



NEWSLETTER

September 2026 ISSUE#: HV031

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

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

9/11 25th Anniversary: Remembrance And Service

A quarter century after the September 11, 2001 attacks, 100 million Americans are too young to remember the day that changed our city and nation forever. It is our shared promise — made 25 years ago — to never forget so those born after 9/11 learn its significance and enduring legacy. As we commemorate this anniversary, a new generation will learn about the unimaginable loss we experienced and the inspiring stories of bravery, compassion, unity, and service that we witnessed, and have rippled through the decades.

Twenty-five years later, we invite you to remember, reflect, and learn with us — at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in lower Manhattan, through our many online programs, or by acting in your own community. Download our anniversary toolkit for opportunities to be part of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum mission in 2026.



Commemoration Ceremony

On the anniversary of 9/11, the families of victims will gather for a ceremony on the 9/11 Memorial plaza to read aloud the names of the 2,983 men, women, and children killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks and February 26, 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. Six moments of silence will mark the times when each of the World Trade Center towers was struck, when each tower fell, and the times corresponding to the attack at the Pentagon, and the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. A seventh moment of silence honoring

those lost to 9/11 health effects will be observed following the reading of the names. 9/11 family members will receive details about the private ceremony in mailings this summer...

The public may view the ceremony live at [911memorial.org/live](https://www.911memorial.org/live) and pay tribute at the Memorial when it reopens that afternoon.

For more information: <https://www.911memorial.org/mark-25th-anniversary>

In This Issue:

• Election

- Local Feature (By HVRA): RESCHEDULED: Meet The Republican Candidates For Hopewell Township Committee: September 9 2026 7:00-9:00PM

• Education

- Press Release (By Becket): Christian Club Asks Federal Court To Restore Equal Access For Volunteer Mentors At School
- Local Feature (By American Anonymous): Women's Lives Matter
- Local Feature (By Kevin Mooney): Trump Admin Unloads On Fraudulent Practices Giving Cover To 'Gender Medicine'—Why It Matters

• Local News

- Local Feature (By HVRA): Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Series: September 24 2026 7:00-8:30PM

• Election Integrity

- Local Feature (By C4NJEL): Citizens For NJ Election Integrity Raises Questions About State Guidance For Reviewing Potentially Ineligible Voters
- Local Feature (By Kevin Mooney): Even Red States Attract DOJ Monitors As Part Of Election Integrity Efforts

• ICYMI

- Local Feature (By Kevin Mooney): ANALYSIS: China-Backed Groups Continue Their Takeover Of US Judiciary

• Public Corner

• TruthBTold

• At the Movies, Bookstores

• We the People of Interest

- Local Feature: Our New Jersey Signers Of The Declaration Of Independence

Election

RESCHEDULED: Meet The Republican Candidates For Hopewell Township Committee on Wednesday September 9 2026 7:00-9:00 PM at Needle Creek Brewery

Join us at Needle Creek Brewery to discuss the issues that effect Hopewell. (Event was previously planned for August 19th)



**Candidate Forum
FUNDRAISER**

*Meet the Republican Candidates
for Hopewell Township Committee*

John Hart

Steven NIEDERER

**Wednesday, Aug 19th
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

Please join us to discuss the issues that effect Hopewell

46 Yard Road
Pennington, NJ 08534
Doors open at 6:30 and program starts at 7:15.

DONATIONS APPRECIATED AT THE DOOR
Please make checks payable to: Friends of John and Steve

Paid for by Friends of John and Steve, 91 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08534

- ★ Stopping overdevelopment
 - The effect on school children
 - The effect on emergency services
- ★ Stopping future PILOT programs
- ★ Using PILOT funds for schools
- ★ Possible new form of government
- ★ Restoring representative government

Vote YES On November 3rd To Create A Charter Study Commission

Chart New Course is a bipartisan grassroots movement of your neighbors – working to give Hopewell Township a careful, public look at whether the government we have still fits the township we've become. Learn more at: <https://chartnewcourse.org/>

Vote For Our Candidates For The Charter Study Commission

Vote for all five candidates:

- Chad Goerner
- Stephen Klopfer
- Michael Markulec
- Tamera Matteo
- Vanessa Sandom

We Need Your Help With The November 3rd Election

Interested in seeing the election process firsthand? Please consider becoming a poll worker or poll challenger on election day.

Poll Workers

Mercer County Board of Elections is historically short on Republican poll workers, there should be at least two R's and two D's at each polling location. Hours are full day (5am to 8:15pm) and there are half day shifts available. This position is hired and paid through the county.

Poll Challengers

Challengers observe the voting process and are appointed by the Republican County Committee. It is a volunteer position but has more flexibility with the schedule.

Training provided for both options. Please contact info@hvragep.org for more information.

Learn More About the Candidates

Visit <https://hvragep.org/candidates/> or <https://mercernjgop.com/candidates> to learn more about the candidates that are running in Hopewell Valley and in Mercer County.

It's Not too Late to Register to Vote

For those of you who are not registered to vote, the Voter Registration deadline is October 13, 2026. If you are a US citizen 18 years of age or older and have been a resident of the County for 30 days prior to the election, you can register to vote online by following this link <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>

Education

What's Happening In HVRSD Schools?

HVRSD Board Of Education Meeting August 17, 2026

By The Wall of Ed

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

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcdtemBcO1o>

Next Meeting September 14, 2026 at the HVRSD Board Office, 425 Main St, Pennington, NJ

Christian Club Asks Federal Court To Restore Equal Access For Volunteer Mentors At School

Press Release By Becket August 12 2026

Secular clubs allowed to have mentors while religious clubs banned

WASHINGTON – Becket filed a federal lawsuit yesterday on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), challenging a New Jersey school district's ban on outside volunteer mentors for all religious clubs while freely allowing them at every other student club. In *Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. Board of Education of the Hopewell Valley Regional School*



District, FCA and two student-led FCA clubs at local schools are asking the court to end the district's volunteer ban and restore equal treatment for religious clubs.

"As an inaugural member of FCA at Hopewell Valley's Central High School, I know firsthand how much mentors mean to students," **said Carolyn McDonough, FCA New Jersey Area Director and Hopewell Valley Central High School alumna.** "They helped me grow in my relationship with Jesus and live out my faith through sports. Now I have the privilege of doing the same for today's students. I pray the court will let me continue that ministry."

Founded in 1954, FCA is a religious ministry that supports student-athletes committed to living out their Christian faith on and off the playing field. FCA helps form student-led clubs, called "Huddles," on college, high school, and middle school campuses, where students gather for fellowship, prayer, Bible study, games, and the occasional pizza. In the Hopewell Valley school district, Huddles at Central High School and Timberlane Middle School met for years without incident, with FCA staff and volunteers attending as mentors, just like adult volunteers and mentors routinely attend events held by other clubs across the district.

But in March 2025, the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) sent a letter to the school district complaining about outside volunteers attending FCA Huddles. FFRF demanded that the district investigate and prevent these volunteers from attending or participating in religious student clubs. Within days, the district caved. Before the 2025-26 school year began, it announced a new policy barring outside individuals from attending any meetings of religious clubs, claiming the law required it—yet never identifying which law supposedly did so.

"An atheist advocacy group didn't like that Christian kids were choosing to learn about faith, life, and sports from trusted mentors," **said Joseph Davis, senior counsel at Becket and lead attorney for FCA.** "And after years of a great relationship with FCA clubs, the school district regrettably gave the advocacy group its way. Fortunately, the Constitution forbids religious discrimination. We're confident the court will restore equal access for all student groups."

Media contact: Ryan Colby, 202-349-7219, media@becketfund.org

Access the Press Release: <https://becketfund.org/media/christian-club-asks-federal-court-to-restore-equal-access-for-volunteer-mentors-at-school/>

Legal Doc: Complaint in Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. Board of Education of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District: <https://becketnewsite.s3.amazonaws.com/20260811171731/Complaint-in-FCA-v.-Hopewell.pdf>

Women's Lives Matter

By American Anonymous

According to police in Plumstead, PA, Hopewell Valley Central High School's Athletic Director (Winfield "Tripp" Becker) was caught on surveillance camera peeking in the bedroom window of his neighbor's young daughter around 10:30 p.m. on August 6. ABC Action News and The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that the victim's mother had installed the camera because an unidentified person had repeatedly been tapping on the girl's bedroom window at night and then fleeing the area.

While Mr. Becker is presumed innocent until proven guilty, this case illustrates an important point in the debate about NJLAD (New Jersey's "Law Against Discrimination"): for some men, the urge to peep at women in a state of undress is very strong. So strong, in fact, it can be a compulsion that leads a man to risk everything he spent a lifetime building; a career, a family, a position of respect in the community. It is realistic to say that "peeping toms" are likely to take full advantage of NJLAD to gain unprecedented access to female spaces.

NJLAD allows males, including intact males who have not had gender-affirming surgery, to self-ID as females and gain access to designated single-sex spaces meant for women and girls. There is no requirement to be on hormones, have surgery, or attempt an appearance of "passing" as a woman.

In other words, if the non-discrimination law says transgender women are allowed in, it cannot legally specify that only the pretty ones qualify. Any male can declare himself a "gender-non-conforming" trans woman as he enters the Ladies Room. Tish Hyman famously found this out in California, when a video went viral of her screaming that there was a man in the women's locker room, and gym staff said there wasn't anything they could do about it, according to California law.

There are numerous lawsuits filed in the US and UK by women who were forced to share single-sex spaces, even prisons and sensitive medical spaces, with intact males who claimed to be female. In the UK, the ideological capture is so great that a Lancashire Telegraph headline last year reported that "a woman was waving her penis at children in the park."

Athlete Enes Kanter has recently brought this concern to national attention by donning a wig and declaring himself a candidate for the WNBA. Some have called for Donald Trump to take it a step further, transition for the next two years, and declare himself the First Woman President of the United States. (and I wouldn't put it past him...)

With NJLAD, we can't say that Enes Kanter is not a woman who can use the Ladies Room but Lia Thomas and Caitlyn Jenner are women who can use the Ladies Room. Either they are all women, or none of them are women.

We know for a fact that there is a cottage industry of “up the skirt” websites where one can see photos taken of women and girls without their knowledge, often in bathrooms and locker rooms. We also know for a fact that there is a fetish industry of males who dress as females and access women’s bathrooms and locker rooms for sexual gratification, often sharing videos of their gleeful playtime in “womanface”.

People like this can now hide behind accusations of transphobia when they are criticized. They can silence the voices of women and girls by playing the victim. They also do a grave disservice to people who are truly transgender, went through hormone therapy and surgery, and just wish to quietly blend in without doing anyone harm.

Sexually harmful men exist, and because they exist, we cannot safely take this inclusion insanity any farther. It has to stop. The US Supreme Court, UK Supreme Court, International Olympic Committee, and NCAA have all ruled in favor of protecting women’s sports and private spaces from male intrusion. It is a matter of safety for women and girls. I wish NJ would get the memo, take its head out of the sand, and face the very real threats to women and girls that NJLAD represents.

Trump Admin Unloads On Fraudulent Practices Giving Cover To ‘Gender Medicine’—Why It Matters

By Kevin Mooney originally published in Restoration News (August 13 2026)

New report shows how doctors and hospitals profited from predatory practices impacting children.

President Donald Trump’s Health and Human Services Department (HHS) today released a bombshell report exposing devious “insurance coding practices” that enabled the medical establishment to put vulnerable children in jeopardy. The report takes aim against what HHS describes as “perverse financial incentives” and a key provision of “sex-rejecting procedures for minors.”



The report, titled “Wolves in White Coats: How Doctors and Hospitals Pushed and Profited from the Fraud of Gender Medicine,” was released in tandem with a shortform documentary that highlighted the department’s key findings while also giving victims a platform to tell their stories.

HHS from a vast array of sources including guidance attached to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations, peer-reviewed scientific literature, hospital records, whistleblower testimony, nationwide insurance claims analyses, along with interviews done with patients and parents. The HHS report analyzes nationwide “claims data” from 2015 to 2025 and cites about \$50 million insurance claims for puberty blockers that are billed using an endocrine disorder diagnostic code.

