



## NEWSLETTER

June 2025 ISSUE#: HV016

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://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>

Kind regards,  
Publius Bonhomme Richard, Publisher & Co-Editors

#### HOW TO CONTACT US:

Email us at: [info@mercervethepeople.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@mercervethepeople.com)

### The Real First 100 Days

By Victor Davis Hanson originally published in the Blade of Perseus (May 15 2025)

Pundits are confused about what to make of the first 100 days of the second Trump administration.

Supporters talk of "flooding the zone," believing Trump is making so many changes so quickly that his opposition is reduced to deer-in-the-headlights infancy.

They must be right when the nation suffers daily Democratic pottymouth videos, vandalism of Teslas, infantile meltdowns at congressional witnesses, rioting against federal agents to protect illegal alien felons, protesting on behalf of women beaters, M-13 gangbangers, human traffickers, and assaulters, and visa-holding violent students praising Hamas terrorists.

In contrast, opponents either claim that Trump's first three months are either directionless chaos or a Hitlerian nightmare or both.

But what is really happening?

One, Trump is finally addressing the problems that proverbially "cannot go on forever, and so they won't go on."

When, if ever, would the left have closed the southern border? After 10, 30, 50 million illegal aliens?



How many more criminal illegal entrants was the Biden administration willing to allow into American neighborhoods—500,000? 1 million? 3 million?

How long was the world simply going to ignore the human destruction on the doorstep of Europe?

Would Biden or Harris have sought a ceasefire? Or would it have taken another 1.5, 3, or even 5 million more dead, wounded, and missing Ukrainians and Russians?

Nor did past administrations ever seek a solution to the massive national debt, much less the uncontrollable budget and trade deficits.

All prior presidents passed the day of judgment on to some vague future presidency, assured that their money printing would at least not blow up on their watch.

All moaned that China was piling up huge trade surpluses while denying its own population the usual modern safety net. They knew Beijing's aim was to use the trillions of dollars in trade surpluses to build a new massive military, a greater arsenal of nuclear bombs, and a new imperial Belt and Road overseas empire.

Yet no administration did anything but greenlight American outsourcing and offshoring while ignoring Chinese trade cheating and technology theft.

Indeed, prior presidencies appeased and enriched China on the foolish belief that such indulgence would lead to Chinese prosperity, and with such Western-style affluence, soon a globalized, democratic, and supposedly friendly China.

In sum, we just witnessed all at once a 100-day, 360-degree effort to address all the existential challenges that we knew were unsustainable but were either afraid or incompetent to address.

Second, the administration apparently wants to confront the source of these crises and believes it is the progressive project.

The left maintains real political power not by grass-roots popularity, but rather by unelected institutional clout. The party of democracy uses anti-democratic means to achieve its ends of perpetual control.

It wages lawfare through the weaponization of the state, local, and federal courts.

It exercises executive power through cherry-picked federal district and circuit judges and their state and local counterparts.

The permanent bureaucracies and huge federal workforce are mostly left-wing, unionized, and weaponized by a progressive apparatus. Their supreme directive is to amalgamate legislative, judicial, and executive power into the hands of the unelected Anthony Fauci, Jim Comeys, and Lois Lerner of the world—and thus to override or ignore both popular plebiscites and the work of the elected Congress.

Over ninety percent of the media—legacy, network, social, and state—are left-wing. Their mission is not objectivity but, admittedly, indoctrination.

Academia is the font of the progressive project. Ninety percent of the professoriate are left-wing and activist—explaining why campuses believe they are above the rules and laws of the Constitution, the Supreme Court, and the U.S. Congress.

Add into the mix the blue-chip Accela corridor law firms and the globalized corporate and revolving-door political elite.

The net result is clear: almost everything the vast majority of Americans and their elected representatives did not want—far-left higher education, a Pravda media, biological men destroying women's sports, an open border, 30 million illegal aliens, massive debt, a weaponized legal system, and a politicized Pentagon—became the new culture of America.

So, Trump is not just confronting unaddressed existential crises but also the root causes of why, when, and how they become inevitable and nearly unsolvable.

His answer is a messy, knock-down-drag-out counterrevolution to reboot the country back to the middle where it once was and where the Founders believed it should remain.

His right and left opponents call such pushback chaotic, disruptive, and out of control.

But the counterrevolution appears disorderly and upsetting, mostly to those who originally birthed the chaos; it certainly does not to the majority of Americans who finally wanted an end to the madness.

Access the article: <https://victorhanson.com/the-real-first-100-days/>

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## ELECTION 2025

### NJ Is Selecting A New Governor This Year

*By Abigail Adams*

We are selecting a new Governor this year and Hopewell Township residents have a write in candidate for Hopewell Township Committee. We need you to vote. If you are registered as an unaffiliated voter, you can declare a party on election day.

Click [HERE](#) to find Primary Election Day locations and Vote by Mail Secure Drop Box locations. On election day, you must go to your district polling location. This information can be found on your sample ballot.

For Polling Place search click here: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search>

To learn more about the Governor Candidates click here: <https://mercernjgop.com/candidates>

Please vote for Edward Jackowski and write-in Steven Niederer for Hopewell Township Committee.

### Steven Niederer Bio – Write-in Candidate for Hopewell Township Committee

Steven Niederer is a lifelong resident of Hopewell Township and part of a proud fourth-generation farming family whose roots run deep in the very soil that has sustained his family and community for generations. Raised with a strong work ethic, respect for tradition, and a love for the land, Steven embodies the values that define Hopewell's past, present, and future.

After graduating from Hopewell Valley Central High School in 2006, Steven earned his bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and Criminology from The College of New Jersey. Inspired by a calling to public service, he began his career in law enforcement in 2013, joining the Mercer County Sheriff's Office.

Steven's tenure in law enforcement was marked by distinction and leadership. He served on loan to the United States Marshals Service as part of their Regional Fugitive Task Force, where he played a key role in identifying, locating, and apprehending individuals connected to serious and violent criminal offenses. He was also an originating member of the Mercer County Sheriff's Tactical Response Team, helping to establish and shape the unit's mission and operations from the beginning of operation.

Through unfortunate events, Steven's law enforcement career was cut short after he was shot in the line of duty. Though his injuries ended his time in uniform, they did nothing to diminish his dedication to public service or his vision for building a stronger, safer, and more connected community.

Today, Steven continues his commitment to service by supporting first responders and community members as a mental health advocate. Drawing from personal experience and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by those in high-stress roles, he works to break down stigma, promote access to resources, and foster a culture of resilience and support.

Now, as a candidate for the Hopewell Township Committee, Steven brings a rare blend of lifelong local knowledge, public safety expertise, and deep-rooted values. He is focused on preserving Hopewell's rural character, supporting local agriculture, ensuring responsible development, and fostering a community that works for all its residents.

