stolen fragments of our lives. It felt like the apocalypse had arrived—fast, furious, and all too familiar.

That evening, my partner and I had planned to host a dinner for friends, but the fires became our uninvited guests.

Mindi and Nina, former Angelenos who fled to Mexico in fear of Trump's presidency, were staying in a rental near Sunset Boulevard—dangerously close to the spreading flames. We told them to pack their bags and stay with us. Another friend, newly evacuated, joined too. Together, we huddled around the TV, watching firefighters battle the inferno while city leaders, including Mayor Karen Bass and Governor Gavin Newsom, provided updates. The news was grim: fires multiplying across the city like unchecked weeds. By nightfall, the flames felt omnipresent, but none of us were truly shocked. In LA, fire is both a literal and metaphorical inevitability—a manifestation of neglect, mismanagement, and misguided priorities.

Los Angeles has a history of devastating fires: the Woolsey Fire of 2018 claimed lives, homes, and over 96,000 acres. Yet, despite the precedents, little has been done to mitigate the risk. In 2023 alone, there were nearly 14,000 fires linked to homeless encampments—a grim testament to the city's growing crises. Power lines are tapped, streetlamps gutted for electricity, and dry vegetation turns any spark into a catastrophe. The ashes of these policies now blanket our city and invade our bodies.

Upon arriving in Los Angeles in the winter of 2012, it was everything I had imagined. The snow-capped mountains painted a stunning profile in the distant east, the glistening ocean stretched to the west, and the air fragrant with orange blossoms. Everything fell into place quickly: I met my life partner, produced a feature film, and secured a full-time job as an entertainment reporter. In 2017, we bought a house in Mid-City, and our block became a close-knit community. We formed friendships with several neighbors, looking out for one another, inviting each other to holiday parties, and keeping an eye on each other's homes during vacations. However, when COVID-19 and the George Floyd protests swept through the city, everything changed.

The protests impacted our neighborhood and nearby businesses severely. Many storefronts boarded up their windows, most with spray-painted signs declaring "Black-owned business," which could have been accurate or not, as many of our neighbors were Mexican or Asian. Gradually, those neighbors began to move away, replaced by newcomers who often didn't occupy the

homes. Over the past few years, I've witnessed a tripling of homelessness on our streets. Now, when I walk my dog, I navigate around bodies sleeping on the sidewalk. They seem to appear overnight, linger for weeks, and then disappear, leaving behind clothes, blankets, dishes, and sometimes furniture and scraps of food that are never cleaned up. RVs from the 1980s and '90s have parked on every corner of our five-block radius, surrounding us like ghosts. Some have dogs leashed to the exterior, barking incessantly at the sounds of traffic. A few RVs even tap into electrical poles for power. This summer, I noticed not one but two extension cords stretching across Orange Avenue at Venice Boulevard, haphazardly connected to a street lamp, with its panel lying next to exposed wires.

The fires are a symptom of a larger decay. LA's progressive policies, while well-intentioned, have often failed in execution. Sanctuary city status, defunded police departments, and relaxed enforcement on property crimes have contributed to a sense of lawlessness. Felonies downgraded to misdemeanors mean crimes like catalytic converter theft go largely unpunished. I am grateful that our new District Attorney Nathan Hochman lifted a ban on prosecutors filing charges for low-level misdemeanors.

Meanwhile, residents like me wake up to find discarded belongings, syringes, or worse on our sidewalks. One day while walking my dog my neighbor screamed at me from across the street, "Go home right now! There's a homeless man with a machete running through the streets!" I picked up Dax and ran back home, telling another neighbor I passed the same news. I called the city's emergency help number, but no one came. They rarely do at these events, which seem to happen with increasing frequency.

Leadership is failing us. In November 2022, Karen Bass was elected as our mayor. I did not vote for her, despite my friends urging me to support a black woman. To me, Rick Caruso, a builder and developer who promised to tackle homelessness directly, was the right choice. In fact, Bass hardly spoke about homelessness during the early part of her campaign; it wasn't until Caruso gained significant traction that she pivoted in the last couple of weeks. After her victory, she made addressing homelessness her top priority. Bass was conspicuously absent during the first critical hours of this firestorm—returning only after attending an inauguration in Ghana. When pressed by a reporter upon her arrival, she refused to answer questions. Her silence spoke volumes.