Why it Matters

- There are more than 225 hospitals and health systems nationwide that have established pediatric gender programs nationwide where children could be vulnerable.
- As HHS Sec. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says in a press release, “Doctors and hospitals must put children’s health ahead of ideology and financial gain. This report identifies troubling billing practices that demand scrutiny. HHS will follow the evidence, protect taxpayers, and hold accountable anyone who broke the law or violated the trust of patients and families. Under President Trump’s leadership, we are restoring transparency and integrity to American medicine.”
- Deceitful billing practices could obscure the kind of care that is actually being provided while putting American taxpayers on the book to pay for sex rejecting procedures that do permanent harm.

How We Fix It for Good

- HHS is calling on federal and state agencies to review coding and billing practices while also bolstering the oversight of claims submitted to public health programs.
- Vice President JD Vance and Sec. Kennedy referred those hospitals and clinics identified in the report to the Department of Justice and the HHS Office of Inspector General to determine if any violations of federal law have taken place.
- Organizations like World Professional Association for Transgender Health, the Endocrine Society, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics should all be held accountable for promoting pediatric sex-rejecting interventions.

Take Action

Remember that the Biden Administration was complicit in the expansion and normalization of sex-rejecting interventions.

Vote for leaders who support the Trump administration’s policy reversals and HHS’s ongoing efforts to protect children.

Doctors should report suspicious billing activity so law enforcement can investigate possible fraud.

Get involved with pro-family groups like the American Principles Project (APP), a nonprofit devoted to preserving the American family.

Support classical Christian education through President Trump's Education Freed Tax Credit so the next generation grows up learning about God, not the trans cult.

- Virginia Democrats Allow the Sterilization of Minors Without Parental Consent
- Marxist Feminists Were the First Supporters of Transgender Ideology
- Communist China Poised to Swing Wisconsin Governor's Race?
- Godless Marxism 101: How Howard Zinn Infiltrated Public Schools

Access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/trump-admin-unloads-on-fraudulent-practices-giving-cover-to-gender-medicine-why-it-matters>

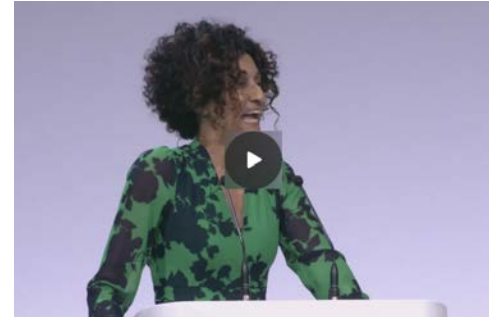
Katharine Birbalsingh's White Guilt Speech

"Saving the West ain't easy. We're going to war."

By Eli Steele originally published in Man of Steele's Substack (June 28 2026)

Hi all,

The idea of white guilt has been making the rounds around the UK lately. Last week, I discussed the role of white guilt in the Henry Nowak tragedy as well as the brutal attempted beheading in Belfast with Jenny Holland. On Friday, I was sent a video of Katharine Birbalsingh's speech to the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship, and I quickly understood why. I have known of her for years as an education reform advocate and the founder and headmistress of Michaela Community School. If you would like to watch her speech without my input — I strongly encourage it — it is here in full (14mins 19secs): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eqj_SnTlhNY



The woman known as Britain's strictest headmistress stood in front of a room and said the thing that almost no one will say out loud. She recounted the actions of the police officers during Henry Nowak's dying moments and said, "this is not cruelty or incompetence. This is white guilt."

She named the largely invisible force that has been undermining the West for decades. My father, Shelby Steele, has spent his life arguing that white guilt is the most powerful and destructive force in the Western world, precisely because it halts the mechanisms that make the West work. Katharine shows us exactly how. The officers standing over Henry Nowak were, in her words, "terrified of being seen as racist." That terror did not feel like cowardice to them. It felt like conscience. It wore the costume of virtue — the look of a good person refusing to oppress — while a man died at their feet. That is white guilt: fear dressed as morality, powerful enough to override the most basic human duty.

Katharine then reveals how white guilt has transformed the classroom. It was the grease that allowed race-based Marxist ideologies into the classroom, where children are taught to sort the world into "those who are oppressed and those who are oppressors." History serves only to indict the present. Children are "taught through an oppressor lens," until, as she says, young people are "unable to see the world in any other terms." And the emotion that runs the whole machine is the terror of being called a racist. They are "desperate not to be seen as racist."

No child wants to be on the side of the oppressor. We documented that in the Killing America documentary several years ago. When you think for a second about what is actually taking place in the classroom, the immorality becomes undeniable. Activist teachers, in the name of white guilt morality, are reducing students to skin colors and making them pay for the sins and victimizations of their fathers. And those children grow up. The officers who stood frozen over Henry Nowak, terrified of being seen as racist, were taught to see the world this way decades ago. We have been teaching it for a generation now, and the damage is profound: the people sworn to protect him had been trained to fear the collective white guilt more than they feared failing him.

What makes Katharine's speech feel like a drink of water during these muddled times is that she is not willing to accept the decline in our society any longer. She also refuses to accept the silence of those around her any longer. A person who surrenders to fear says nothing, does nothing, and so the decline continues. By naming white guilt as the true evil, she lays the burden at our feet. What are we going to do about it?

She demands that we raise children who see themselves as "morally responsible beings with agency, whatever their race, whatever their religion." The key word here is responsibility.

My father once wrote, "In this age of white guilt responsibility is synonymous with oppression where blacks are concerned. So whites and American institutions live by a simple formula: lessening responsibility for minorities equals moral authority; increasing it equals racism."

Demanding responsibility from everyone grants them agency and that is at the heart of what makes one an individual. That is the one thing white guilt cannot survive, a free human being. It is exactly what my father chose, decades ago, when he turned away from grievance and toward responsibility. He has been making Katharine's argument my whole life. My father is very thankful that Katharine exists and only wishes there were more of her.

At the end of her speech she says, "Saving the West ain't easy." She then asks her audience to teach their children as if "we're going to war." She is right that it is a war and she is right about where the front line is: the classroom.

My best, Eli

Access the article: https://manofsteele.substack.com/p/katharine-birbalsinghs-white-guilt?r=v5y4h&utm_medium=ios&shareImageVariant=overlay&triedRedirect=true

Back To School And Parental Rights: Two Letters Every Family Should Have

As the 2026–27 school year begins, two updated FAIR templates give parents clear, legally grounded tools to understand their rights and advocate for their children.

By Fair For All originally published in Fair For All (August 14 2026)

Dear Friends of FAIR,

Every August, parents around the country wrestle with the same question:

Parents have the instinct that something doesn't feel right, but they often lack the language that helps them articulate their concerns or the confidence that expressing them is worth the trouble.

FAIR has the language, and it's yours to use.

As families gear up for the 2026–27 school year, we've updated two of our most-requested templates. Both are grounded in current federal law, and both are written to be sent by an ordinary parent, not a lawyer.

The Title IX template

The legal landscape has changed, yet many districts have not kept pace.

In 2024, the Department of Education issued a Title IX Final Rule expanding the statute beyond sex to include gender identity. On January 9, 2025, a federal court vacated that rule in *State of Tennessee v. Cardona*. As a result, no rule expanding Title IX to gender identity is legally enforceable anywhere in the country today. The Department's Office for Civil Rights has been explicit that Title IX's requirements control, regardless of state law or athletic association rules.

The Department has also demonstrated that it will enforce the restored framework directly. Its case against Jefferson County Public Schools, Colorado's second-largest district, escalated from a finding of violation to a formal warning to enforcement action. In July, the district sued the Department rather than revise its policies.

Our template asks districts to proactively review their policies on restrooms, locker rooms, overnight accommodations, and athletics. Districts with the foresight to adjust their policies now can maintain control over how and when they communicate with families. Districts that wait for a complaint risk facing a ten-day compliance order and public backlash in the middle of a crisis.

You can download the template here: <https://www.fairforall.org/template-letter-suggest-your-district-delay-title-ix-changes/>

The Pronoun Policy template

On November 6, 2025, the full Sixth Circuit, sitting en banc, ruled in *Defending Education v. Olentangy Local School District* that a public school district could not discipline students for declining to use a classmate's preferred pronouns. The court held the policy amounted to viewpoint discrimination and compelled speech under the First Amendment, finding no evidence the speech would materially disrupt the classroom.

The ruling follows a line running back to *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, where in 1943 the Supreme Court held that schoolchildren could not be forced to salute the flag. As Justice Jackson wrote: "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox."

Our letter, available for download here: <https://www.fairforall.org/pronoun-policy-template-letter/>, guides a district through the Olentangy ruling and asks it to review any policy that compels pronoun use, whether directly or through the threat of discipline under an anti-harassment rule.



These templates are fully editable and allow you to:

- Raise a specific concern in writing, with the case law already cited for you
- Ask your district to act on its own schedule, rather than under federal pressure
- Create a written record in case you ever need one

All you need to do is add your district's name, list the policies that concern you, sign the letter, and cc the school board.

To be clear, these templates do not ask schools to be unkind to any student, nor do they demand that any child be excluded, ignored, or made to feel unsafe. Every student deserves dignity, and a school that cannot extend that to all of its students has failed at something more fundamental than policy.

These letters present a straightforward request that should be uncontroversial: public schools must follow federal law and ensure that no student is compelled to affirm a belief they do not hold. Those twin commitments protect every child in the building, including the children whom a given policy was intended to help.

In our experience, a calm, well-sourced letter from a parent who has done their own research is one of the most effective tools a family has.

Maintaining these legal resources requires time and effort. Every FAIR template is researched, drafted, and reviewed before it's published, then revised each time a court moves the ground underneath it. We provide them because we believe a parent's ability to advocate for their child should never depend on whether they can afford an attorney, and the families who most need these letters are rarely the families who can hire one.

If these templates are useful to you, please consider making a donation today to help us keep these resources freely available to every family who needs them.

Thank you for standing with us.

With gratitude,

Monica Harris

Executive Director, FAIR

Access the article: https://news.fairforall.org/p/back-to-school-and-parental-rights?utm_campaign=email-half-post&r=v5y4h&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

America's Startup Is Back: Applications Are Now Open

Hello,

America's Startup is back, and applications for the Fall 2026 competition are now open!

Following an exciting inaugural competition that brought together hundreds of student entrepreneurs from more than 190 colleges and universities across 42 states and awarded funding to 10 winning teams, America250 is once again searching for the next generation of innovators, builders, and problem-solvers.

Do you know a college student who is launching a business, developing new technology, or tackling a challenge in their community? America's Startup gives them the opportunity to take their idea to the next level.

America's Startup is a national competition that celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit driving America's future. Undergraduate and graduate students from accredited U.S. colleges and universities are invited to compete for national recognition, mentorship from leading entrepreneurs and investors, the opportunity to pitch live during Pitch Weekend in Washington, D.C., and grant funding to help accelerate their ventures.

Watch America's Startup Video (3mins 39secs): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLNmLaHfk30>

America250 is expanding the program to welcome another nationwide class of student entrepreneurs. Last spring, ten outstanding student teams each received **\$25,000 in non-dilutive grant funding** after presenting their ventures before an accomplished panel of investors and business leaders. This fall, the stakes are even higher: Entrants compete for a share of a \$1 million total prize pool, national mentorship, an invitation to a live pitch finale in Washington, D.C., and **three winning teams will receive an additional \$25,000 in non-dilutive funding, bringing their total awards to \$50,000 each.**

Start Your Application: <https://america250.org/americas-startup/apply/>

Applications are open now through **October 8, 2026**. Selected applicants will advance through multiple rounds of judging before semifinalists are invited to Washington, D.C., where finalists will present their companies before members of the America's Startup Investors Council during Pitch Weekend this December. Do you



know a student entrepreneur? Forward this along and encourage them to apply!

Learn More: <https://america250.org/americas-startup/>

As America250 continues to recognize our nation's 250th anniversary, America's Startup is investing in the innovators whose ideas, creativity, and determination will help shape our next 250 years.

We can't wait to see what these entrepreneurs will build!

— The America250 Team

Local News

Stay Connected With HVRA

Follow us on Facebook for updates on upcoming events and important information: <https://www.facebook.com/HVRAGOP>

Join Or Renew Your HVRA Membership

Become a part of the Republican Association united around addressing issues affecting our valley electorate, promoting responsive transparent government, and electing conservative candidates to represent and meet the needs of all Hopewell Valley residents.