Steven Niederer knows Hopewell — because he's lived it, served it, and continues to fight for it.

## **Tax Hikes And Upset Voters Could Be Clincher For GOP In New Jersey's Governor Race**

*By Kevin Mooney originally published in The American Spectator (May 13, 2025)*

Voters residing in Mercer County, New Jersey, who have experienced a sharp increase in their property taxes could potentially upend this year's gubernatorial election in Republicans' favor. Although Democrats enjoy a significant voter registration advantage in the county and statewide, recent trendlines suggest beleaguered taxpayers may be ready to end Democrats' one-party rule.

If not, the financial pressure will become increasingly untenable in the next few years.

Middle-class families and seniors on fixed incomes who would prefer to remain in the place they've called home for generations get one more bite at the apple on Nov. 4 when they elect their next governor.

There are currently 11 candidates from both parties competing in the June 10 primary. But thus far, none of them have directly addressed the 22 percent property tax increase that hit residents of the capital county last summer. The average annual property tax for state residents now tops \$10,000, which is a record high.

Ewing Mayor Bert Steinmann, a Democrat, fixed the blame for the 22 percent tax increase now in motion squarely on Mercer County officials in a message to residents. The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for reviewing and approving the budget that led to the 22 percent increase. I asked Mercer County Executive Dan Benson, a Democrat, which county officials approved the tax increase, and what public records, if any, from the county commissions and the taxation board document that increase. The commission itself and the county Board of Taxation should have some answers.

In his response, Benson correctly pointed out that under the prior administration, the State Comptroller's Office found that Mercer County had improper policies in place impacting the county's finances. The investigation also found that Dave Miller, the former chief financial officer, lacked the proper credentials for his position.

### **That's what you call a clown show.**

"This led to a whopping \$4.5 million fine by the IRS and the loss of over \$10 million in state aid, among other negative impacts," Benson explained. "I knew our first budget would be challenging," he continued. "We completed the long overdue 2022 audit and found over \$10 million in deferred charges (spending from prior years that were not paid for) and \$12.5 million in one-time federal American Rescue Plan funding used to plug their budget. These 2 items alone account for over 2/3 of this year's tax increase. Other systemic issues like unsustainable increases in health care, prescription, and insurance costs make up parts of the rest of the increase."

Clearly, there are festering financial holes that predate Benson's time in office. But Richard LaRossa, a former Republican state senator representing parts of the county, sees another problem that the upcoming election could potentially fix.

"When you have one-party rule, no matter which party it is, there is a certain lack of accountability, and you don't have what I call a positive friction that comes from having checks and balances," LaRossa said. "We still don't really know who approved the tax increase or what process was used."

Under former Republican Gov. Chris Christie, a statutory property tax cap was passed in 2010, limiting annual increases to 2 percent. But as the Wall Street Journal reports, Gov. Phil Murphy, a two-term Democrat set to leave office next January, has already taken steps to evade the cap.

Benson explained that Mercer County remained under the cap using the state formula. LaRossa is not convinced everything is on the up and up. He sees "a massive" and "potentially illegal tax increase" at work that should be the focus of gubernatorial campaigns. LaRossa also said his most recent escrow notice went up \$300, which comes out to a \$3,600 annual increase.

This follows on the heels of the 22 percent tax increase the Ewing mayor blames on the county.

"I think the 22 percent increase was done illegally," LaRossa said. "Republican candidates should be screaming about this." There are several key questions about the increase that remain unanswered. "Who approved the increase? Was the county's taxation board even involved? Or did the commissions just go ahead and approve the increase?"

Whoever was complicit in the decision to go above the 2 percent cap "broke the law," in LaRossa's estimation. He also suspects the budget gap that triggered the tax increase might be larger than what Mercer County commissions have acknowledged. If the dollar amount of the tax increase comes out higher than the \$4.5 million IRS fine, LaRossa said that would serve as a strong indication that more money went missing during Miller's tenure than what Mercer County officials have acknowledged.

Democrats hold a 896,350 voter registration advantage over Republicans in New Jersey. That's down from more than a million a few years ago as Republicans have been making steady registration gains in the past few years. There's also a large block of unaffiliated voters that is roughly even with the number of Democrats.

The state suddenly appears more competitive.

Donald Trump came within six points of winning the state against Kamala Harris in last year's presidential race. In 2021, Republican Jack Ciattarelli, a former assemblyman and businessman, nearly unseated Murphy in a surprisingly close race. Ciattarelli is among the candidates again this year. The other two serious contenders in the Republican primary are Bill Spadea, a Mercer County-based radio personality, and Jon Bramnick, a state senator representing parts of Morris and Middlesex Counties.

Tax revolts are not new to New Jersey. After former Democratic Gov. Jim Florio pushed through a record tax hike in the early 1990s, a citizen revolt called Hands Across New Jersey (HANJ) propelled Republicans into legislative majorities. Florio also lost his bid for re-election.

By seizing on the questionable legalities of the recent tax hike, the Republican candidate for governor could possibly pull in enough Democrats and unaffiliated voters to win statewide.

It's happened before.

Read and access the article: <https://spectator.org/tax-hike-upset-voter-clinch-gop-new-jersey-governor/>

*Kevin Mooney is a senior investigative researcher for Restoration News.*

## **Charlamagne Tha God Grills Rep. Sherrill On \$7M Stock Profits**

*By Eric Mack originally published in Newsmax (May 22 2025)*

Rep. Mikie Sherrill, D-N.J., a Democrat primary candidate for governor of New Jersey, admitted in an interview with Charlamagne tha God that her family has seen its net worth more than triple to nearly \$14 million during her three terms in Congress.

The admission came during questioning on Wednesday's edition of The Breakfast Club, Charlamagne's popular syndicated radio show.

Charlamagne pressed Sherrill about reports in Newsmax and the Washington Free Beacon, which detailed her and her husband's \$7 million gain in net worth from stock trading.

Sherrill in December paid a fine for failure to report her gains.

Sherrill appeared to stumble when Charlamagne asked about her substantial increase in wealth and being fined for the unreported trades during the interview posted to X.

"I, I, uh, also don't trade individual stocks," Sherrill first replied. "It's been widely reported. I've, uh, I, my husband doesn't trade, we don't trade individual stocks.

"I don't think anyone in Congress should, quite frankly."

When pressed on just how much Sherrill was forced to report having made, she attributed it to "automatic" stock trades, then had an awkward pause before accusing Newsmax itself of having been fined. Sherrill's allegation is false; Newsmax has never been fined.

"Newsmax is, first of all, a very questionable organization that is paying multiple fines," Sherrill says with some hesitation. "I'm not sure what they're talking about."

Sherrill's campaign communications director Sean Higgins said the reports of Sherrill being fined for failure to report stock trades was merely "recycling bogus, debunked claims."