The mayor of the second largest city in our country refused to answer questions from a reporter, following what would be among the most destructive fires in the city's history. Heading into the 4th week of the fires, the Palisades Fire has reached 75% containment, and it has burned more than 23,400 acres, and there is now the Hughes fire, which has burned more than 10,000 acres.. Almost 5,000 structures have been damaged or destroyed. The Eaton Fire has burned over 14,000 acres and is 95% contained. It has also devastated over 7,000 structures, with 28 reported deaths overall. The dry Santa Ana winds have dissipated, and the weather forecast calls for rain which bodes well for our firefighters, but so many questions about how our leaders could've mitigated and lessened this catastrophic event remain.

From 2020 to 2024, the gradual pace of these policy ideas continued to grow, and I could feel it seeping into my very being, threatening to erode my humanity. Every day on my drive to work, I noticed an increase in the number of tents beneath the freeways. One week, the city would come to clear them away, only for the tents to reappear days later. Soon, they were everywhere—behind fences along the freeway and tucked into the dried bougainvillea bushes at the ends of freeway ramps. Last month, while driving home along Pico Avenue and approaching La Brea Avenue, I spotted a half-naked white woman, perhaps in her mid-60s or 70s, with a nest of grey hair cascading over her head and shoulders. Grime smothered her back, ravaged from street life. I felt a pang of shame watching her, yet I couldn't look away. Part of the issue is that everyone is pretending this isn't happening. Then, she stopped, dropped her pants, and defecated on the sidewalk—that's when I finally turned away.

Fire Chief Kristin Crowley, if you didn't already know, is the first woman and lesbian fire chief in the fire department's history. Her sex and sexuality are prominent in the first paragraph of her bio on the department's home page. In the second paragraph in the first sentence, we learn that she leads a diverse department of over 3,000 firefighters. It isn't until the third paragraph that we start to read about her skills and time as a firefighter. In a now viral video, LAFD Deputy Chief Kristine Larson—who heads the Equity and Human Resources Bureau—responded to concerns that she couldn't carry a woman's husband out of a fire by saying, "He got himself in the wrong place if I have to carry him out of a fire." Larson also said, "You want to see somebody that responds to your house, your emergency that looks like you." Shouldn't the priority be competence, not color? Somewhere along the way, DEI hiring practices have subsumed actual job duties and kneecapped our empathy for those who don't share our skin color or sex—swallowed it up like a fire consuming all life in its path.

The city's focus is misaligned. DEI initiatives dominate headlines and official biographies, while practical needs—like ensuring adequate fire safety and caring for our neighbors—take a back seat. These policies and practices come at the expense of competence and basic public safety.

I refuse to sacrifice my humanity on the altar of disastrous DEI practices. Despite the destruction, perhaps we can all learn from this. We now have an opportunity to reject identity politics outright—to stop making judgments and decisions based on skin color and embrace our common sense. Our common humanity.

Last week, I rescued a scared and lost silky terrier darting through the streets. Her owner, Chanel, was frantic when we finally reunited them. Tears streamed down her face as she clutched her dog, Dior, refusing to let go. At no point did Chanel ask for a black person to give her baby back. She didn't care what color I was. She wanted her dog to make it home safely.

But such moments are not enough to save Los Angeles. We need leadership with vision and courage—leaders who prioritize infrastructure, safety, and the basic dignity of their constituents over political grandstanding. We need policies rooted in pragmatism, not performative gestures. We need public servants who serve the public—regardless of race, sexuality, or sex.

As I refill the birdbaths in my backyard, I see the ash settle like snow on our deck. It is more than the residue of fires; it is the residue of failed policies and a city teetering on the edge. Los Angeles can rise from the ashes, but only if we confront the flames consuming us—both literal and figurative—with honesty and resolve.

Access the article: https://news.fairforall.org/p/my-city-in-ashes?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=415200&post_id=155688471&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=v5y4h&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Public Corner

Public Local Meetings

Interested in attending public meetings? Here are a few in your area for this month.