Sign up or renew today at: <https://hvrageop.org/hvra-membership/>

COMMUNITY ★ CIVILITY ★ CONSERVATIVE VALUES

JOIN OUR CAUSE

HVRA

Hopewell Valley Republican Association

Join your local Republican association united around addressing issues affecting our valley electorate, promoting responsive transparent government, and electing conservative candidates to represent and meet the needs of all Hopewell Valley residents.

Promoting accountability, transparency, and fiscal responsibility in local government

Educating residents on important local issues

Building an enduring, vibrant volunteer network

Empowering conservative candidates and helping them win elections

Sponsoring fundraising events to support local candidates and issues

Re-establishing fair and free elections

Protecting our school system and supporting our local police

Make a difference for your Hopewell Valley community

JOIN THE HVRA TODAY!
www.hvrageop.org





Courageous Conversations

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Read books written by reasonable people and engage with others across differences with meaningful civil discourse.

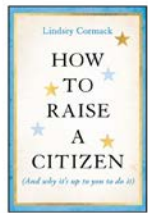
Thursday, September 24th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Former Sun National Bank, 1 North Main Street, Pennington, NJ

How to Raise a Citizen (And Why It's Up to You to Do It)

By Lindsey Cormack

How to Raise a Citizen shows how the future of our democracy relies on how we teach children about politics and government. No one likes how our politics feels or functions, but that can't change unless we change the ways we talk about and teach civics. U.S. schools can't do this work effectively on their own, it's up to each of us to do a little more. This book equips parents, teachers, and anyone aiming for better politics with a roadmap for how we can raise a new generation of intentional citizens (and become better citizens ourselves).



Lindsey Cormack will be speaking at the event!
(MCL has copies of the book available to check-out)

Lindsey Cormack, PhD is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Stevens Institute of Technology. She is a contributor to the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *CBS News*, *Fox News*, *Bloomberg*, *FiveThirtyEight*, and other media outlets. She authored *Congress and U.S. Veterans: From the GI Bill to the VA Crisis* and runs DCInbox.

Future Book Discussions at the Hopewell Branch of the Mercer County Library Community Room
Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00 pm — *The Righteous Mind* • Jonathan Haidt
Wednesday, April 21st at 6:00 pm — *The Two-Parent Privilege* • Melissa S. Kearney

HVRA
Hopewell Valley Republican Association

Space is limited, please RSVP using the QR code or by visiting hvrageop.org.



Paid for by the Hopewell Valley Republican Association, PO Box 332, Titusville, NJ 08560

Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Series: September 24 2026 7:00-8:30PM

Join us for a special author talk & community book discussion!

The Hopewell Valley Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Group invites you to an evening with Professor Cormack, featuring an author talk and audience Q&A.

Together, we'll explore ideas from Prof. Cormack's thought provoking book, which envisions a future grounded in responsible citizenship, shared purpose, respectful civic dialogue, gratitude, kindness, and civic friendship—especially during these divided times.

Date: Thursday, September 24

Time: 7:00–8:30 PM

Location: 1 North Main Street, Pennington (former Sun National Bank)

PLEASE RSVP: <https://evite.me/stmYPkugg4>

Whether you've read the book cover to cover or are simply interested in the conversation, all are welcome!

Looking for book copies? HVRA donated copies of the book to the Pennington Library located at 30 N Main St (next to the Pennington Police Department). Check one out today!

Please share with friends and neighbors who may enjoy this community conversation. We hope to see you there!

More about the author and book: <https://howtoraiseacitizen.com/>



Steven Niederer, Candidate for Hopewell Township Committee, donated How to Raise a Citizen books on behalf of HVRA. Photo courtesy of Contributor.

Other Mercer County Republican Events



250th Anniversary Era Dance
PROGRAM BOOK AD OPPORTUNITIES

Do not miss out on this opportunity to place an advertisement in the program book for the 250th Anniversary Era Dance. All attendees will receive the program book.

When submitting an ad please use the online google form. See QR code below.

Any questions regarding the online form or uploading the camera-ready artwork, please email: mercercountygopcomm@gmail.com.

ALL ads and payment are due no later than September 12, 2026.

If you are interested in purchasing the inside front (\$250), inside back (\$250) or outside back (\$300) cover (all of which will print in color) or a center page (\$200) (which will print in color), please email mercercountygopcomm@gmail.com.

Advertisement Fees and Sizes
Full Page \$150 (7.5"h x 4.5"w) (portrait layout)
Half Page \$75 (3.75"h x 4.5"w) (landscape layout)
Quarter Page \$50 (1.875"h x 4.5"w) (landscape layout) (You can supply business card)

Design Notes
Please use the sizes indicated above as a guide for sizing your desired ad. Color graphics and pictures will print in grayscale. - YOUR AD MUST BE CAMERA READY. This means, they MUST be in JPG, PNG or PDF format. If you have a business card as your ad, complete the google form and email mercercountygopcomm@gmail.com to make arrangements to hand in the business card. We reserve the right to reject any ad that we believe is not suitable for the program.

Deadline
All artwork and payment must be received by **September 12, 2026**. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Google Form	Payment
	

Thank you for your participation!

 Paid for by MCRC, PO Box 10535, Hamilton, NJ 08650

Mercer County Republican Committee

<https://mercernjgop.com/home> • <https://www.facebook.com/MercerGOP>
<https://www.instagram.com/realmercernjgop> • <https://x.com/realMercerGOP>

Kanitra's Bombshell Report Drops: Here's How Much You're Spending On Illegals.

Assemblyman Paul Kanitra's new report lays out what New Jersey's embrace of illegal immigration is costing New Jersey families.

By Mike De Robbio originally published in Central Jersey Newswire (August 18 2026)

Two years ago, freshman assemblyman Paul Kanitra posed an important question that few had entertained, even fleetingly: how much is illegal immigration costing us?

The next year, the May 2024 edition of Kanitra's Report on the Cost of Illegal Aliens to New Jerseyans landed in the middle of the border crisis and stayed in circulation for months. National outlets picked it up. President Trump cited it from the stage in Wildwood that same month. Central Jersey Newswire covered the findings at the time in a three-part series — Part I, Part II and Part III — and the report's authors were kind enough to note our coverage among the outlets that carried it.

Kanitra's office is now out with the 2026 edition, built on federal and state data, records obtained through the Office of Legislative Services, and Open Public Records Act requests filed directly with state agencies.

\$8.2 billion. That is what the report estimates New Jersey's state and local governments now spend annually in connection with the roughly **737,000 illegal aliens** living in this state.

Spread across New Jersey's workforce, that works out to **\$1,747 per worker, per year**. Per household, **\$2,333**. Per illegal alien present in the state, **\$11,099**.

Those are numbers no one was asked to approve, attached to programs most residents have never seen itemized.

Fewer people. Bigger bill.

The finding that should reframe this debate isn't the headline figure. It's in the population math underneath it.

Kanitra's office starts from the Federation for American Immigration Reform's baseline of 815,900 illegal aliens in New Jersey. It then **subtracts** an estimated 109,750 — New Jersey's proportional share of the 2.5 million people the Department of Homeland Security says have been deported or have self-deported since President Trump returned to office. It adds back roughly 31,000 for net interstate migration, since Census data show a 50 percent increase in non-citizens relocating to New Jersey from other states compared with the 2010s.

The result is 737,000, against a state population of about 9.6 million — **7.68 percent, or nearly one in thirteen people in New Jersey**.

Note the shape of that calculation. The illegal alien population in New Jersey is smaller than it was two years ago. Apprehensions at the southern border collapsed in early 2025 and have stayed down. Federal enforcement is working, and it is working here.

The bill still went up.

That undercuts the argument Trenton has relied on since 2021 — that New Jersey is a passive recipient of Washington's failure, absorbing costs it never chose and cannot control. If that were the whole story, spending would be falling alongside the population. It isn't. Which suggests the border is no longer the variable driving the number.

Trenton is.

A map they never expected to see printed.

The most consequential material in this report isn't an estimate. It's a records request.

Through the Office of Legislative Services, Kanitra's office obtained Motor Vehicle Commission data on affidavits filed under the 2019 law Governor Murphy signed in lame duck — the law allowing an applicant who can produce neither a Social Security number nor an ITIN to obtain a standard New Jersey driver's license by signing a form instead.

More than **100,000** of those affidavits have been filed.

Then the office did something nobody else has. The MVC supplied raw ZIP codes; staff assigned each one to a municipality



and legislative district and mapped the result.

- Jersey City: 12,837
- Newark: 8,306
- Paterson: 4,510
- Elizabeth: 4,211
- West New York: 3,781

Twenty-eight municipalities clear a thousand licenses apiece, and those twenty-eight account for **65.4 percent of the statewide total**. Hudson County alone holds roughly 280 percent more affidavit licenses than its share of New Jersey's adult citizen population would predict.

Sorted by legislative district, the concentration is sharper still. Districts 33 and 31 — each represented top to bottom by Democrats — hold 17.9 percent of every affidavit license in New Jersey while containing 5.10 percent of the state's population.

The report is careful about what this does and does not establish. Issuing a license is not itself a taxpayer expense, and not a dollar of it appears in the \$8.2 billion. It doesn't need to. What the map supplies is the geography of the rest of the bill — and a record of which districts have generated it while their legislators voted to keep the pathway open.

Worth noting: New Jersey law makes these affidavit records nearly impossible to verify independently. Kanitra's office recommends the federal government pursue any lawful means available to obtain them. Given that the United States is currently suing New Jersey over multiple provisions of its immigration regime, that recommendation may not remain hypothetical.

Now we're paying their lawyers.

For the clearest illustration of the report's central claim — that this spending is chosen rather than imposed — look at what New Jersey now spends defending illegal aliens against deportation.

In 2018, the newly seated Democratic trifecta created the Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative to provide free legal counsel to aliens in federal removal proceedings. The initial appropriation was \$2.1 million, rising to \$2.8 million the following year. A parallel program, Kids In Need of Defense, followed in 2021, along with a separate budget line for legal services to unaccompanied minors. Kanitra's office confirmed the full appropriation history through OPRA requests to the Department of Human Services. These are not modeled estimates; they are enacted line items.

Then came June, and things were certainly busting out all over.

With the state in a budget crunch and Newark's Delaney Hall detention facility surrounded by nearly two weeks of clashes between demonstrators and federal agents — clashes serious enough that New Jersey State Police were deployed alongside their federal counterparts — Governor Mikie Sherrill announced on social media that she was increasing DDDI funding "by \$12 million – for a total of \$20.2 million." She paired it with a new Rapid Legal Response Initiative to expand emergency immigration defense capacity statewide, describing the package as a matter of due process and the human rights of detainees and their families.

With the Legislature's increase to KIND, **2026 taxpayer funding for the legal defense of aliens facing deportation reaches roughly \$26.1 million** — more than **830 percent** above the original appropriation in eight years, adjusted for inflation.

It's worth being precise about what this program is and isn't. It is not emergency room care that federal law requires a hospital to provide. It is not a classroom seat the Supreme Court has held a state may not deny. It is state funding for attorneys whose professional objective is to defeat the enforcement of federal immigration law — the same law the federal government is presently suing New Jersey over. Whatever one thinks of the underlying policy, it is a discretionary expenditure, made deliberately, in a year when the state pleaded poverty on other priorities.

There is a second layer. Separately from the money paying aliens' counsel, the state pays its own. Kanitra's office asked OLS to price what New Jersey has spent defending its sanctuary-style laws in court. OLS identified ten lawsuits since 2018 — litigation over the ICE detention facility ban, the non-cooperation and sanctuary policies, and multiple 2026 suits brought by the federal government — involving nineteen attorneys of record, including Solicitor General Jeremy Feigenbaum. The maximum estimated cost came to roughly **\$4.3 million**, and OLS cautioned the figure overstates the case because it charges each attorney's full annual salary against the litigation.

What the money actually buys.

The rest of the ledger, in order of size.