In 2019, Sherrill claimed assets in congressional disclosure forms of between \$733,209 and \$4.3 million.

But by 2024, Sherrill reported assets as high as \$13.975 million, according to the Free Beacon.

During the six minutes posted on X, Sherrill explained her dramatic recent wealth increase to her husband's financial transactions.

"Um, I would guess, that the root of that would be, uh, because some of, some of my husband's payments from his company has been in stocks, which are immediately and automatically sold, but there is not individual stock trading," she said without addressing the fine for not disclosing the stock sales in according with federal law.

"It's not as though I go sit on the House Services Committee and suddenly I am trading Boeing or something. There's none of that. I'm totally out of individual stocks, and I, like I said, I think every member of Congress should be."

She additionally answered she was unaware of her windfall of more than \$7 million since she was first elected to the House of Representatives from a district in northern New Jersey in 2018.

"I, I haven't," she said. "I don't believe I did, but I'd have to go see what, what that was alluding to – again, what kind of came from."

Later in the interview, she essentially acknowledged the wealth increase, attributing it to her husband.

"So," she said with another extended pause. "I think we made money from, um, my husband's job. He gets paid in, stocks. They're automatically sold. So, I think we made money there.

"We don't make any individual money stock trading. We're out of all individual stocks, because I want people to know that I'm not somehow gaining information and enriching myself because of my work in Congress.

"So that's really important to me.

"And I think every member of Congress should do that and I'm on legislation for that."

Charlamagne encouraged the congresswoman to clear up the matter because her primary opponent, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, was running ads raising the controversy.

"I was surprised by that attack ad because I was with Mayor Baraka at a debate for 2 ½ hours the night before it came out and he hadn't raised any of this. I would've liked an opportunity to sort of discuss it there before," she said.

Access the article: <https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/mikie-sherrill-stock-profits-governor/2025/05/22/id/1212032/>

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## Education

### What's Happening In HVRSD Schools?

#### HVRSD Board Of Education Meeting May 19, 2025 At Timberlane Middle School

*By The Wall of Ed*

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

Recording: <https://youtu.be/nIPDOCpgl3w>

Next Meeting June 16th at 6:30pm at the HVRSD Board office: 425 S. Main Street, Pennington

#### **Board Passes Resolution: Reaffirming HVRSD's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility**

The Board unanimously voted to pass a resolution reaffirming HVRSD's commitment to DEIA, in stark contrast to the Trump administration's warning that public schools must end DEI practices or risk losing federal funding. A copy of the resolution can be found here: [https://go.boarddocs.com/nj/hvrSD/Board.nsf/files/DGTV6H7F370B/\\$file/DEIA%20Resolution.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/nj/hvrSD/Board.nsf/files/DGTV6H7F370B/$file/DEIA%20Resolution.pdf)

#### **Concerns Raised about Implementation of Student Activity Fees**

Faced with ongoing budget constraints, HVRSD has decided to reinstate extracurricular activity fees, rather than cut programs for the 2025-2026 school year. Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, band, and theater will have to pay up to \$300 per student and \$600 per family per year. A full list of the fees can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18pNli7vaxYOet0BVTRXZrYo9ZovbUjav/view>

Parents and students were particularly concerned about the reduction in staffing for our award-winning performing arts program, noting that these programs are a great strength in our district and actually bring paying students in from surrounding districts. They also help make our children more well-rounded and expose them to self-expression outside of academics. One student said that dance class energizes her after sitting in a classroom all day. Another parent said that these types of activities improve academic success and improve the health and well-being of all our youth.

Dr Treece responded by saying that the Board has thought about this extensively for the past few years because we have been battling to balance the budget and they decided to prioritize educational programs. She added that any family who cannot afford the fees can confidentially apply for a waiver through their school principal.

#### **Update on the Bond Referendum**

The finance committee gave an update on the bond referendum after voters rejected the last one in September and they will be voting whether to try again at the next board meeting on June 16th. They removed the turf fields and concession stands, but the list of projects they are considering still adds up to \$84 Million.

Dr Treece added that this would not cover all of the projects that need to be done, they focused on projects that would be catastrophic if failed and could lead to building closures. They are considering splitting it into more than one question to give the critical projects a greater chance of passing. The finance committee also added that since maintenance is ongoing, until something more drastic is done at the state level to ease school's budget constraints, this is not the last referendum they will need to pass.

### **Three HVRSD Board of Education Seats will be on the November 2025 Ballot**

Two seats in Hopewell Township and one seat in Hopewell Borough are up for re-election this year and the nominating petitions are due to the Mercer County Clerk's office by July 28th. School board petitions can be found by clicking here: <https://www.mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk/elections/election-related-links>. The number of signatures needed has increased from 10 to 25.

The NJSBA has a candidate information kit for anyone who wants to learn more about becoming a school board member: <https://www.njsba.org/membership/membership-school-board-members/school-board-candidacy/>.

### **U.S. Department of Education Takes Action to Eliminate DEI**

*January 23, 2025*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Education has taken action to eliminate harmful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, including references to them in public-facing communication channels and its associated workforce. These actions are in line with President Trump's ongoing commitment to end illegal discrimination and wasteful spending across the federal government. They are the first step in reorienting the agency toward prioritizing meaningful learning ahead of divisive ideology in our schools.

Following President Trump's recent Executive Orders and initial guidance from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Department removed or archived hundreds of guidance documents, reports, and training materials that include mentions of DEI from its outward facing communication channels. The Department also put employees charged with leading DEI initiatives on paid administrative leave. These review efforts will continue as the Department works to end discrimination based on race and the use of harmful race stereotypes, both within the agency and throughout America's education system.

Notable actions the Department has taken include:

- Dissolution of the Department's Diversity & Inclusion Council, effective immediately;
  - Background: The Diversity & Inclusion Council was established following Executive Order 13583 under then - President Obama. President Trump has rescinded the Executive Orders that guide the Council and issued a new Executive Order, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing," that terminates groups like the Diversity & Inclusion Council. DEI documents issued and related actions taken by the Council have been withdrawn.
- Dissolution of the Employee Engagement Diversity Equity Inclusion Accessibility Council (EEDIAC) within the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), effective immediately and pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing";
- Cancellation of ongoing DEI training and service contracts which total over \$2.6 million;
- Withdrawal of the Department's Equity Action Plan;
- Placement of career Department staff tasked with implementing the previous administration's DEI initiatives on paid administrative leave; and
- Identification for removal of over 200 web pages from the Department's website that housed DEI resources and encouraged schools and institutions of higher education to promote or endorse harmful ideological programs.

Pursuant to OPM guidance, the Department will continue its comprehensive review of all agency programs and services to identify additional initiatives and working groups that may be advancing a divisive DEI agenda, including programs using coded or imprecise language to disguise their activity. Careful review of all public sites and media channels for DEI language and resources will also continue.