<https://www.mercercounty.org/i-want-to/calendar-meeting-list>

HVRSD School Board Meeting

Monday - February 24th, 2025 (@Toll Gate Elementary School)

5:30pm tour with the meeting following at 425 S Main Street at 6:30pm or Livestream on YouTube

Municipal Township Meetings

<https://www.hopewelltpw.org/calendar.aspx?CID=32>

Monday, February 3, 2025, 6:30pm

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:30pm

Meetings are in hybrid format- Township Municipal Building & Zoom

Township meetings will be held at HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING 201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560

Board of Elections Meeting

Tuesday - February 11, 2025 12:00pm Regular

Board of Elections Meetings will be at 930 Spruce St., Lawrence, NJ 08648

Mercer County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Schedule -- February 2025

Tuesday February 11, 2025 6:00pm Agenda & Formal (Double Meeting)

Tuesday February 25, 2025 6:00pm Agenda Meeting

Thursday February 27, 2025 6:00pm Formal Meeting

Agenda and Formal Meetings will take place at the Mercer County Administration Building, Room 211, 640 South Broad St., Trenton, NJ unless otherwise stated.

In order to encourage full participation of these meetings, please submit any requests for accommodations of people with disabilities to the Clerk to the Board, Mercer County Administration Building, PO Box 8068, Trenton, NJ 08650

(609) 989-6584 {V/TTY} {Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 101-336}



At the Movies, Bookstores

Manufacture Local: How To Make America The Manufacturing Superpower Of The World

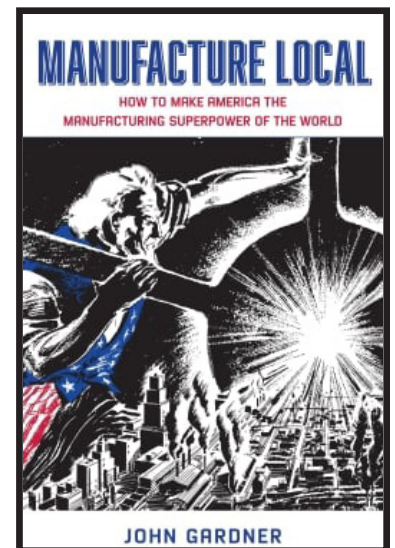
By John Gardner • Published July 12, 2024 • 120 Pages

From the days of the American Revolution until now, manufacturing has been the backbone of the American economy. It is what made our country a great power, and it is the traditional path to the middle class. But in recent decades, manufacturing has come under fire. US politicians and economists have pushed damaging free-trade policies on an uncomprehending public, while adversarial countries such as China have taken advantage of that foolishness. Manufacturing is the goose that lays our golden eggs—and it must be protected, or it will be lost.

In *Manufacture Local*, John Gardner details the positive policy steps that American political leaders should champion to reinvigorate America's core industry. He examines manufacturing's importance to national security, to America's sense of self-sufficiency, and to the flourishing of its great cities.

He scrutinizes free trade as it is commonly understood and proposes steps to take toward a production-based economy in which tariffs protect and encourage American greatness. And drawing on his nearly two decades of experience working with manufacturers, Gardner proposes workable solutions to make up for America's crisis of skilled labor.

Manufacturing is often denigrated as low work for uneducated people, yet nothing could be further from the truth. It's time America gives the industry its proper respect, but the only way that will happen is if it speaks up for itself. Gardner does just that; he raises a voice of hope for every American to hear. By sharing lessons from his own life—and telling the untold story of American manufacturing—he emphasizes the importance of manufacturing, not just to the American economy but also to our entire way of life.



Manufacture Local presents a formula for success. The Founders overcame Great Britain to make our country a manufacturing powerhouse. Today, we can take inspiration from them. It's time to make America the manufacturing superpower of the world again.

The book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop, and anywhere else you find books.

About author: <https://johngardnerauthor.com/>

Valiant One

2025, R, 1hr 27min

Trapped behind enemy lines with no hope of rescue, a reluctant U.S. Army Sergeant must lead his unit to safety while being pursued by North Korean soldiers.

GENRE: Action/Adventure, Suspense/Thriller

RELEASE DATE: Friday, Jan 31, 2025

Director: Steve Barnett

Writers: Steve Barnett, Daniel Myrick, Eric Tipton

Starring: Chase Stokes, Lana Condor, Desmin Borges, Callan Mulvey

In the heart-pounding military thriller VALIANT ONE, a routine mission spirals into a fight for survival when a US Army helicopter crashes deep within North Korean territory. With their communications equipment destroyed, Captain Edward Brockman (Chase Stokes) and Specialist Selby (Lana Condor) must lead the team through hostile terrain, cut off from US military support as they attempt a daring escape across the treacherous Demilitarized Zone.