Education: \$7.14 billion. By a wide margin the largest category, roughly 87 percent of the total. About \$1.28 billion educates an estimated 41,000 illegal alien minors at New Jersey's average per-pupil expenditure of \$29,978. The remaining \$5.86 billion covers an estimated 188,000 school-age U.S.-born children of illegal alien parents — the same accounting

method used by FAIR and the Congressional Budget Office, on the reasoning that those children are enrolled in New Jersey schools because a parent entered unlawfully. Both figures exclude English language instruction, bilingual programming and translation services, which means the real number is higher. This is also the one category genuinely imposed on the state: Plyler v. Doe was decided five to four in 1982, and several states are now positioning to test whether it still commands a majority.

Public safety and essential services: \$515 million. The population-based share of police, fire, corrections, sewer and sanitation spending.

General government administration: \$243 million. The share of courts, financial administration and recordkeeping.

Cover All Kids: \$169 million. When Governor Murphy expanded NJ FamilyCare to children regardless of immigration status, the projection was 16,000 enrollees at roughly \$66.5 million annually — about \$88.4 million in today's dollars. Actual enrollment by FY2025 exceeded **44,000 children**, nearly triple the estimate, and OLS now puts annual spending above \$169 million, roughly double the original projection. Bill A1357, pending in the Legislature, would extend comprehensive coverage to undocumented adults at an OLS-estimated cost of **at least \$684 million a year**.

Emergency medical care: \$72 million. New Jersey drew a record \$67.4 million in federal Emergency Medicaid for services to illegal aliens in 2024 — about \$72 million in 2026 dollars, **121 percent above the Obama-era average and 139 percent above President Trump's first-term average**. The 2024 edition of this report predicted the surge would produce record medical expenditures. The CMS data confirmed it.

Food security: \$14.6 million. The illegal-alien share of state-funded food programs, derived from CIS findings on SNAP utilization. Federal benefit payments are excluded.

Housing assistance: \$5.02 million. Continuum of Care dollars reaching mixed-status households, where a subsidy is prorated to eligible members — typically U.S.-born children — while the family, including the ineligible parent, occupies the unit.

College financial aid: \$3.8 million. The documented 2019 figure for aid to 749 illegal alien students under the 2018 law. HESAA hasn't published an update since, so the report uses the seven-year-old number rather than projecting forward.

The costs Trenton didn't have to choose.

Set those categories side by side and a pattern emerges.

Roughly \$7.14 billion of this bill flows from federal mandates New Jersey didn't write — Plyler for the classrooms, EMTALA for the emergency rooms. Reasonable people disagree about both, and that argument belongs in Washington and at the Supreme Court.

The remainder was chosen. The health coverage expansion, the deportation defense fund, the food programs, the tuition aid, the license law that made the map possible — each was passed in Trenton, signed in Trenton, and expanded in Trenton.

The growth rates are where it gets interesting. The discretionary programs are the ones compounding fastest: legal defense up 830 percent, Cover All Kids up 417 percent since 2022, affidavit driver's licenses up 205 percent in four years, emergency medical spending up 154 percent. The category no one in Trenton controls — K-12 education — grew 53 percent over a comparable stretch.

Mandated costs are drifting upward at something close to the rate of inflation and enrollment. Discretionary costs are compounding at multiples of it. That is not the profile of a state overwhelmed by forces outside its control. It's the profile of a state whose governing coalition has decided this is what the money is for.

Read the caveats. Then read them again.

The predictable response will be to attack the methodology. Anyone who does should have to account for what the report declined to count.

A March 2026 Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas study — the first to estimate the causal effect of unauthorized immigration on local housing markets using administrative microdata — found that unauthorized worker inflows drove roughly **30 percent of house-price growth and 20 percent of rent growth** during the 2021–2024 boom, with the New York metropolitan region absorbing the largest inflows in the country. Applied to New Jersey's metro areas, that translates to between **\$4,770 and \$28,370** added to the price of a typical home, and **\$24 to \$79 a month** added to a typical rent. For a young couple trying to buy a first house in this state, that is not an abstraction.

None of it appears in the \$8.2 billion. It isn't a government expenditure, so it wasn't counted.

Neither is the \$4.3 million in sanctuary-law litigation defense. Neither are ELL and bilingual costs. The college aid figure is seven years stale and used anyway. The housing estimate assumes illegal alien households use homelessness services at the same rate as the general population, which the report concedes likely understates it. And the report declines to net out the roughly \$1.33 billion in state and local taxes ITEP estimates illegal aliens pay — while noting that even accepted at face value, that sum offsets about 16 percent of the total.

A document engineered to inflate a number doesn't repeatedly leave money on the table. This one does it in at least four places.

Fifteen bills. No destination - yet.

The report closes with legislation: fifteen bills where Kanitra is a prime sponsor and ten more he supports. The Immigration Enforcement Support Act (A322), authorizing local police to detain and transfer illegal aliens to federal custody. The Public Charge Transparency Act (A330), requiring agencies to record and report the cost of assistance provided to illegal aliens. The Illegal Alien Healthcare Transparency Act (A308). Mandatory E-Verify in public contracts (A2959). Repeal of the codified Immigrant Trust Directive (A5176).

None of them are likely to advance — not in a Legislature that recently passed a sanctuary statehood bill and established a state portal for reporting the conduct of federal agents.

Kanitra knows that. Publishing the number is the point.

So ask the question the architects of these programs have never once been made to answer on the record. Not the projection — the projections were wrong by a factor of three on Cover All Kids alone. The ceiling. At what number does a state that leads the nation in property taxes, that cannot fund its own transit system, that has watched its own residents pack up for cheaper states, decide it has finally spent enough underwriting people the federal government is actively working to remove?

Nobody in Trenton is going to answer that. Not because the question is unfair it's because there isn't an answer.

There has never been a ceiling — only the next appropriation, and the next one after that, and a working assumption that the people footing the bill would never see it itemized. That the property tax conversation and the immigration conversation would stay in separate rooms indefinitely.

They are in the same room now. Thirty-nine pages, 108 footnotes, drawn largely from the state's own records.

\$8.2 billion. \$2,333 per household. \$1,747 per worker. Nearly one in thirteen.

The invoice is now here. The people who ran it up have names, districts, and voting records. Use them wisely.

The 2026 Report on the Cost of Illegal Aliens to New Jerseyans was prepared by Assemblyman Paul M. Kanitra and Policy Director Todd Lund Jr., 10th Legislative District Office, 852 Highway 70, Brick, NJ 08724.

Access the article: https://www.centraljerseywire.com/p/kanitras-bombshell-report-drops-heres?utm_campaign=email-half-post&r=v68oj&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Local Events

Things to do. Check out some upcoming local events:

Hopewell Valley Vineyards (Pennington NJ) events: <https://www.hopewellvalleyvineyards.com/>

Needle Creek Farm Brewery (Pennington NJ) events: <https://www.needlecreek.com/event-page>

Washington Crossing State Park NJ events: <https://www.wcpa-nj.com/events>

Washington Crossing Historic Park PA events: <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/events/>

And there is across the country: Celebrating the Triumph of the American Spirit. 250 years ago, America chose freedom. This year, we celebrate it in every city, every town, every stretch of American road. Discover Ways To Celebrate: <https://www.freedom250.org/celebration>

Election Integrity

Citizens For NJ Election Integrity Raises Questions About State Guidance For Reviewing Potentially Ineligible Voters

PRESS RELEASE by C4NJEI August 19 2026

State says guidance will ensure consistent standards across all 21 counties — but important questions remain about how citizenship will be determined and the results made transparent.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity is raising questions about the New Jersey Division of Elections' August 19, 2026 Guide to MVC Voter Registration Error.

The State acknowledges that between June 2023 and June 2024, information for individuals who answered **"No" when asked whether they were U.S. citizens were transferred from the MVC system to the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) for voter-registration processing.**

Some affected records have been deleted, while individuals with a separate registration, another SVRS transaction that may contain an eligibility attestation, or a voting history have been referred to County Commissioners of Registration for further inquiry.

The Division says its guidance is intended to protect eligible voters, remove additional ineligible individuals, and **"apply consistent standards across the State."**

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity supports those objectives. But the guidance leaves several important questions unanswered.

Six Questions New Jersey Voters Deserve Answered

1. What does the State actually require counties to do to determine citizenship?

The guidance says an individual may be restored to active status if the Commissioner is **"satisfied that the individual is, in fact, a U.S. citizen."**

But what does "satisfied" mean? What evidence must be examined, what government records should be consulted, and what statewide standard must be met?

2. How should counties resolve conflicting citizenship attestations — and why can't they use resources available through the Department of Homeland Security?

The guidance allows a new voter registration containing an attestation of citizenship to support restoration to active status.

But what happens when government records contain conflicting answers—an MVC transaction saying **"No"** to citizenship and another registration saying **"Yes"**?

There may be legitimate explanations, including naturalization between the two transactions. But the conflict still needs to be resolved.

Why doesn't the guidance address whether counties should use citizenship or immigration-status verification resources available through the Department of Homeland Security or other appropriate federal agencies?

3. Why doesn't the State establish a uniform documentary-verification process?

The guidance specifically addresses voluntarily offered documentary proof of citizenship, but merely says it should be treated like **"any other correspondence from the voter."**

Why doesn't the State establish what documentation constitutes reliable evidence of citizenship so that the same standards are applied in every county?

4. What happens when the individual doesn't respond?

The State says someone who doesn't respond to a letter or telephone call should simply remain in **"rejected" status.**

How many contact attempts are required? How long can the case remain unresolved? What additional investigation should occur?

Most importantly, **how and when is the underlying citizenship question ultimately resolved?**

5. Why did the State give counties referral lists based on driver's-license numbers — and how will the public evaluate the results?

The State says the referral list provided to counties **"will reflect the driver's license number for each individual."**

Yet the same guidance cautions counties that driver's-license numbers generally cannot be disclosed in response to public-records requests.

6. Why structure the referral list around an identifier the State itself says generally cannot be publicly disclosed?

Why wasn't a non-confidential case number also provided so that referrals could be tracked through final disposition without disclosing protected personal information?

And how will the public, journalists and independent researchers be able to determine whether every referral was investigated and resolved?

The Goal Should Be Clear: Resolve Every Case

The State says its goal is to ensure consistent standards across New Jersey. The public deserves to know why the guidance does not provide counties with the necessary tools and standards necessary to accomplish that goal.

Call to Action: Help Us Follow the Investigation

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity is asking New Jersey residents to help follow how this guidance is being implemented across all 21 counties.

If you have information about how your county is handling these referrals, have obtained public records concerning the MVC review, have questions about our research, or would like to assist with our county-by-county effort, **we want to hear from you.**

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity

Send your contact and information below to: info@citizens4njei.org

Contact: [Name]

Email: [Email Address]

Website: [Website]

Phone: [Phone, if desired]

For more information visit www.citizens4njei.org or email info@citizens4njei.org

About Citizens for NJ Election Integrity (C4NJEI)

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.

Even Red States Attract DOJ Monitors As Part Of Election Integrity Efforts

By Kevin Mooney originally published in Restoration News (August 20 2026)

Reality of noncitizens voting highlights importance of state and federal cooperation.

President Donald Trump's Department of Justice (DOJ) is working just as hard in red states this year to ensure ballot integrity as it is in blue states. The U.S. DOJ's ongoing efforts coincide with revelations that noncitizens have made it onto the voter rolls in some states.

The department monitored polls in Miami-Dade County, Florida with about four attorneys and in Laramie County, Wyoming with two attorneys during the Tuesday primary elections. Although both states are reliably Republican, the DOJ monitoring appears to be every bit as intense as it is in blue states where more egregious election shenanigans have recently occurred.

So far this year, the DOJ has sent more than 75 monitors across five states to more than 200 polling locations for the primary elections. The civil rights division of the DOJ organized these monitoring efforts, which follow on heels of similar efforts during the Aug. 4 primary in Michigan and the July 21 primary in Arizona.

"Election monitoring is an ongoing priority for this office," Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division said in a press release. "Nondiscriminatory monitoring ensures all elections remain free, fair, and accessible to all."