Access the press release: <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-takes-action-eliminate-dei>

## MAHA Commission Unveils Landmark Report Exposing Root Causes Of Childhood Chronic Disease Crisis

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Press Release - May 22, 2025*

WASHINGTON, DC—May 22, 2025—The Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) today released a groundbreaking assessment identifying key drivers behind the childhood chronic disease crisis. Coming just 98 days after President Trump signed an Executive Order, [links to an external website](#) establishing the MAHA Commission and tasking it with delivering a “Make Our Children Healthy Again Assessment, [links to an external website](#),” the report exposes a range of contributing factors—including poor diet, accumulation of environmental toxins, insufficient physical activity, chronic stress, and overmedicalization.

By examining these drivers, the assessment arms MAHA Commission stakeholders and partners with clear evidence that will support the development of effective policy interventions where they can deliver the greatest impact.

“We will end the childhood chronic disease crisis by attacking its root causes head-on—not just managing its symptoms,” **said U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** “We will follow the truth wherever it leads, uphold rigorous science, and drive bold policies that put the health, development, and future of every child first. I’m grateful to President Trump for his leadership—and for trusting me to lead this fight to root out corruption, restore scientific integrity, and reclaim the health of our children.”

“We must do more to improve the health outcomes of our kids and families, and President Trump knows agriculture is at the heart of the solution. America’s farmers and ranchers dedicate their lives to the noble cause of feeding their country and the world, and in doing so have created the safest and most abundant and affordable food supply in the world. We are working to make sure our kids and families are consuming the healthiest food we produce,” **said U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins.** “I look forward to continuing to work with Secretary Kennedy and other members of the MAHA Commission to improve our nation’s health.”

“America’s childhood chronic disease crisis will be solved through innovation,” **said U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin.** “At EPA, we will do our part to protect human health and the environment while fulfilling all of our statutory obligations to safely regulate chemicals needed for every part of modern life to transport, build, feed, and power the Great American Comeback. This report shows America will continue to be the energy, industrial, and agricultural power of the world—and we can continue this while ensuring we have the healthiest children.”

### The need for this report is clear:

- Today in the U.S. more than 1 in 5 children over 6 years old are obese. This is a more than 270% increase compared to the 1970s.
- Prevalence of pre-diabetes in teens is more than 1 in 4 teens, having more than doubled over the last 2 decades.
- Childhood cancer incidence has risen over nearly 40% since 1975, especially in children aged 0-19.
- Autism spectrum disorder impacts 1 in 31 children by age 8.
- Teenage depression rates nearly doubled from 2009 to 2019, and with more than 1 in 4 teenage girls in 2022 reporting a major depressive episode in the past year.
- Three million high school students seriously considered suicide in 2023.
- Between 1997 and 2018, childhood food-allergy prevalence rose 88%.

Next steps will include supporting gold-standard scientific research and developing a comprehensive strategy. The MAHA commission now has 82 days to produce the Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy, based on the findings from today’s assessment.

The National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will act swiftly to close research gaps and drive decisive action against the escalating childhood chronic disease crisis. From overhauling GRAS oversight to harnessing AI for real-time surveillance and tackling the replication crisis, these agencies are on the front lines. These agencies will lead the charge in ending the childhood chronic disease epidemic to Make America Healthy Again.

Access the press release: <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/maha-commission-childhood-chronic-disease-root-causes.html>

## HHS Releases Comprehensive Review Of Medical Interventions For Children And Adolescents With Gender Dysphoria

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Press Release - May 1, 2025

**Washington, D.C.**—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and Office of Population Affairs, released a comprehensive review, opens in a new tab of the evidence and best practices for promoting the health of children and adolescents with gender dysphoria. This review, informed by an evidence-based medicine approach, reveals serious concerns about medical interventions, such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries, that attempt to transition children and adolescents away from their sex.

The review highlights a growing body of evidence pointing to significant risks—including irreversible harms such as infertility—while finding very weak evidence of benefit. That weakness has been a consistent finding of systematic reviews of evidence around the world.

The review also fills a gap in the medical literature and existing clinical practice reviews with regard to the ethical aspects of pediatric medical transition. HHS believes that medical ethics should be central in this debate.

Contributors to the review include medical doctors, medical ethicists, and a methodologist. Contributors represent a wide range of political viewpoints and were chosen for their commitment to scientific principles.

“Our duty is to protect our nation’s children—not expose them to unproven and irreversible medical interventions,” **said NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya.** “We must follow the gold standard of science, not activist agendas.”

Despite increasing pressure to promote these drastic medical interventions for our nation’s youth, the review makes clear: the science and evidence do not support their use, and the risks cannot be ignored.

Chapters of this review were subject to peer review prior to this publication, and a post-publication peer review will begin in the coming days involving stakeholders with different perspectives. Names of the contributors to the review are not initially being made public, in order to help maintain the integrity of this process.

Access the press release: <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/gender-dysphoria-report-release.html>

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## PILOT

### Unanswered Questions

By John Galt

#### **The Township Committee will tell you they have no control over the school Budget.**

This is true, but what they do have control over is designating how Township tax dollars are allocated to the school budget. According to the Financial Impact Study prepared for Hopewell Parc there will be an additional 329 students added to our school district. Per the impact study, the cost to the Township for these additional students will be \$7.4 M annually in current dollars. PILOT tax revenues are not allocated to school funding; instead 95% of PILOT taxes collected go to the Township and 5% goes to Mercer County. None of the tax dollars are allocated to schools. What this translates into is that everyone living outside of a PILOT designated area has to pay for the education of kids living in those PILOT zones, unless the Township shares the PILOT revenues collected. The cost per student in 2023 to the Township is \$22K per year. The Township could easily calculate the number of enrolled students from the Hopewell Parc development times the cost rate per student and allocated those revenues to the school. They will tell you this isn’t their responsibility.

#### **The Township Committee claims they can’t give \$16.5 M for funding to improve Bear Tavern unless Pennington Borough drops their lawsuit.**

This conditional release has been placed on Pennington Borough by the Township. It is not a mandatory condition dictated by statute. On the contrary, it is a political ploy to make the Township look like the victim. They are not prohibited in any way from designating funds to be used to cover the school budget. This is a political move to force the Pennington Borough to drop the lawsuit and have their residents contribute to the cost of educating students for Hopewell Parc.

Access the US Home at Hopewell (Lennar) and Township of Hopewell PILOT Financial Agreement: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/US-Home-At-Hopewell-PILOT1.pdf>

#### **The Township championed the \$2.5 M tax revenues received from BeiGene.**

It is true that BeiGene contributed \$2.5M in taxes revenues to Hopewell Township. What they didn’t tell you is that BeiGene occupies 2 separate lots on the old BMS property. One of those lots paid \$2.5M in tax revenue to the Township. The second lot is where they invested a significant amount of capital to improve the property and erect a new facility. This lot is assessed

at \$198M, which information is available to the public, and would yield over \$8M to the Township. Unfortunately, this lot was granted a PILOT whose tax calculation was based on gross revenues reported. Since it is an R&D facility, which typically doesn't report a profit, the Township hasn't received any tax dollars in 2 years.