Watch trailer, more about movie: <https://www.valiantonemovie.com/home/>



We the People of Interest

DONALD J. TRUMP

45th & 47th President Of The United States

After a landslide election victory in 2024, President Donald J. Trump is returning to the White House to build upon his previous successes and use his mandate to reject the extremist policies of the radical left while providing tangible quality of life improvements for the American people.

The Inaugural Address

January 20, 2025 • U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. • 12:10 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much, everybody. (Applause.)
Wow. Thank you very, very much.

Vice President Vance, Speaker Johnson, Senator Thune, Chief Justice Roberts, justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, President Biden, Vice President Harris, and my fellow citizens, **the golden age of America begins right now.** (Applause.)

From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration, I will, very simply, put America first. (Applause.)

Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent, and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department and our government will end. (Applause.)

And our top priority will be to create a nation that is proud, prosperous, and free. (Applause.)

America will soon be greater, stronger, and far more exceptional than ever before. (Applause.)

I return to the presidency confident and optimistic that we are at the start of a thrilling new era of national success. A tide of change is sweeping the country, sunlight is pouring over the entire world, and America has the chance to seize this opportunity like never before.



Photo from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration>

But first, we must be honest about the challenges we face. While they are plentiful, they will be annihilated by this great momentum that the world is now witnessing in the United States of America.

As we gather today, our government confronts a crisis of trust. For many years, a radical and corrupt establishment has extracted power and wealth from our citizens while the pillars of our society lay broken and seemingly in complete disrepair.

We now have a government that cannot manage even a simple crisis at home while, at the same time, stumbling into a continuing catalogue of catastrophic events abroad.

It fails to protect our magnificent, law-abiding American citizens but provides sanctuary and protection for dangerous criminals, many from prisons and mental institutions, that have illegally entered our country from all over the world.

We have a government that has given unlimited funding to the defense of foreign borders but refuses to defend American borders or, more importantly, its own people.

Our country can no longer deliver basic services in times of emergency, as recently shown by the wonderful people of North Carolina — who have been treated so badly — (applause) — and other states who are still suffering from a hurricane that took place many months ago or, more recently, Los Angeles, where we are watching fires still tragically burn from weeks ago without even a token of defense. They're raging through the houses and communities, even affecting some of the wealthiest and most powerful individuals in our country — some of whom are sitting here right now. They don't have a home any longer. That's interesting. But we can't let this happen. Everyone is unable to do anything about it. That's going to change.

We have a public health system that does not deliver in times of disaster, yet more money is spent on it than any country anywhere in the world.

And we have an education system that teaches our children to be ashamed of themselves — in many cases, to hate our country despite the love that we try so desperately to provide to them. All of this will change starting today, and it will change very quickly. (Applause.)

My recent election is a mandate to completely and totally reverse a horrible betrayal and all of these many betrayals that have taken place and to give the people back their faith, their wealth, their democracy, and, indeed, their freedom. From this moment on, America's decline is over. (Applause.)

Our liberties and our nation's glorious destiny will no longer be denied. And we will immediately restore the integrity, competency, and loyalty of America's government.

Over the past eight years, I have been tested and challenged more than any president in our 250-year history, and I've learned a lot along the way.

The journey to reclaim our republic has not been an easy one — that, I can tell you. Those who wish to stop our cause have tried to take my freedom and, indeed, to take my life.

Just a few months ago, in a beautiful Pennsylvania field, an assassin's bullet ripped through my ear. But I felt then and believe even more so now that my life was saved for a reason. I was saved by God to make America great again. (Applause.)

Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

That is why each day under our administration of American patriots, we will be working to meet every crisis with dignity and power and strength. We will move with purpose and speed to bring back hope, prosperity, safety, and peace for citizens of every race, religion, color, and creed.

For American citizens, January 20th, 2025, is Liberation Day. (Applause.) It is my hope that our recent presidential election will be remembered as the greatest and most consequential election in the history of our country.

As our victory showed, the entire nation is rapidly unifying behind our agenda with dramatic increases in support from virtually every element of our society: young and old, men and women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, urban, suburban, rural. And very importantly, we had a powerful win in all seven swing states — (applause) — and the popular vote, we won by millions of people. (Applause.)

To the Black and Hispanic communities, I want to thank you for the tremendous outpouring of love and trust that you have shown me with your vote. We set records, and I will not forget it. I've heard your voices in the campaign, and I look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Today is Martin Luther King Day. And his honor — this will be a great honor. But in his honor, we will strive together to make his dream a reality. We will make his dream come true. (Applause.)