Noncitizens Voting Cancels Out Legal Votes of Americans

Revelations that New Jersey had roughly 6,600 noncitizens on its voter rolls highlights the importance of the DOJ's efforts. The Garden State fits into a larger picture. After reviewing state voter rolls and other public records, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has determined that there are at least 278,000 noncitizens registered to vote in federal elections. Most recently, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced charges against five noncitizens alleged to have voted in that state's 2024 November general election. The attorney general also brought charges against a U.S. citizen alleged to have registered their noncitizen spouse to vote. The threat of voter fraud may be more real in blue states since their government officials are less inclined to share voter data with the DOJ. Gov. Mikie Sherrill (D) of New Jersey, for instance, has refused to turn over data on noncitizen voters to the department. The Trump administration has sued over 20 states that have refused to provide verification files to ensure their voter rolls include only eligible voters.

But the most recent monitoring efforts in Florida and Wyoming indicate that red states are every bit as susceptible to voter fraud as their blue counterparts.

The DOJ's civil rights division is charged with upholding several federal laws including the Voting Rights Act, National Voter Registration Act, Help America Vote Act, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Civil Rights Acts. Between now and Election Day on Nov. 3, civil rights division personnel will be available to receive questions or complaints about potential violations federal voting rights laws. Concerned citizens can also request DOJ officials to send monitors to certain locations. The email address for the DOJ Voting Section where citizens can make inquiries, register complaints, or make requests is VEM@usdoj.gov.

The DOJ has not said yet whether it will send election monitors to upcoming primaries in Delaware, Massachusetts, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Average citizens who would like to become involved with election integrity efforts could tap into Restoration of America's VoterRef.com site, which provides public access to government data on elections that includes voter registration lists. The site is easy to navigate and can be searched on a state-by-state basis.

Access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/even-red-states-attract-doj-monitors-as-part-of-election-integrity-efforts>

Kevin Mooney is a Senior Investigative Researcher for Restoration News specializing in energy policy, environmentalist groups, and dark money. He writes regularly for the American Spectator, Washington Examiner, Daily Caller, Daily Signal, and National Review. Kevin is the author of the new book, Climate Porn: How and Why Anti-Population Zealots Fabricate Science, while Targeting American Capitalism, Freedom, and Independence.

ICYMI

ANALYSIS: China-Backed Groups Continue Their Takeover Of US Judiciary

By Kevin Mooney originally published in Restoration News (August 21 2026)

Trump deregulatory efforts run up against vast, well-funded climate activist network connected to the Chinese Communist Party.

Thousands of US judges have come under the influence of anti-science climate activism just as the largest deregulatory effort in American history makes its way through the court system. The timing is no accident, and the stakes could not be higher for the cause of free markets and honest scientific inquiry.

Key players in this effort include the Environmental Law Institute, a left-leaning legal advocacy and climate activist organization closely tied to Communist China, along with a vast network of well-endowed progressive foundations, law firms, and green pressure groups. The institute's Climate Judiciary Project (CJP) serves as the major conduit for climate activists to gain leverage over the U.S. judiciary.

Converting Judges to Climate Zealots

More than 2,000 U.S. judges have already received training from CJP that makes use of curriculum highly skewed in favor of unfounded climate alarmist theories. This according to a new report from a State Armor, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping states create solutions to global security threats.

CJP works in close coordination with the Federal Judicial Center (FJC). Here's why this matters.

As Restoration News has previously reported, the FJC and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), a nonprofit nongovernmental organization originally chartered by Congress in 1863, jointly publish the Reference Manual on Scientific



Evidence. The NAS is a division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which has a hand in shaping the CJP curriculum.

Congress created the FJC in 1967 to serve as the research and education arm of the federal courts and made the Chief Justice of the U.S. its chair. For decades, the FJC collaborated with the NAS to give judges objective, apolitical guidance on how to evaluate scientific evidence in the courtroom.

But that objectivity came to a hard stop when the fourth edition of the reference manual was released in December 2025. A letter from three highly credentialed scientists addressed to Chief Justice John Roberts in April explains what went down. Several chapters departed from the manual's long history of neutrality while interjecting unsupported claims masquerading as settled fact, according to the letter signed by Richard Lindzen of MIT, William Happer of Princeton, and Steven Koonin of Stanford's Hoover Institution.

After 28 state attorneys general documented conflicts of interest in the chapter titled "Reference Guide on Climate Science," that chapter was withdrawn. But as the three scientists explain in their letter, the chapter undergirding the withdrawn chapter titled "How Science Works" remains—and it has just as many problems.

The new version of this chapter, which balloons from the 18 pages in the prior edition to 65, slyly swaps out the scientific method in favor of policy stances that, as the letter says, present "contested claims as settled fact." The three scientists inform Roberts that the chapter elevates the faulty notion of consensus over the scientific method. "Consensus," they write, "is an inferior and inherently fragile substitute for the gold-standard of science: testable predictions confronted with data."

The US Supreme Court has already ruled in *Daubert v Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals* (1993) that the scientific method must govern scientific evidence. Is the theory testable? Has it been tested? Is there a known error rate? Has it been subjected to peer review? *Daubert* marked a deliberate move away from consensus and toward the well-established scientific method. The scientists writing to Roberts argue that the new chapter walks that move back—instructing judges to admit evidence on precisely the grounds *Daubert* rejected.

The chief justice has not yet responded to the letter from the scientists even as the CJP continues to make headway with American judges set to hear climate-related cases. Therefore, time is a factor as the assault on the scientific method coincides with increased litigation against American energy companies.

State Armor was founded in large part for the purpose of exposing and monitoring the influence Communist China seeks to exert in the United States. Its group of researchers warns in the report on ELI:

...troubling connections [exist] between this jurisprudential push and interests aligned with or connected to China, including overlapping streams of funding and ties to academia. Consciously or not, this is an instance of ELI pushing for unilateral American disarmament in energy security and industrial production.

State Armor makes it clear that CJP is far from neutral and "instead provides heavily biased materials that favor liability against energy companies as a means to regulate energy through litigation." Moreover, the individuals responsible for producing the materials and presentations for CJP have either political or financial stakes in the outcome of cases they curiously do not disclose, according to State Armor.

Until the scientific method is restored to its proper evidentiary status within the judiciary, it would seem American energy companies are back on their heels on the court room. So are American taxpayers and energy consumers.

The Looming Legal Battles Over Climate

President Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently defending its decision to overturn the 2009 "endangerment finding"—an Obama-era rule that declared carbon dioxide a pollutant under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Climate extremists and backers of the Green New Deal have used it to justify sweeping federal climate policy ever since. The endangerment finding stems from the 2007 Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in *Massachusetts v EPA* where the high court said the agency could regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles under the CAA. Obama administration officials then proceeded to interpret the decision to mean they had wide latitude and authority to create new climate regulations Congress never authorized under the CAA.

If the Trump administration is successful in revoking the endangerment finding, the new rule would save American taxpayers more than \$1.3 trillion, according to an EPA press release. Lee Zeldin, the agency administrator, calls the effort the "single largest deregulatory action in U.S. history."

But Team Trump faces legal headwinds.

A vast coalition of well-funded environmental advocacy groups along with blue state governments are working together to uphold the endangerment finding. Their legal challenges against the Trump EPA currently sit before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

On one side sit vast sums of money and numerous organizations devoted to upholding costly regulations. On the other side: an ace in the hole in the form of the CO2 Coalition, a nonprofit advocacy group that includes scientists and researchers from across the globe working to educate the public and policymakers about the benefits of CO2.

The CO2 Coalition has filed a motion to intervene in the case that challenges the scientific underpinnings of the endangerment finding. By contrast, the EPA in its defense focuses purely on economic and legal questions. But since scientific arguments will inevitably figure into judicial proceedings, the coalition's motion fills an important gap in the case to be made for overturning the endangerment finding. Not only is CO2 not a pollutant, the coalition notes, but it is a naturally occurring substance that is critical and beneficial to life on Earth. That's the kind of argument that will not find expression unless the courts continue to follow the Daubert standard.

Delay Tactics at Work?

So, what's next?

Given the ideological makeup of the D.C. Circuit, there's a good chance the appeals court will rule against the Trump administration. But from there, the case will likely move up to the US Supreme Court where the majority appears favorably disposed to ruling against administrative overreach. A fresh decision that overturns *Massachusetts v. EPA* would strike a fatal blow to the endangerment finding. This would explain why delay tactics have happened at the D.C. Circuit. Climate activist litigants may be holding out in hopes for a new Democrat administration beginning in 2029. This way they can avoid a high court ruling that uproots their anti-energy agenda.

The proponents of deregulation should know that the lawfare tactics China-backed entities have employed at the federal level targeting U.S. energy companies also work at the state-level. In fact, the Climate Litigation Database, a project of Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, is tracking more than 3300 climate-related dockets at the federal and state level.

Restoration News has reported that the same network lurking behind the endangerment finding supports litigation designed to hobble oil and gas development in Louisiana. These groups include the Energy Foundation, a San Francisco-based left-of-center grant making institution, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) in New York, and the Rocky Mountain Institute in Colorado. Since ELI's efforts to influence the judiciary blend in with current climate litigation, ELI's financial ties to China call out for more scrutiny. So do the law firms standing behind the climate litigants.

The Money Trail Leading Back to China

As State Armor points out, "ELI is funded by a network of organizations with significant financial ties to China. Several of the same funders simultaneously bankroll Sher Edling LLP, the primary plaintiffs' firm behind more than two dozen climate-related suits in the very courts where ELI is training judges." ELI and Sher Edling receive funding from the MacArthur Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The left-wing dark money network known as Arabella Advisors has contributed millions to Sher Edling in recent years via its New Venture Fund. ELI received \$1.25 from the New Venture Fund in 2024.

ELI has a long history with funding sources tied in with China. The institute was founded in 1969 with seed money from the Ford Foundation, which is also knee deep in supporting China's "Belt and Road Initiative." Since then, other China aligned entities have stepped up to support ELI. The ClimateWorks Foundation, a left-of-center "pass through" organization contributed nearly a million dollars in 2022.

Another name that keeps popping in climate activist circles: the Switzerland-based Oak Foundation, which contributed \$650,000 directly to ELI for the purpose of supporting CJP. British billionaire Alan M. Parker founded the Oak Foundation, which has directed millions of dollars to benefit China-backed entities.

Potential Solutions

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) should strictly enforce the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), a law that requires individuals and entities to register as foreign agents if they operate on behalf of foreign governments. Several climate activist groups identified in the State Armor report have already come under scrutiny for potential FARA violations. There are several states that have enacted "Baby FARA" laws that have stricter requirements than the federal version.

Republican Representatives Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin and Harriet Hageman of Wyoming have come up with another potential solution come from. They have introduced legislation to protect US taxpayers from footing the bill for abusive litigation practices. Tiffany is now running for governor, and Hageman is running for US Senate—potentially putting them both in a stronger position to end lawfare practices aimed at harming American energy.

And finally, the chief justice of the United States could provide the scientists with a definitive answer to their letter. That answer would preferably come with unambiguous commitment toward ensuring that the scientific method is observed in ongoing climate cases.

Access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/analysis-china-backed-groups-continue-their-takeover-of-us-judiciary>

Kevin Mooney is a Senior Investigative Researcher for Restoration News specializing in energy policy, environmentalist groups, and dark money. He writes regularly for the American Spectator, Washington Examiner, Daily Caller, Daily Signal, and National Review. Kevin is the author of the new book, Climate Porn: How and Why Anti-Population Zealots Fabricate Science, while Targeting American Capitalism, Freedom, and Independence.

Not Winning? Just Change The Rules

OPINION By Victor Davis Hanson originally published in The Blade of Perseus (August 11 2026)

What binds the new Democratic Party to the new Democratic Socialists is a set of shared issues and values. That is, the radicalism of the Democrats in the age of Trump Derangement Syndrome—lawfare, de-balloting, the Mar-a-Lago raid, and calls to destroy the Electoral College, the nine-justice Supreme Court, and the filibuster—helped give birth to the socialists.

But the overriding commonality among those on the new Left is that if they do not get their way, they blame the “system.” Then they seek to change the rules, no matter how hallowed those laws and conventions may have been or how much they themselves benefited from them in the past.

When the Left lost the White House, Congress, and, for the most part, the Supreme Court, it began clamoring to change the system. For left-wing Democrats, that angst also translated into calls to bring in two new blue states, weaponize the FBI and DOJ, ally with social media to suppress the news, and spy on congressional representatives. All the socialists and communists did was up the ante in destroying norms by calling for the end of the presidency, the Senate, the border, the police, and the Pentagon.