If any of this is concerning, please voice your concern(s) at the next Township Committee meeting(s) in-person or by zoom: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/calendar.aspx?CID=32>

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## Local News

### Have We Been Lied To By The Hopewell Township Committee Again? (Continued)

#### Steven Chaykowsky; Westside Pacific Estates; John Hart v Township of Hopewell New Jersey; Bristol Myers Squibb Company; Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc; BeOne Medicines (Formerly Known As "BeiGene") - Amended

By John Galt

UPDATE: At the May 5th 2025 Hopewell Township Committee Meeting, the following questions were asked:

[UNANSWERED QUESTIONS] Re: The sale of the BMS property:

- Is it true, there is a complaint against HT with the sale of the property?
- Is it true, an offer for \$55 million was made before the winning bid?
- Is it true a single owner made the offer as-is? Which would not have required a zoning change.
- Why was the offer hidden from the community? Is this what led the community to believe a zoning change was needed to attract a buyer?
- Was there more than one offer higher than the winning offer?
- Is it true, the zoning change allowed for manufacturing and multiple owners of sub-divided parcels? Have these subdivisions been sold and if so, to whom?
- Have any parts of the property been approved for residential?

HT Committee did not answer any of the questions, citing they were not able to talk about based on the active litigation.

To access the HTC meeting video recording: [https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB\\_6dlk4EjvYfv...](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB_6dlk4EjvYfv...)

The questions were asked at 31:43. The HTC declined to answer questions at 58:48.

### On May 25, 2025: Plaintiffs filed First Amended Complaint.

Plaintiffs and Defendants have been amended.

#### Nature of Action

3. This action arises from a brazen fraud - perpetrated against Plaintiffs as well as the residents of Hopewell Township, New Jersey – in connection with the marketing and sale in 2020 of the 433-acre research campus owned by the pharmaceutical firm Bristol Myers Squibb.
4. When BMS and its broker (JLL) first placed the Property up for sale in 2018, Plaintiff Westside Pacific Estates Inc. ("Westside"), representing a group of investors that included Plaintiff Chaykowsky, made an offer to purchase the Property for \$25 million - later increasing the offer to \$55 million. This was a 'cash' offer that was not contingent on any change in the zoning of the Property, which under Hopewell Township's land use ordinance was strictly limited to research/office use by a single owner.
5. As will be described below, BMS never received a higher offer, or one with better terms. Had BMS simply been acting in the best interests of its shareholders, and in compliance with its fiduciary obligations, it would have accepted this offer.
6. Yet BMS and its broker did not accept the offer. Instead, they misrepresented to the Township of Hopewell that they had received no offers, and that the Township needed to eliminate zoning restrictions on the Property in order to have any hope of attracting a buyer. Their ultimate goal was to allow biologics and other manufacturing on the site, and to permit multiple owners of the Property on subdivided parcels, all of which was prohibited by the Township's zoning ordinance and its Master Plan.
7. Shockingly, this fraudulent scheme to get the Township to change its land-use laws – in ways that violated its Master Plan - was successful. The Township proceeded to adopt an Ordinance eliminating the zoning restrictions, and expanding the permissible uses of the Property to include manufacturing. The Ordinance also eliminated the requirement that the Property

be owned by a single owner, and now permitted there to be multiple owners of subdivided parcels, and a “condo-ization” of the site. The Township adopted the Ordinance even after its own Planning Board reported that such changes would fundamentally alter the rural character of the area, in violation of the Master Plan.

8. Local residents, suspicious of the Township’s sudden rush to change critical zoning restrictions to benefit one Property, were rightfully incensed. The BMS Property was located within an environmentally sensitive watershed, and surrounded by organic farms. A local environmental group pointed to the dangers of now allowing manufacturing, increased trucking and tractor-trailer traffic, and chemical waste storage on the Property, risking the health of residents, and changing the character of their neighborhoods.
9. Yet when members of the public appeared at Township meetings to question the adoption of the Ordinance, they were told, falsely, that the Ordinance was necessary to attract offers for the Property. Representatives of BMS and the broker falsely told local residents - including Plaintiff John Hart, who was then a member of the Township Committee - that if the Ordinance were not adopted, the Township would be left with an abandoned site, with the loss of a significant percentage of its tax ratables.
10. All of this was an utter sham. At the very moment the Township was adopting the Ordinance over the protests of its residents, there was already a cash offer on the table from Westside – concealed by BMS and its broker - to purchase the Property ‘as is’, without requiring any change in the site’s zoning restrictions. It will thus be undisputed in this case that the Ordinance eliminating the subject zoning restrictions for the BMS Property was never necessary, and that it had no lawful justification.
11. Once BMS and its broker achieved passage of this sham Ordinance eliminating critical zoning restrictions on the Property, they sold the Property to another entity for \$32 million, which was \$23 million less than the \$55 million previously offered by Westside - and which required seller financing. That entity then sold a 42-acre portion of the Property to BeiGene Ltd., a global pharmaceutical company founded in China.
12. BeiGene proceeded to construct a giant biologics manufacturing facility on the site – precisely what the Township’s residents did not want, and which directly violated the Master Plan and zoning scheme that residents had long relied upon to protect their community and property values.
13. Thus, as a result of the fraud, the Property is now the site of exactly the type of environment-damaging manufacturing, chemical storage, trucking and tractor-trailer traffic, and other increased activity along with multiple owners and condo-ization of the site, that residents feared when they rightfully objected to the zoning changes.
14. Pending discovery and further investigation it is not yet known how deep this scheme went; who besides BMS and its broker were involved; and who was enriched by the scheme, and how. BMS’s suspicious acceptance of a lower sum for the Property, in order to get the Township to eliminate the zoning restrictions, leads to unsettling conclusions. Clearly, the bigger prize for BMS, its broker, and others yet to be identified, was the elimination of the zoning restrictions – to permit biologics manufacturing on a massive scale at the site, along with allowing multiple owners of subdivided parcels.
15. Disgracefully, the Township’s residents served as the sacrificial lambs in this scheme. Their ‘quaint’ concerns about protecting their community and preserving its rural nature – and their apparently naïve belief that the rule of law would govern - were simply no match for the powerful interests who would be enriched once the Property’s zoning restrictions were eliminated, even if through unlawful means. This case thus cries out for appropriate relief.