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

National unity is now returning to America, and confidence and pride is soaring like never before. In everything we do, my administration will be inspired by a strong pursuit of excellence and unrelenting success. We will not forget our country, we will not forget our Constitution, and we will not forget our God. Can't do that. (Applause.)

Today, I will sign a series of historic executive orders. With these actions, we will begin the complete restoration of America and the revolution of common sense. It's all about common sense. (Applause.)

First, I will declare a national emergency at our southern border. (Applause.)

All illegal entry will immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came. We will reinstate my Remain in Mexico policy. (Applause.)

I will end the practice of catch and release. (Applause.)

And I will send troops to the southern border to repel the disastrous invasion of our country. (Applause.)

Under the orders I sign today, we will also be designating the cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. (Applause.)

And by invoking the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, I will direct our government to use the full and immense power of federal and state law enforcement to eliminate the presence of all foreign gangs and criminal networks bringing devastating crime to U.S. soil, including our cities and inner cities. (Applause.)

As commander in chief, I have no higher responsibility than to defend our country from threats and invasions, and that is exactly what I am going to do. We will do it at a level that nobody has ever seen before.

Next, I will direct all members of my cabinet to marshal the vast powers at their disposal to defeat what was record inflation and rapidly bring down costs and prices. (Applause.)

The inflation crisis was caused by massive overspending and escalating energy prices, and that is why today I will also declare a national energy emergency. We will drill, baby, drill. (Applause.)

America will be a manufacturing nation once again, and we have something that no other manufacturing nation will ever have — the largest amount of oil and gas of any country on earth — and we are going to use it. We'll use it. (Applause.)

We will bring prices down, fill our strategic reserves up again right to the top, and export American energy all over the world. (Applause.)

We will be a rich nation again, and it is that liquid gold under our feet that will help to do it.

With my actions today, we will end the Green New Deal, and we will revoke the electric vehicle mandate, saving our auto industry and keeping my sacred pledge to our great American autoworkers. (Applause.)

In other words, you'll be able to buy the car of your choice.

We will build automobiles in America again at a rate that nobody could have dreamt possible just a few years ago. And thank you to the autoworkers of our nation for your inspiring vote of confidence. We did tremendously with their vote. (Applause.)

I will immediately begin the overhaul of our trade system to protect American workers and families. Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens. (Applause.)

For this purpose, we are establishing the External Revenue Service to collect all tariffs, duties, and revenues. It will be massive amounts of money pouring into our Treasury, coming from foreign sources.

The American dream will soon be back and thriving like never before.

To restore competence and effectiveness to our federal government, my administration will establish the brand-new Department of Government Efficiency. (Applause.)

After years and years of illegal and unconstitutional federal efforts to restrict free expression, I also will sign an executive order to immediately stop all government censorship and bring back free speech to America. (Applause.)

Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents — something I know something about. (Laughter.) We will not allow that to happen. It will not happen again.

Under my leadership, we will restore fair, equal, and impartial justice under the constitutional rule of law. (Applause.)

And we are going to bring law and order back to our cities. (Applause.)

This week, I will also end the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life. (Applause.) We will forge a society that is colorblind and merit-based. (Applause.)

As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female. (Applause.)

This week, I will reinstate any service members who were unjustly expelled from our military for objecting to the COVID vaccine mandate with full back pay. (Applause.)

And I will sign an order to stop our warriors from being subjected to radical political theories and social experiments while on duty. It's going to end immediately. (Applause.) Our armed forces will be freed to focus on their sole mission: defeating America's enemies. (Applause.)

Like in 2017, we will again build the strongest military the world has ever seen. We will measure our success not only by the battles we win but also by the wars that we end — and perhaps most importantly, the wars we never get into. (Applause.)

My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker and unifier. That's what I want to be: a peacemaker and a unifier.

I'm pleased to say that as of yesterday, one day before I assumed office, the hostages in the Middle East are coming back home to their families. (Applause.)

Thank you.

America will reclaim its rightful place as the greatest, most powerful, most respected nation on earth, inspiring the awe and admiration of the entire world.

A short time from now, we are going to be changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America — (applause) — and we will restore the name of a great president, William McKinley, to Mount McKinley, where it should be and where it belongs. (Applause.)