By 2021, it was time to destroy the southern border and welcome in some 10 million illegal immigrants—without audits, English proficiency, health checks, or the ability to support themselves.

Had Kamala Harris been elected in 2024, we would have had another four years and another five million illegal aliens. And perhaps America would have gone from 50 million foreign-born residents to 60 million, or about 18 percent of the population.

In this regard, the Left sees California as our most liberal—and most ideal—state and perhaps concludes that the reason is that 28 percent of its resident population is now foreign-born, with the majority arriving with vast needs for health, education, housing, and food subsidies.

Today, 50 percent of all births in California are paid for by Medi-Cal, which serves 40 percent of the population. When second-generation immigrants are added to the foreign-born population, the two groups together comprise roughly 45 percent of California’s current population. This demographic transformation is one of the most profound in American history and came at a time when traditional civic education stressing assimilation, acculturation, integration, and knowledge of American traditions, history, and values was nearly nonexistent in California public schools.

So one way of achieving radical change was to alter the demography and welcome as many immigrants as possible who, in the first or second generation, might follow the examples of Reps. Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, or Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed. They represent an entirely new sort of immigrant who arrives—or is born to immigrant parents—with both complaints against and dependence on their host country. They can see only the sins of America, never the catastrophes of their homeland that drove them or their parents here. This strange demand to change the rules whenever they do not bode well for angry and aggrieved parties permeates every possible manifestation of the Left, but is especially egregious when demanded by immigrants who came originally as uninvited guests but almost immediately damned their magnanimous host.

It is strange for so many new immigrants to act on an elemental desire to reach America—only on arrival to profess that it is full of toxic, sinful people, living and dead. Yet the damned hosts have inexplicably welcomed total strangers like themselves, and have allowed them to share in the freedom, security, and prosperity created by the dead whom the newcomers nonetheless endlessly slander and smear.

If particular minorities statistically did not do as well on the SAT as Asians and whites did on average, the solution was certainly not SAT tutorials in the inner city or K–12 SAT outreach, demands for tougher classes in grammar, math, and analytics, or a return to the melting pot rather than the current salad-bowl tribalist model.

Instead, after the George Floyd riots, the call went out to abolish the SAT entirely—as if there had never been a purpose behind its creation. In fact, merit-based SAT exams were designed in the 1920s and 1930s to allow anyone, regardless of race, gender, region, or class, to enter college through meritorious performance on the tests—and, in particular, to overcome old-boy insider preferences and regional and ethnic prejudices.

Yet when the SAT was mostly abolished for four or five years, higher education thought it had solved the problem of minority underrepresentation.

In fact, its racist war on standards only magnified its dilemmas. The SAT had once informed admissions officers not only about applicants’ qualifications but also whether admitted students could do the work once enrolled.

But soon liberal professors learned that many of the newly admitted cohorts lacked the K–12 training necessary to do customary university coursework. Yet if professors maintained their regular courses, requirements, and grading, they might soon be labeled racists once particular minorities were shown to do less well than Asians and whites.

So universities inflated grades. They introduced new remedial and gut courses. And they reduced the required coursework. But again, racialism is never a solution to problems. Instead, it is a catalyst that fuels them—as we have seen with the new notion

that plagiarism is not an actionable offense when the culprit can plead victim status, whether a former president of Harvard or a current professor at Cambridge. But there are ancient laws and norms that insist intellectual theft is a crime and should be punished, not rewarded or ignored.

Soon employers noticed that the reading, writing, and analytical skills of graduates from prestigious schools were proving dismal. Alumni complained both that the reputations of their almae matres were in decline and resting on the fumes of the past and that their own children, who had prepared diligently to ensure suitably competitive grades and SAT scores for admission, were being rejected solely on the basis of their race.

The Left likewise pushed for lower physical standards for the military's ground-combat brigades so that women, on average far less strong than their male counterparts, could join elite units. Again, the same ignorance and arrogance were evident. Physical standards were based on a century of combat experience in which morale, group discipline, and unit success rested on ensuring that all soldiers achieved a common level of physical strength and endurance.

This neo-Marxist-driven demand to mandate equality—albeit now substituting racial and gender consciousness for class consciousness—requires the destruction of established traditions, laws, and norms. The radical Left's key agendas—defunding the police, destroying the border, granting mass amnesties to illegal aliens, subsidizing wind and solar energy while waging a war on fossil fuels, and expanding racial essentialism in hiring and admissions—have never won more than 30 to 40 percent support among the general public. Yet the solution was not to ask why, and then to reflect, reboot, and recalibrate in order to discover how the Left had lost public support.

Instead, the solution was to alter or destroy the system that had denied them power.

So communists, socialists, and radical Democrats prefer moving the goalposts. When equality of opportunity was largely achieved, next they demanded a mandated equality of outcome.

With the ascendancy of a large, affluent middle class, the Left, in its eternal search for a victimized class, pivoted and replaced class oppression with racial victimization.

And when there were not yet enough victimized minorities to guarantee a majority constituency of the aggrieved, the Left redefined the victimized to include anyone who was not a white heterosexual male, regardless of income and privilege.

And when the people finally tired of the Leftists' totalitarian social engineering, the Left sought to change the system by radically altering the way Americans vote, the manner in which government is formed and functions, and, finally, the very demography of America.

The common denominator? Human nature revolts at forced statism, coercive redistribution, and government-mandated equality of results. It instead yearns for liberty and freedom.

No matter how much deception, camouflage, or brainwashing is employed, statism, socialism, and communism can never sustain public support. Throughout history, the Left has therefore begun by changing the rules and altering the demography—if not initially through changes to election rules, bureaucratic fiat, and biased court orders, then eventually through sheer violence.

Access the article: <https://victorhanson.com/not-winning-just-change-the-rules/>

Deep Capture

By Sofia Karstens originally published in Brownstone Institute (August 11 2026)

The Administrative State's Intellectual Origins

Woodrow Wilson holds a distinction no other American president has: he earned a Ph.D., completing his doctorate in political science and history at Johns Hopkins University in 1886. That same year, he wrote an essay called "The Study of Administration," later published in the inaugural volume of *Political Science Quarterly*. Historians widely credit this essay as the founding document of public administration as a formal academic field, and Wilson himself as the father of that discipline.

Wilson suggested that government ought to be removed from the political process...in other words: "Democracy is too important to be left to voters." He explicitly encouraged American reformers to study European administrative models – including Prussia's – for lessons in efficiency, arguing that the US had fallen behind other nations in developing a science of government administration.

Later scholars have debated how far Wilson actually intended this separation to go, and some interpret his argument as calling for administrators to be almost entirely removed from political accountability. His essay laid the intellectual groundwork for what would become the modern professional civil service – insulated from patronage and run by career administrators rather than political appointees or elected officials.



The Frankfurt School's American Exile

Nearly 50 years later, a very different intellectual tradition found refuge in the same city that Wilson's ideas would eventually help administer. Max Horkheimer became director of the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt, Germany in 1930, leading a group of thinkers who developed what became known as Critical Theory. Its core members included Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Erich Fromm, and Leo Löwenthal. Critical Theory is a philosophical framework that analyzes power structures and social inequalities.

Developed by the Frankfurt School in the 1930s and 1940s, it shifted Marxism from a strict economic focus to a critique of culture, media, and modern society. Critical Theory was a different way of looking at philosophy; where philosophy was a search for truth – trying to explain phenomena and things that were not easily proven by science (ethics for example) – Critical Theory shifted to look at philosophy specifically through the lens of Marxism. It became no longer a search for truth but a means of propagandizing, which some would argue was a betrayal of philosophy.

When the Nazis seized power in 1933, Horkheimer was forced to relocate the group first to Geneva and then to New York, where it formed a loose affiliation with Columbia University in 1934–35. Horkheimer's actual scholarly project – laid out in works like *Dialectic of Enlightenment* and *Eclipse of Reason* – described how instrumental reason, mass culture, and authoritarianism are able to take hold in modern societies.

It was also between 1933 and 1937 that several regulatory agencies were established that would come to form the backbone of the modern Administrative State.

Port Huron and the Old/New Left Split

By the early 1960s, the American left was largely defined by an older tradition: labor unions, industrial organizing, and class-based politics rooted in the fights of the 1930s and '40s. In June 1962, a group of Socialist Organization representatives, student activists, organized labor unions, civil rights leaders, and foreign observers gathered in Port Huron, Michigan, and produced a document that would come to mark a generational break from that tradition.

Students for a Democratic Society had grown out of the Student League for Industrial Democracy, the youth wing of an older Socialist educational group called the League for Industrial Democracy, which itself traced back to the Intercollegiate Socialist Society founded in 1905. In early 1960, that student branch renamed itself Students for a Democratic Society.

The manifesto produced at Port Huron was drafted primarily by Tom Hayden, a University of Michigan student and former editor of the *Michigan Daily*, working from ideas that blended the sociology of Columbia's C. Wright Mills and Walter Reuther with the direct-action tactics of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The week-long meeting brought together groups who wrote, debated, and voted on a 60-page document. Notably, it took place at a United Auto Workers retreat, with the UAW under Reuther's leadership covering a range of the convention's costs. Inside circles among Reuther's contemporaries referred to it as "The Long Journey."

The statement opened with a line that became its signature: "We are people of this generation, bred in at least modest comfort, housed now in universities, looking uncomfortably to the world we inherit." Its authors argued that two forces had shaken them out of complacency – the civil rights struggle against racial bigotry in the South, and the threat of nuclear war under the Cold War's shadow.

Where the Old Left had organized around labor and class struggle, Port Huron's New Left shifted the terrain. It called for a "participatory democracy" in which ordinary people – not just union leaders or party bosses – would have a direct hand in the decisions shaping their lives, workplaces, schools, and government. It criticized both American Cold War policy and Soviet communism, explicitly opposing the Soviet system's suppression of organized dissent. And because the statement judged the civil rights, peace, and student movements too poor and marginalized to drive change on their own, and organized labor too quiet, it looked instead to universities – which it saw as institutions open to people of nearly any viewpoint who could be recruited as "useful innocents" (often mistranslated as "useful idiots") to carry the water – as the engine of a new movement. Media, unions, high schools, and elementary schools were to follow.

The Port Huron Statement went on to shape the framing of Great Society-era politics, the anti-Vietnam War movement, and the broader counterculture that carried into the early 1970s. Historians and participants alike have described it as the founding document of the New Left and a turning point.

The Modern Left's Long March

The strategic logic for how a university-centered movement might expand its influence beyond campus came from Germany. West German student movement leader Rudi Dutschke, nicknamed "Red Rudi," coined the phrase "der Lange Marsch Durch die Institutionen" (the long march through the institutions), borrowing the "long march" imagery from Mao's Chinese Communist Red Army march of 1934–35. The idea was that instead of pursuing a frontal revolutionary confrontation with the state, radicals should embed themselves inside existing institutions and overtake them from within over time. The name (and indeed his nickname) was a deliberate echo of the Chinese Communist Party.

Herbert Marcuse (The Frankfurt School) explicitly endorsed the approach of pursuing radical change not through revolution

but by working patiently inside the institutions of government and civil society until they were captured and transformed from within. Writing to Dutschke in 1971 he intoned: “Your notion of the ‘long march through the institutions’ is the only effective way” forward for the movement. Marcuse became an enthusiastic backer of the strategy, and summarized Dutschke’s strategy in his 1972 book *Counterrevolution and Revolt* as “working against the established institutions while working within them.”

He described infiltrating while learning their actual skills and functions rather than simply obstructing them; by “not simply ‘boring from within’ but by ‘doing the job’...learning how to program and read computers, how to teach at all levels of education, how to use the mass media, how to organize production, how to recognize and eschew planned obsolescence.

Writing nearly three decades later, cultural critic Roger Kimball invoked this same Marcusean formulation to explain how the radicalism of the 1960s ultimately achieved its aims not through revolution but through patient institutional capture – “by insinuation and infiltration rather than by confrontation” (*The Long March: How the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s Changed America*). The result, as later commentators (*The Successful Long March Through the Institutions*, *The American Vision*) have characterized it, was a transformation accomplished without open conflict: “Not a shot was fired. No one was forced into concentration camps. Millions of parents willingly sent their children into public schools and universities systems...” that had, by then, been reshaped from within. Effectively replacing “bloody revolutions from without” with institutional capture from within.