Access the full First Amended Complaint: <https://mercerwethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Chaykowsky-Westside-Hart-filed-First-Amended-Complaint.pdf>

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## Election Integrity

### Non-Citizens On Voter Rolls – How Does NJ Stack Up?

*By Mark Demo*

New Jersey’s voter registration system exhibits significant gaps in complying with federal requirements to ensure that only U.S. citizens participate in elections. The state does not mandate documentary proof of U.S. citizenship to register, relying solely on an attestation from registrants. This practice falls short of federal standards emphasizing confirmed citizenship status to secure voter rolls.

Moreover, New Jersey has not adopted a state constitutional amendment explicitly stating, “Only Citizens Vote,” an essential step implemented by many states to strengthen election integrity.

County boards of elections in New Jersey lack the capability to verify the citizenship status of voters by cross-checking against state DMV or other governmental databases. Registrations are added based on confirmed identity and residency, but notably, citizenship status verification is omitted.

Additionally, New Jersey driver's licenses do not indicate citizenship status, limiting their utility in confirming voter eligibility. Acceptable identification documents for first-time voters include unexpired photo IDs, current utility bills, bank statements, government documents, or valid student IDs; none of these explicitly verify U.S. citizenship.

New Jersey allows online voter registration, further complicating citizenship verification processes.

## States with 'Only Citizens Vote' Constitutional Amendments

As of January 2025, the following states have amended their constitutions to explicitly state that only U.S. citizens may vote in elections:

Alabama	Missouri
Arizona	North Carolina
Colorado	North Dakota
Florida	Ohio
Idaho	Oklahoma
Iowa	South Carolina
Kentucky	Wisconsin
Louisiana	

These amendments reinforce the requirement that only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in state and local elections.

## States Indicating Citizenship Status on Driver's Licenses

Some states issue Enhanced Driver's Licenses (EDLs), which serve as proof of both identity and U.S. citizenship. States offering EDLs include:

Michigan	Vermont
Minnesota	Washington
New York	

These EDLs are marked to indicate U.S. citizenship and can be used for certain federal purposes, such as entering the U.S. at land and sea borders. However, standard driver's licenses in these states, as well as in others, do not typically indicate citizenship status.

In contrast, New Jersey does not offer EDLs, and its standard driver's licenses do not denote citizenship status, limiting their effectiveness in verifying voter eligibility.

## Conclusion

While New Jersey complies with certain federal election laws, particularly in voter education and cybersecurity, it falls short in areas critical to ensuring that only U.S. citizens participate in elections. The absence of documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration, lack of citizenship verification mechanisms, and driver's licenses that do not indicate citizenship status are significant gaps. Adopting measures such as requiring proof of citizenship, enhancing driver's license identification, and amending the state constitution to specify that only citizens may vote could strengthen New Jersey's compliance with federal standards and enhance the integrity of its elections.

## What Happened In The Burlington November 2024 Presidential Election?

Voters in the November 2024 Presidential Election in Burlington County, New Jersey experienced unprecedented delays in the ability to cast their ballot on election day which led to profound voter frustration and notably reduced voter participation.

Subsequent investigations by multiple entities reveal substantial issues in election management, technology implementation, and administrative oversight. Extensive documentation and post-election analyses highlighted a series of critical problems.

## Burlington Voters always Turnout for Presidential Elections, except for 2024.

Historically, Burlington County has had robust voter participation in presidential elections, with turnout rates of 71.5% in 2016 and 77.6% in 2020, consistently exceeding the statewide averages. However, in



November 2024, voter turnout dramatically declined to 62%, despite an 8.2% increase in voter registration from 2020 to 2024. This stark contrast highlights the severity of the barriers voters faced during this election.

## **Voting Machine Changes**

Voters encountered considerable delays in part due to the introduction of Dominion Imagecast X Prime BMD voting machines, replacing the simpler Dominion Sequoia AVC system. These new machines added several additional steps to the voting process, including inserting smartcards, navigating multiple digital screens, printing ballots, and scanning for tabulation. These complexities increased individual voting times from a standard 6–8 minutes to approximately 10–13 minutes, especially for voters unfamiliar with the technology or encountering technical malfunctions such as printer or scanner jams.

## **Insufficient Numbers of Voting Machines**

Furthermore, the county's insufficient allocation of ballot tabulators exacerbated the delays. With just 231 tabulators deployed for processing over 125,000 ballots, Burlington County had the highest voter-to-tabulator ratio in the state at 544 voters per machine, significantly exceeding the state average of 267. This shortage created excessively long lines and extensive wait times for voters.

Operational inefficiencies at polling stations further compounded voters' difficulties. Several polling locations failed to open on time due to technical problems, with reports indicating only partial operational equipment available in critical early hours, thereby significantly extending voter wait times.

## **Widespread Confusion at Poll Closing Time**

Communication breakdowns also resulted in widespread confusion about poll closing times, leaving voters and poll workers uncertain about the official closing hour. Consequently, some polling places remained operational well past the intended closing time, with some locations still open after midnight, while many others closed at 8pm, severely impacting voters' schedules and accessibility.

## **Voter Disenfranchisement on Steroids**

These significant operational shortcomings directly led to 1,160 voters checking in but subsequently leaving without voting, frustrated by the extensive delays. Historical turnout analysis estimates that approximately 25,140 additional voters might have participated if not for these barriers, indicating a substantial voter suppression effect.

## **Politics Above Voters**

Internal communications and public records received via OPRA further exposed the scale of the mismanagement. County election officials acknowledged poor decision-making and an inadequately managed rollout of new technology. A commissioned internal review by the Burlington County Board of Elections remains unpublished due to disagreements among election offices.

## **Independent Review**

The Burlington County Commissioners, in an effort to redirect voter angst away from the county, hired the law firm Connell Foley to conduct an independent external investigation to identify what went wrong during the election and to make recommendations regarding improvements. [Click here to review the firm's interim report.](#) The final report is due early in 2026.

## **Conclusion**

The November 2024 election clearly underscores an urgent need for Burlington County to fundamentally overhaul election management practices, technology deployment strategies, and communication protocols, prioritizing voter accessibility and restoring public confidence in the electoral process.

## **Cherry Hill Faces Lawsuit Over Denied Ballot Drop Box Video Footage**

### **Background of the Lawsuit**

Mark Demo, co-founder of Citizens for NJ Election Integrity, has filed a lawsuit against Cherry Hill Township and its Records Custodian, Patti Chacker, alleging violations of the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA). The central issue is the township's refusal to provide access to surveillance video footage from ballot drop boxes used during the 2024 General Election.

### **Plaintiff's Claims**

Demo argues that Cherry Hill improperly denied his OPRA requests, citing his interest in election integrity and transparency. He seeks footage from drop boxes at two locations: the Township Municipal Building and Camden County College's Rohrer Campus, covering the period from September 23 to November 5, 2024.

## Township's Defense

Cherry Hill Township refused Demo's request, asserting exemptions under OPRA statutes related to security and surveillance. Specifically, they contend releasing the footage would reveal surveillance system capabilities, potentially compromising security at public facilities.