President McKinley made our country very rich through tariffs and through talent — he was a natural businessman — and gave Teddy Roosevelt the money for many of the great things he did, including the Panama Canal, which has foolishly been given to the country of Panama after the United States — the United States — I mean, think of this — spent more money than ever spent on a project before and lost 38,000 lives in the building of the Panama Canal.

We have been treated very badly from this foolish gift that should have never been made, and Panama's promise to us has been broken.

The purpose of our deal and the spirit of our treaty has been totally violated. American ships are being severely overcharged and not treated fairly in any way, shape, or form. And that includes the United States Navy.

And above all, China is operating the Panama Canal. And we didn't give it to China. We gave it to Panama, and we're taking it back. (Applause.)

Above all, my message to Americans today is that it is time for us to once again act with courage, vigor, and the vitality of history's greatest civilization.

So, as we liberate our nation, we will lead it to new heights of victory and success. We will not be deterred. Together, we will end the chronic disease epidemic and keep our children safe, healthy, and disease-free.

The United States will once again consider itself a growing nation — one that increases our wealth, expands our territory, builds our cities, raises our expectations, and carries our flag into new and beautiful horizons.

And we will pursue our manifest destiny into the stars, launching American astronauts to plant the Stars and Stripes on the planet Mars. (Applause.)

Ambition is the lifeblood of a great nation, and, right now, our nation is more ambitious than any other. There's no nation like our nation.

Americans are explorers, builders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and pioneers. The spirit of the frontier is written into our hearts. The call of the next great adventure resounds from within our souls.

Our American ancestors turned a small group of colonies on the edge of a vast continent into a mighty republic of the most extraordinary citizens on Earth. No one comes close.

Americans pushed thousands of miles through a rugged land of untamed wilderness. They crossed deserts, scaled mountains, braved untold dangers, won the Wild West, ended slavery, rescued millions from tyranny, lifted billions from poverty, harnessed electricity, split the atom, launched mankind into the heavens, and put the universe of human knowledge into the palm of the human hand. If we work together, there is nothing we cannot do and no dream we cannot achieve.

Many people thought it was impossible for me to stage such a historic political comeback. But as you see today, here I am. The American people have spoken. (Applause.)

I stand before you now as proof that you should never believe that something is impossible to do. In America, the impossible is what we do best. (Applause.)

From New York to Los Angeles, from Philadelphia to Phoenix, from Chicago to Miami, from Houston to right here in Washington, D.C., our country was forged and built by the generations of patriots who gave everything they had for our rights and for our freedom.

They were farmers and soldiers, cowboys and factory workers, steelworkers and coal miners, police officers and pioneers who pushed onward, marched forward, and let no obstacle defeat their spirit or their pride.

Together, they laid down the railroads, raised up the skyscrapers, built great highways, won two world wars, defeated fascism and communism, and triumphed over every single challenge that they faced.

After all we have been through together, we stand on the verge of the four greatest years in American history. With your help, we will restore America promise and we will rebuild the nation that we love — and we love it so much.

We are one people, one family, and one glorious nation under God. So, to every parent who dreams for their child and every child who dreams for their future, I am with you, I will fight for you, and I will win for you. We're going to win like never before. (Applause.)

Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

In recent years, our nation has suffered greatly. But we are going to bring it back and make it great again, greater than ever before.

We will be a nation like no other, full of compassion, courage, and exceptionalism. Our power will stop all wars and bring a new spirit of unity to a world that has been angry, violent, and totally unpredictable.

America will be respected again and admired again, including by people of religion, faith, and goodwill. We will be prosperous, we will be proud, we will be strong, and we will win like never before.

We will not be conquered, we will not be intimidated, we will not be broken, and we will not fail. From this day on, the United States of America will be a free, sovereign, and independent nation.

We will stand bravely, we will live proudly, we will dream boldly, and nothing will stand in our way because we are Americans. The future is ours, and our golden age has just begun.

Thank you. God bless America. Thank you all. Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

Thank you. (Applause.)

END 12:40 P.M. EST

Access The Inaugural Address: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/01/the-inaugural-address/>

January 20—Novus Ordo Seclorum? Part One

By Victor Davis Hanson, January 21, 2025 in The Blade of Perseus

How do we explain that the world is turning upside down after November 5, 2024, and will continue following January 20, 2025?

Symptoms?

Take the media?