Dutschke’s thinking is often linked to the earlier work of Antonio Gramsci, the imprisoned Italian Marxist theorist who argued that revolution in developed Western societies wouldn’t come from a single decisive uprising but from a slow “war of position” – a patient campaign to win cultural and institutional influence over time. While there’s no direct evidence Dutschke had read Gramsci when he coined the term, notably, his diaries and biography reference other influences, including Georg Lukács, Che Guevara, and Mao Zedong.

Khrushchev famously said “We will bury you,” which he later clarified to mean that communism would trounce capitalism. The Long March Through the Institutions is reminiscent of the Marxist/Communist concept of the “Vanguard State” as the “bridge” between a Capitalist state and a Socialist/Communist state.

Marcus Raskin and the Institute for Policy Studies

One American figure who embodied this institution-building, infiltrating strategy was Marcus Raskin. Born in Milwaukee in 1934 to Russian immigrant parents, Raskin studied at the University of Chicago, where he earned his law degree in 1957. During his time at Chicago, Raskin studied under Rexford Tugwell, who was a Columbia economist and a key member of Franklin Roosevelt’s “Brain Trust.”

It was Tugwell who had suggested that it would be necessary to collect money (from the American people) to begin the process of creating an Administrative State.

In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6102, requiring most Americans to surrender their gold coins, bullion, and certificates to the Federal Reserve in exchange for paper dollars, citing that private gold hoarding was worsening the Depression. The following year, the Gold Reserve Act of 1934 revalued gold from \$20.67 to \$35 an ounce—a roughly 69 percent devaluation of the dollar against gold—which meant the government profited handsomely on the gold it had just collected at the lower price. Tugwell was among the New Deal’s most influential architects of expanded federal planning, helping design agencies like the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Resettlement Administration. The devaluation, paired with an expanded money supply, gave Washington greater fiscal room to fund Administrative State projects.

After Chicago under Tugwell, Raskin went on to work as legislative counsel for several Congressmen in the late 1950s, then joined the Kennedy administration’s National Security Council in 1961 as an aide to McGeorge Bundy. He resigned in 1962, citing his opposition to the Cuban Missile Crisis response. In 1963, alongside fellow Kennedy-administration alumnus Richard Barnet, Raskin co-founded the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington, D.C. – widely described as the first independent progressive think tank, built explicitly on the idea that the systemic change they wanted couldn’t be achieved from inside government, and would instead have to come through social movements and infiltrating institutions.

IPS was closely tied to the New Left from the start. Historian Brian Mueller has written that IPS “epitomized the ideals of the New Left, especially those found in the 1962 Port Huron Statement” and, in fact, a 1962 prospectus Raskin wrote for IPS contained ideas strikingly similar to Port Huron’s. Fellow IPS founder Arthur Waskow joined SDS in 1963, and both men wrote for the New Left magazine *Ramparts*.

IPS drew sustained scrutiny throughout the Cold War for its foreign-policy positions. The House Committee on Internal Security and later conservative critics documented Raskin and Barnet’s contacts with North Vietnamese communist officials during the Vietnam War, Raskin’s board membership at *Ramparts* (which the same committee called “pro-Hanoi, pro-Castro”) and, later, in the 1980s, IPS-organized conferences with Soviet officials that a bipartisan group of roughly 80 members of Congress warned could be used for Soviet intelligence purposes.

Carter, Ink, and the Reshaping of Federal Administration

The administrative machinery Wilson had theorized decades earlier took its modern shape under President Carter. By 1977, Carter had concluded that the federal civil service system needed its first comprehensive overhaul since the Pendleton Act of 1883. The opportunity came in the aftermath of Watergate and amid broader public distrust of government institutions. In March 1978, he sent Congress his reform proposal; after 13 days of hearings and testimony from more than 200 witnesses, Congress passed the Civil Service Reform Act, and Carter signed it into law that October – just over seven months after it was introduced.

The Act abolished the US Civil Service Commission and split its functions among three new agencies: the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which handles federal personnel policy; the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), which adjudicates federal employee appeals; and the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), which oversees federal labor-management relations.

The reform's chief architect and implementer was Dwight Ink, a career federal executive who had served in every presidential administration since Eisenhower. Ink had already built a formidable reputation of cutting through red tape and quickly executing major government overhauls, earning him the nickname "Mr. Implementation." Ink himself later wrote that he couldn't recall any other government-wide management reform as broad as the 1978 act being enacted so quickly. The transformation was praised by Marcus Raskin's intellectual incubator, IPS, which has documented ties to the American Communist Party and drove DNC capture between 1972 and 1978.

That same year, Carter signed a second landmark law. The Inspector General Act of 1978 established 12 statutory offices of Inspector General across major federal departments and agencies, giving each the authority to audit internal agency documents, investigate fraud, and report findings both to their agency heads and directly to Congress every six months. By 1988 additional IGs had been added for smaller independent agencies, and there are now 73 statutory Inspectors General across the federal government. By systematically replacing public servants with IGs and positions functioning as commissars who decide investigative targets, including the US elections commission, the landscape for a coup became fertile.

Marching Along

CIGIE, created in 2008, was established by the Inspector General Reform Act by merging two earlier coordinating bodies: the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency (ECIE). Those two predecessor councils themselves went back to 1992, created by executive order under President George H.W. Bush. Between the original 1978 IG Act and the 2008 creation of the unified CIGIE structure are three decades of Long March institutional groundwork.

CIGIE functions as a coordinating and standard-setting body for the IG community – running training, setting audit and investigation standards, and housing an Integrity Committee that investigates allegations against IGs themselves. Its voting members include not just the Inspectors General of individual agencies, but also representatives from the CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the FBI, the Office of Government Ethics, and the Office of Special Counsel – a genuinely broad cross-section of oversight and intelligence-adjacent offices sitting on one council, which could be described as a "control layer."

The IG Act has continued to evolve since 1978: notably, the 2022 Securing Inspector General Independence Act added new protections against politically motivated IG removals, requiring the President to give Congress 30 days' notice and a substantive, case-specific rationale before removing an Inspector General.

CIGIE today represents a sui generis entity where one office effectively oversees software integrity across 3,143 counties. This structure echos Woodrow Wilson's administrative state-framed government as "too important to be left to the voters," relying on a political-technocratic elite and completes the Marxist Commissar model.

The GAP

In 1977 the Institute for Policy Studies formed the Government Accountability Program (GAP). On its surface it looked like a place for whistleblowers to find shelter, especially after the Pentagon Papers, and indeed many whistleblowers from the intelligence community and national defense program gravitated there. Critics suggest, however, that it was actually used as a honeypot to entice, contain, and control the whistleblowers, even as it collaborated and often even worked directly with the US Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

The Office of the Whistleblower Ombudsman was created in January 2019, as part of the House rules package adopted at the start of the 116th Congress (when Democrats took control of the House). It established, within the House of Representatives, a mandate to develop practices for House offices receiving confidential information from whistleblowers about government wrongdoing – including setting up reporting systems, maintaining confidentiality, and training staff.

It sat without a director for about a year. Then in February 2020, shortly after the conclusion of Trump's first impeachment trial (which had been sparked by a whistleblower complaint), Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she had appointed Shanna Devine as the inaugural director of the office. Devine had previously worked at GAP.

Critics questioned whether someone from an advocacy group could serve a “nonpartisan” role, citing concerns that the position could function as a filter protecting officials from exposure, and worrying whether this infrastructure meant this office could effectively legally spy on everyone – including Congress.

GAP also had a prominent role in advocating for the office’s creation. Samantha Feinstein, GAP’s senior legal and international analyst, testified before Congress to request the creation of the Ombudsman Office, which meant GAP was influencing policy from the outside as well.

The Modern Left’s Electoral Rise

Decades after Port Huron, the left flank that it and IPS helped seed has grown into an electoral force. The Democratic Socialists of America was formed in 1982 through the merger of two left-wing organizations: the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, founded in 1973 by socialist Michael Harrington, and the New American Movement. For decades it remained small and aging – its median member age was 68 in 2013.

That changed after 2016. Bernie Sanders’ presidential campaign highlighted disaffection with mainstream Democratic politics and helped consolidate a younger left wing, and DSA’s median member age dropped to 33 by 2017. One commentator described the shift as transforming the group from a “musty debate club for retired social democrats into an electoral powerhouse of young, ecumenical radicals.”

Electoral wins followed quickly. In 2017, fifteen DSA members won local and state offices, including Lee Carter’s election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The breakthrough came in 2018, when DSA member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez defeated incumbent Congressman Joe Crowley in a primary upset in New York’s 14th District, becoming a national figure. She and Rashida Tlaib became the first two DSA members elected to Congress that year.

The organization’s footprint in elected office has continued to grow, with Ashik Siddique, a research analyst at one IPS program (National Priorities Project) who is also separately, and much more significantly, the current national co-chair of the DSA. That means that a sitting IPS staffer simultaneously holds DSA’s top elected position.

Notable DSA-linked officials now include Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib, and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, elected in 2025. By 2025, more than 250 DSA members held elected office across 40 states, with 90% of them elected after 2019. As of mid-2026, DSA has grown to more than 120,000 members and now plays an influential role within the Democratic Party, and the group and its local chapters have endorsed 150 candidates this year, claiming 38 wins so far.

The group draws sharp fire from opponents. President Trump has characterized Mamdani and other DSA-backed candidates as “communist,” exposing their links to adversaries like the CCP – though DSA describes itself as aiming for “democratic socialism.”

Expert Colonel Tim Shindelar describes The New Left’s methodical inching into the Modern Left as “The Final Mile.” The Old Left (Marxism, 1908-1962; 54 years) was about class struggle and establishment of unions. The New Left (Social Justice, 1962-1982; 20 years), focused on issues like abortion, capital punishment, civil rights, environmentalism, feminism, gay rights and gender roles, and immigration. The Modern Left (Final Mile, 1982-present; 44 years) has evolved into policies like the Green New Deal, making higher education free, social ownership of the American economy (placing governors on true free market capitalism), national defense reduction, a Democratic Party shift into the progressive far left, along with pro-Palestinian and anti-Zionist causes.

The Media and The Last Mile

This shift to administrative power effectively renders elected officials powerless. Just because someone is elected to office doesn’t mean they have any real power; the administrative state will allow elected officials (even executive ones) to ride in the back but they cannot drive the car.

Which means that voters are at the kids table, because it doesn’t matter who the elected official is if the power lies with the Administrative State...thus embodying and defining Wilson’s vision of keeping politics out of government because democracy is too important to be left to voters. The politics in which we all engage is merely a rubber match, and is unconnected to the outcome; the real match is occurring in a different stadium entirely.

Much of this neutralization and marginalization of the actual people (voters), while maintaining the illusion that it is neither by validating the scrimmage to its participants, traces to mid-20th-century globalist planning (1952–1956), building on Wassily Leontief’s 1953 work aimed at phasing American labor to China while addressing excess human labor and galvanizing wealth concentration among a technocratic elite. Individual self-interest via game theory was expected to align populations toward what we now describe as the Singularity, but Marx’s framework did not anticipate AI collapsing labor demand to zero – accelerating the need for focused population control programs. But there would be no buy-in unless a different diorama was presented.

The 1928 book *Propaganda* was written by the nephew of Sigmund Freud, Edward Bernays (1891–1995). Bernays was the son of Freud’s sister and also related through his mother, who was Freud’s sister. His father was also the brother of Freud’s wife Martha.

Bernays is often called the “father of public relations” and Propaganda argued that manipulating public opinion is a necessary part of a functioning democracy. It drew heavily on his uncle’s psychoanalytic theories to explain how to influence mass behavior through unconscious desires rather than rational argument.

George Orwell didn’t invent the world of 1984 out of thin air – he drew it directly from Stalinist Russia, where erasing and reshaping history was institutionalized state policy. Not long after Stalin consolidated control, images of Leon Trotsky, the driving force behind the 1905 and 1917 revolutions, started vanishing from public life. In their place came grand, fictionalized depictions of Stalin standing shoulder to shoulder with Lenin as co-architects of the Bolshevik uprising, while Trotsky, despite having founded the Red Army himself, was written out entirely. These doctored scenes became fixtures of Soviet propaganda, plastered across office walls, towering billboards, museum halls, and postage stamps.