## Demo's Response to Defense

In his reply, Demo highlights critical distinctions between his request and previous court decisions. He emphasizes that the requested footage specifically pertains to ballot security and election transparency, not general surveillance measures. Demo also pointed out other municipalities, such as Gloucester and Pennsauken Townships, have provided similar video access without security compromises, strengthening his argument for transparency.

Furthermore, Demo's counsel argues for the applicability of a common-law right of access, suggesting even if OPRA exemptions were valid, public interest in election integrity significantly outweighs the township's security concerns.

## Next Steps in the Case

The next step in this case is an Order to Show Cause hearing, scheduled for June 4, 2025, before the Superior Court in Camden County. The court will consider arguments from both sides, including the merits of Demo's claims and Cherry Hill Township's security concerns, and determine whether the township must release the requested video footage.

## Lynne Lippincott And Mark Demo: Election Integrity Very Much On New Jerseyans' Minds

*In the News with Mike Dakkak (May 27 2025)*

Lynne Lippincott and Mark Demo of Citizens 4 New Jersey Election Integrity joins ITN to discuss the upcoming NJ Gubernatorial Primary and the kind of support their organization is receiving.

Watch the broadcast (~30 minutes): <https://itnshow.com/2025/05/27/lynne-lippincott-and-mark-demo-election-integrity-very-much-on-new-jerseyans-minds/>

## 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  
Phone: 914-473-2038 email: [Mark.Flaherty@citizens4njei.org](mailto:Mark.Flaherty@citizens4njei.org)

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

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## 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

June 16, 2025 at 6:30PM  
425 S Main St. | Pennington, NJ 08534  
Or Livestream on YouTube

### Municipal Township Meetings

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

Monday, June 16, 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

In case you were unable to attend Township Committee meetings, the recordings are available. Per the township clerk's office, they are usually, available within a few days of the meeting.

Happy viewing click here: [https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB\\_6dlk4EjvYfv9xDQOqNH9z/videos?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB_6dlk4EjvYfv9xDQOqNH9z/videos?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true) Or: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/> select bottom right "Township Video Channel" link

## Board of Elections Meeting

Wednesday - June 18, 2025 5:00PM Regular  
Board of Elections Meetings will be at 930 Spruce St., Lawrence, NJ 08648

## Mercer County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Schedule -- June 2025  
Tuesday June 10, 2025 6:00PM Double Meeting Formal and Informal  
Tuesday June 24, 2025 6:00PM Agenda  
Thursday June 26, 2025 6:00PM Formal

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}

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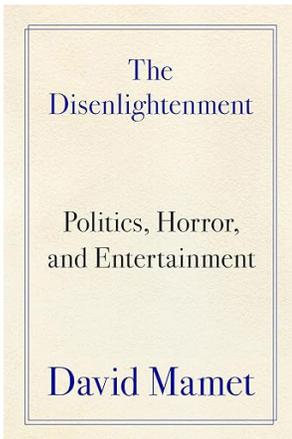
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## At the Movies, Bookstores

### The Disenlightenment (2025)



The Disenlightenment: Politics, Horror, and Entertainment  
Author: David Mamet  
Publisher: HarperCollins  
Publication Date: June 3, 2025  
Pages: 256

**Book Overview:** One of America's greatest living literary legends invites you think for yourself in this compelling narrative of manipulation, power, and the human condition.

"Government, like Circe, turns men into swine," David Mamet writes in his latest political tour de force. Prepare to be challenged, enlightened, and entertained by The Disenlightenment as Mamet dissects the modern world with enthusiasm, wisdom, and lots of references to movies about the mafia.

Once a stalwart of liberal thought, Mamet now turns his penetrating gaze on the cultural milieu that nurtured his artistic growth, revealing how America's elites have twisted our institutions into tools of manipulation. With his one-of-a-kind wit, he exposes the intricate dance between power

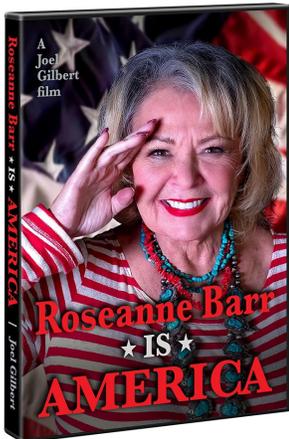
and myth, unmasking how the elites manipulate media and culture to maintain control.

The Disenlightenment fearlessly tackles topics from war to love, success to death, offering a fresh perspective on the human condition. His observations, ranging from the carnival-like nature of politics to the power of language, reflect a society where traditional values are under siege.

This book is an opportunity to engage with one of the most provocative and insightful writers of the modern era. Whether you're a long-time Mamet aficionado or new to his work, The Disenlightenment promises to challenge your perceptions, stimulate your mind, and perhaps change how you view the world.

To purchase: Amazon, Barnes & Noble

### Roseanne Barr Is America (2025)



Director: Joel Gilbert  
Year: 2025 (Release June 2025)  
Starring: Roseanne Barr  
Run Time: 90 Minutes  
Distributed by: MVD Visual  
Highway 61 Distribution

**Film Description:** For years, the legendary Roseanne Barr was America's most popular and beloved comedian. Her groundbreaking TV show, Roseanne, revived working class humor and earned legions of fans for America's "domestic goddess." Often political, Roseanne fearlessly addressed the issues of family, class, race, gender, and gay rights. In 2012, Roseanne Barr even ran for president. The Roseanne Show was number one in the 1990s, and revived in 2018 with excellent ratings. However, when Roseanne posted a tweet about the Iran nuclear deal and Obama ally Valerie Jarrett, the lifelong civil rights activist was promptly accused of racism over the misunderstood post. Roseanne and her show were abruptly "canceled".

In Roseanne Barr is America, the still hilarious and highly opinionated Roseanne recounts the untold story of her unusual upbringing and her extraordinarily successful career in comedy and television. A master storyteller, Roseanne exposes the sinister political forces and the twisted "cancel culture" that must be overcome for America to survive as a free nation. An impassioned lover of America, Roseanne explains in her uniquely entertaining way her views on today's pressing issues and the path forward. As viewers will quickly come to understand, Roseanne Barr is America!