The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and others suddenly did not endorse their usual left/Democratic presidential candidate this election. So, many of their writers are now fired or resigned in anger or fear.

Owners claim their own papers are too biased. Changes are promised. But why now? Why did CNN lose its defamation suit? Why is CBS thinking of settling with Trump after editing an interview with Kamala Harris to help her chances in the waning days of the 2024 campaign?

Silicon Valley? What happened there?

Instead of Mark Zuckerberg's \$419 million invested in ensuring the Trump campaign did not win (as in 2020), why are he and the wealthiest tech lords in the world traipsing to Mar-a-Lago? Why did Mark blame his former CEO Sheryl Sandberg for Facebook's DEI mindless McCarthyism?

There is to be no more Trump-Hitler?

Even Joe and Mika took their hajj to Palm Beach?

Snoop Dog is no longer cutting videos about shooting Trump, but praising his near hero?

Bezos's rockets and Elon's are now to be frenemies?

Why did MSNBC suddenly fire(?)—or see leave—its CEO Rashida Jones? Was it just ratings, or public disgust as well with the likes of Rachel Maddow (who why now took a pay cut?) and the protected racist rantings of Joy Reid?

Why now all of a sudden do the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times report to us that Team Biden, and the media who covered the White House, all knew that he was cognitively challenged from the start of his tenure as they both conspired to smear and slander all who spoke the truth?

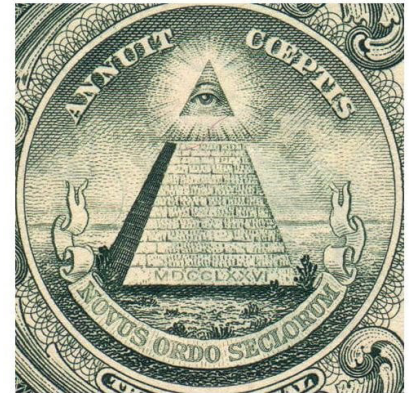


Photo: What Do the Latin Phrases on the Dollar Bill Mean? <https://www.brighthubeducation.com/learning-translating-latin/40697-phrases-found-on-the-us-one-dollar-bill/>

Why is everyone shocked that Joe Biden just declared that a mythical 28th Amendment is “the law of the land”?

Again, why now these about-faces? Why not last July; why not, say, February or September 2022 or perhaps 2023? Why do we hear only now that Joe Biden signed an executive order banning LNG exports to Europe—and claimed he did not know what he signed?

And also now, suddenly there really was a Wuhan Lab origin to the birth of Covid, after all. And mirabile dictu Peter Daszak is no hero and not deserving of a single dime of more federal money? Will there be no more bobblehead Dr. Faucis to buy? Why no longer a market for them and other Fauci paraphernalia?

Why is Liz Cheney no longer a folk hero? Was she not praised for coaching a witness and shutting out other Republicans from serving on the January 6 House committee?

Christopher Wray sent in his resignation and now suddenly warns us of cabals of Chinese espionage operatives in the U.S.? Again, did they just now appear?

Why is everyone from CEOs to the FBI abruptly shutting down their DEI departments? Would they have done so if Harris had won?

And did we not hear that the caravans heading northward to our border have been turning around? Why is Mexico so complimentary of the once diablo Trump?

Why is Trudeau gone?

For that matter, why did the Assad regime abruptly fall after the election, and why does Hamas wish to negotiate, and why does the current Iranian president suddenly swear Iran wants no bomb, no desire to assassinate Trump, no wish for a wider war with Israel?

As for the trivial, why did the Danish government just put Greenland imagery on its royal coat of arms? And why did it send \$1 billion to Greenland, and why not 1, 5, 9 years ago?

So why is the world turned upside down, as the British played after their shocking defeat at Yorktown (e.g., “Yet let’s be content, and the times lament, you see the world turn’d upside down.”)?

Access the article: <https://victorhanson.com/january-20-novus-ordo-seclorum-part-one/>



Photo by Anna Moneymaker/UPI, U.S. President Donald Trump signs executive orders during an indoor inauguration parade at Capital One Arena on January 20, 2025 in Washington, DC. Donald Trump takes office for his second term as the 47th president of the United States.



Photo by Pedro Ugarte / AFP via Getty Images, Trump signs first bill of his second presidency, the Laken Riley Act, into law (January 29, 2025). “She was a light of warmth”.

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