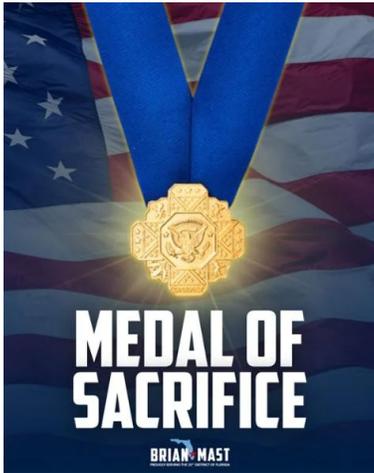
For more information, watch trailer, buy video on demand & livestream is available: <https://www.roseanneisamerica.com>

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## We the People of Interest

### President Trump And Rep. Mast Honor Fallen Law Enforcement Officers In Oval Office

May 19, 2025



**Washington, D.C.** – President Donald Trump and U.S. Congressman Brian Mast (FL-21) honored three fallen law enforcement officers and their families today in the Oval Office, presenting them with a first-of-its-kind Medal of Sacrifice. President Trump awarded the inaugural medals posthumously to three Palm Beach County deputies: Deputy Ralph “Butch” Waller, Deputy Ignacio “Dan” Diaz, and Deputy Luis Paez.

“Every day, law enforcement officers and first responders risk their lives while protecting our communities,” said Rep. Brian Mast. “While we will never be able to truly thank the officers we have lost, this medal is a small way to express our eternal gratitude to those heroes and their loved ones. Their courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten.”

During the Oval Office event, President Trump stated, “Today, we remember three remarkable heroes who will be the first ever recipients of this new medal. We will never forget their legacy and we will never forget the debt we owe to all these law enforcement heroes who gave their lives to keep us safe.”

Earlier today, Rep. Mast introduced the Medal of Sacrifice Act, which authorizes the President to present an official medal to local, state, or federal law enforcement officers and first responders who are killed in the line of duty. The bill establishes a Commission of twelve law enforcement officers, appointed by the President, who are charged with determining eligibility for the medal, promoting its establishment, and determining procedures for award presentation.

National symbols and heraldic elements will be featured on the medals, including the Great Seal of the United States, redesigned by Tiffany & Co. in 1885. “SACRIFICE” is inscribed, as well as three oak leaves, representing strength, resilience, and honoring the families of the fallen.

The bill pays tribute to fallen law enforcement officers, first responders, and their families, reaffirming support for individuals who give their lives to uphold law and order.

Access the press release: <https://mast.house.gov/2025/5/president-trump-and-rep-mast-honor-fallen-law-enforcement-officers-in-oval-office>

### American Battle Monuments Commission To Commemorate D-Day 81 At Normandy American Cemetery

Published May 21, 2025

#### D-Day 81: June 6 ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery

On June 6, 2025, the world will pause to honor the 81st anniversary of D-Day, one of the most pivotal moments in modern history. The American Battle Monuments Commission’s Normandy American Cemetery will hold a ceremony to commemorate the deeds of the U.S. armed forces and its allies at 11 a.m. CET with U.S. and French dignitaries as well as veterans’ associations. The ceremony is open to the public.

#### Remembering the sacrifice: the legacy of D-Day

Overlooking Omaha Beach, Normandy American Cemetery is the final resting place for approximately 10,000 U.S. service members. Most of them lost their lives during the D-Day landings and ensuing operations that led to the liberation of Paris. Every white marble cross, Star of David or name on the walls of the missing, marks a life given fighting against tyranny and stands as a testament to a generation that answered the call of history. The legacy of these brave men and women continues to shape freedom and democracy today.



Picture of Normandy American Cemetery showing its memorial and the statue in the middle of it. Credit: American Battle Monuments Commission/ Uth

## **A tribute to World War II veterans**

With years passing, the number of living World War II veterans grows smaller, making each anniversary especially poignant. The 81st anniversary serves once again as a powerful reminder of the cost of freedom and the June 6 ceremony reinforces the continued friendship between the U.S. and its allies.

“On June 6, we honor the courage of those who fought for liberty, and we stand united in the spirit of peace they fought for,” said ABMC Acting Secretary Robert Dalessandro. “To stand beside World War II veterans on those sacred ground is to witness history itself – their bravery, sacrifice and the enduring power of freedom.”

The American Battle Monuments Commission is dedicated to honoring the service of U.S. military personnel by creating and maintaining memorial sites around the world, offering commemorative services, and educating future generations about the sacrifices made by those who served. ABMC operates 26 cemeteries and 31 memorials across 17 countries, preserving the memory of the fallen and educating the public on the importance of their service.

Access the article: <https://www.abmc.gov/news-events/news/american-battle-monuments-commission-to-commemorate-d-day-81-at-normandy-american-cemetery/>

## **The United States Of America To Honor The 250th Anniversary Of The U.S. Army With A Grand Military Parade And Celebration In Washington, D.C.**

On June 14, 2025—the U.S. Army’s 250th birthday—the nation will honor its legacy with a grand military parade in Washington, D.C. President Donald J. Trump will join veterans, active-duty troops, wounded warriors, Gold Star Families, and Patriotic Americans from across the country to celebrate our heroes who have protected our country through strength and selflessness. Tickets for the Parade and Celebration are available through America250’s event registration portal.

This historic event will commemorate the legacy and enduring strength of the U.S. Army, while looking boldly toward the next 250 years of American patriotism and technological advancement. The event is designed not only to showcase the Army’s modern capabilities but also to inspire a new generation to embrace the spirit of service, resilience, and leadership that defines the United States. The parade will trace the Army’s evolution from the Revolutionary War through to the U.S. Army of Tomorrow. Attendees will experience 250 years of Army heritage through historical U.S. Army personnel reenactors, period-accurate equipment, vehicles, impressive flyovers, and military bands participating in this landmark event.

President Donald J. Trump is scheduled to deliver remarks celebrating 250 Years of the U.S. Army’s exceptional service, significant achievements, and enduring legacy. Under President Trump’s leadership, the U.S. Army has been restored to strength and readiness. His America First agenda has delivered historic pay raises for service members, rebuilt military stockpiles, invested in cutting-edge technologies, and ensured our soldiers have the tools and support they need to win on any battlefield. The Army is on track to meet its annual recruiting goals well ahead of schedule, with more than 85% of its 2025 target already achieved.

On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted to establish the Continental Army. This action marked the creation of America’s first national military force, more than a year before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

For 250 years, the United States Army has played a vital role in defending America. From the Revolutionary War to the present day, Americans have served selflessly—many sacrificing their lives—in defense of the country. Our service members’ courage, loyalty, and dedication have inspired generations. At the same time, Army-led innovations and breakthroughs—from radar and the internet to everyday items like wireless communications—have advanced our national security, transformed global commerce, and propelled America’s economic competitiveness.

Access the website for further celebration information: <https://america250.org/news/the-united-states-of-america-to-honor-the-250th-anniversary-of-the-u-s-army-with-a-grand-military-parade-and-celebration-in-washington-d-c/>

## **Mercer We the People of Hopewell Valley Newsletters:**

Access previous issues at: <https://hvr.agop.org/mercero-wethepeople/>

To report a correction or share feedback, please email us at [info@mercero-wethepeople.com](mailto:info@mercero-wethepeople.com)

### **Mercer We the People**

PO Box 332, Titusville NJ 08560

United States of America