The effect on public memory was profound. Younger citizens absorbed the fabrication as historical fact, while older ones who had lived through the actual events found their genuine recollections gradually blurring with the state’s preferred narrative – a strange kind of political false memory syndrome. People who reconciled what they actually remembered with that which the government insisted they believe developed what Orwell described as “doublethink.” Those who refused – old revolutionaries who knew firsthand – were branded traitors, class enemies, or fascist sympathizers; they faced arrest, torture, forced public confessions, and execution.

With total command over media and law enforcement, it is possible to rewrite the collective memory of an entire population if you have one generation in which to accomplish it. With fully infiltrated and captured institutions it is possible to take control over an entire country without firing a shot if you have two. We are in the final mile, and the ghost in the machine has a government ID.

Access the article: <https://brownstone.org/articles/deep-capture/>

EXCELLENT: Florida Is Requiring Public Schools To Teach Students About The Dangers Of Communism (VIDEO)

By Mike LaChance originally published in Gateway Pundit (August 22 2026)

Florida is now requiring schools to teach students about the dangers of communism. This is the way. Schools all over the country should have been doing this for years.

Instead, far left colleges and universities have been promoting the ideas of socialism and by extension, communism. It’s exactly why you see so many young people embracing the utterly backwards messages of Bernie Sanders and AOC.

History is very clear on the subject. Communism leads to starvation and death.

From WEAR News:

Last November, the Florida Board of Education approved new standards for an upcoming “History of Communism” curriculum coming to the state’s schools.

FDOE officials said the standards were “developed by Florida educators and content experts.” They’re set to be implemented to middle and high school students beginning in the 2026-27 school year. “With the adoption of the History of Communism Standards, Florida is leading the nation by equipping students with a truthful, in-depth understanding of how communist ideologies suppress individual freedoms, abuse power, and inflict widespread suffering,” FDOE said...Paul Fetsko serves on the Escambia County school board.

He says this isn’t the first time Florida has required students to learn about communism. “It was an Americanism versus communism course,” Fetsko said. “It was a semester course [14 years ago] that was required of all seniors.” “As the standards and benchmarks have changed, things get assumed into other courses or they are taken away because something else becomes a more pressing topic,” he added.

The new state standards require middle and high school students to study the history of communist governments, including how communist regimes have been linked to poverty, famine, political repression, and violence. FOX News just did a report on this. **Watch video (1min 17secs):** <https://x.com/EricLDaugh/status/2090930110979293306>

It is absurd that we are even entertaining the failed ideas of communism after defeating it in the Cold War.

American public schools have a duty to teach the next generations the truth about history.

Access the article: <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2026/08/excellent-florida-is-requiring-public-schools-teach-students/>

The Islamist Threat Isn't Only Terrorism

Groups try to push their agenda through politics, schools and grassroots activism.

By Lorenzo Vidino originally published in The Wall Street Journal (August 2 2026)

The Trump administration has shown a strong commitment to combating political Islam, a clear break from previous administrations. For years, Washington has neglected the Islamist threat by using a divided and simplistic approach. Since 9/11, resources have been allocated to pursuing groups designated as terrorists, like ISIS and al Qaeda. Islamist organizations that adopted mostly nonviolent tactics and weren't formally blacklisted—like the Muslim Brotherhood—fell under no agency's remit and were largely ignored.

This security-based view of Islamism misses the mark. The challenge is more complex than a terrorism threat. In both the Middle East and the Western world, political Islam—with the Muslim Brotherhood its main proponent—operates in many arenas, including politics, education and grassroots activism.



A branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in Amman, Jordan, Jan. 14. Salah Malkawi/Getty Images

Washington's European partners have long known this. Several European governments have correctly analyzed the societal challenge posed by Islamism. In 2014 Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron ordered a government review of the Muslim Brotherhood, a yearlong effort that included Britain's security services as well as agencies focused on education, integration and communications.

The French government took the same approach. The report it released last year concluded that "the reality of this threat, even if it is long term and does not involve violent action, poses a risk of damage to the fabric of society and republican institutions."

Germany's security services have written in their annual reports that "legalistic Islamist groups"—a term Berlin uses for organizations like the Brotherhood that don't directly engage in violence—"represent an especial threat to the internal cohesion of our society," and that their endeavors "run counter to the efforts undertaken by the federal administration . . . to integrate immigrants."

These European countries haven't designated the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, but they have a clear-eyed view of the threats the group and its fellow travelers pose.

The Trump administration this year designated as terrorist organizations four branches of the Muslim Brotherhood—in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Sudan—which the U.S. concluded have engaged in direct violence. This marks a break from the past and a first for the West.

Even if properly implemented, these terrorism designations won't magically defeat Islamism. A first step in that direction is a drastic philosophical shift in how the U.S. government and American public understand the challenges posed by political Islam and how it exists on many fronts.

This begins with correcting the dearth of knowledge inside the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other U.S. government agencies about the Brotherhood and Islamism in general. Save for the years immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, there has been no concerted effort within U.S. law-enforcement and policy communities to acquire a deep institutional understanding of Islamist networks worldwide.

A particular lack of understanding exists on how Islamists are using the American political and educational systems to advance their aims—dynamics that have become apparent in the past few years. While some of these dynamics aren't, fortunately, as advanced as in European countries, there's no question that Islamist actors are funding politically aligned candidates in U.S. elections nationwide. By the same token, recent inquiries have uncovered how foreign governments, including Qatar, are funding American universities with the aim of influencing how the Middle East is taught, often through an Islamist lens.

Filling the knowledge gap in these areas is crucial if the Trump administration wants to combat Islamism. That means engaging diverse audiences at the national and local levels. The engagement should include FBI field offices, which need to be reoriented to include Islamism as one of their targets; local educational authorities that have given school vouchers to K-12 Islamist schools that preach hatred of America and Jews; immigration officials who give visas to Islamist imams promoting hate and exclusion and universities that accept foreign donations to host Islamist-leaning scholars and events.

Mr. Vidino is founder and director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University

Access the article: <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/the-islamist-threat-isnt-only-terrorism-4a8d8ff2?msocid=28209e45e20662890fc38956e32763dc>

Ban Sharia

A shared commitment to America's constitutional Republic.

BanSharia.com is a joint project of scores of influential American patriots, subject matter experts, national security professionals and organizations committed to our constitutional Republic, the freedoms it guarantees and the Western civilization it underpins. We are committed to exposing the toxic threat sharia represents to all we hold dear and preventing its adherents from achieving their goal of imposing it – violently or stealthily – on the rest of us.

Liberty requires *clarity*.

Research. Evidence. Expert briefings. Citizen action. One authoritative platform built to help Americans understand what is at stake—and what comes next.

A structured guide to the full published research.

Move from an introductory overview through sources, tenets, applications, constitutional analysis, security implications and policy recommendations.

Begin with the overview: What is Sharia?

Introduction

The Contemporary Threat

Sharia is a totalizing socio-political-legal system (“the path”) that seeks to govern public life—law, politics, economics, society, and war—not just private devotion. Within Islam there is a core fault line:

- **Reform-minded Muslims and authentic moderates** (e.g., figures like Indonesia's Abdurrahman Wahid) treat Sharia as personal guidance compatible with pluralism and with a separation of spiritual and secular spheres.
- **Supremacists/Islamists** (some violent, others stealthy) seek to impose an immutable, compulsory Sharia as the basis for a global Islamic state (caliphate). For them, Western constitutional systems are obstacles to overcome, not polities to coexist with.

Security Implications

1. Sharia-adherent supremacists are a mainstream, dynamic current in Islam.

- a. Textual rooting:** Sharia is firmly grounded in doctrinal sources and favored by influential commentators and institutions (e.g., al-Azhar's scholarly tradition).
- b. State and network backing:** For decades, states (notably Saudi Arabia and Iran) and disciplined international organizations (notably the Muslim Brotherhood) have heavily financed and propagated it.
- c. No central authority:** Because Islam lacks a universally recognized hierarchy, authentic reformers face an uphill battle to delegitimize Sharia where it matters most—among Muslims themselves.

Result: Regardless of what percentage of Muslims personally adhere to it, Sharia's political program **punches above its weight** and poses a serious U.S. security concern—even if one assumes it is not the predominant Muslim ideology everywhere.

2. Empowering authentic moderates requires clarity, not wishful thinking.

- Do not “fictionalize” Islam's internal landscape in hopes reality will conform to a benign narrative.
- Reset the definition of moderation around the Sharia fault line: identify and marginalize actors who seek to impose Sharia, even if they self-brand as “moderate.”

3. Protect the nation regardless of Islam's internal resolution.

- The U.S. can better support non-Sharia-adherent Muslims (natural allies), but cannot win their internal struggle for them.
- Whether or not Sharia is delegitimized globally, the U.S. must **face it down at home and abroad** wherever it mounts violent or ideological offensives.

Sharia is Anti-constitutional

Advancing Sharia's political-legal program in America conflicts with the Constitution and amounts to sedition, whether through violence (jihad) or through **dawa** (stealthy subversion). Sharia rejects:

- Popular sovereignty—the governed making law for themselves
- Constitutional republican democracy
- Freedom of conscience and individual liberty (including privacy and sexual preference)

- Freedom of expression (including the right to analyze and criticize Sharia)
- Economic liberty and private property
- Equal treatment under law (men/women; Muslims/non-Muslims)
- Freedom from cruel and unusual punishments and a common-sense, unequivocal rejection of terrorism
- Resolution of political disputes through federalism and democratic processes rather than violence

An internal Muslim Brotherhood memorandum describes a long-term “**civilization jihad**”—a “settlement process” inside the United States aimed at **eliminating and destroying Western civilization from within** through subversion and sabotage by the hands of its own people and sympathizers. This concept is often called “**stealth jihad**.”

Lessons from the Cold War

America previously confronted not only hostile regimes but also ideologically driven domestic networks (e.g., CPUSA) aligned with foreign powers. Measures that helped blunt penetration included:

- The **Smith Act of 1940** (criminalizing certain subversive activity)
- The **McCarran-Walter Act of 1952** (immigration/exclusion and deportation on ideological grounds)
- Registration requirements, exclusions from sensitive government posts, and extensive counterintelligence penetration

Later, Supreme Court doctrine and subsequent immigration laws narrowed ideological exclusions, extending protections to “advocacy” and to non-citizens’ speech. Even if one assumes some earlier excesses, **those precautions are inadequate today** against clandestine, transnational networks cloaked in religion, exploiting:

- Intimidation effects of terrorism and targeted violence
- Instant global communications
- Increasing availability of mass-destruction methods that let fewer actors project more power

Missteps Have Compounded the Danger

Across administrations of both parties, U.S. leadership has:

- Focused on kinetic terrorism (e.g., al-Qaeda tactics) while neglecting the supremacist ideology that animates it.
- Underestimated complementary subversion by groups that share jihadi goals but currently prefer “pre-violent” methods. Stealth tactics are designed to prepare the U.S. battlefield for later coercion and, if necessary, violence.
- Neglected doctrinal study, leading to strategies that fight bombers and plots, yet miss the political-legal transformation Sharia aims to impose.

The Bottom Line

Without doctrinal clarity and policy adjustments, the U.S. risks **winning battles but losing the war**. Sharia-adherent networks—especially the Muslim Brotherhood—are deeply embedded and skilled at leveraging civil liberties and multicultural norms to advance their program within America. The way forward is to:

- **Name the ideology** and its methods (violent and stealthy)
- **Map and counter** its political, legal, financial, educational, and cultural lines of effort
- **Harden vulnerabilities** in institutions and law while preserving constitutional freedoms
- **Keep American law—and American freedoms—Sharia-free** through a determined, sustained program at home and principled resistance abroad

Access the full “WHAT IS SHARIA” CHAPTERS: <https://www.bansharia.com/what-is-sharia/>



Video: Introduction To Ban Sharia

Introduces the Save Texas, Save America Campaign.

Watch video (2mins): <https://www.bansharia.com/introduction-to-bansharia>



Ban Sharia Series: Episode 1: Women

Addresses the plight of women under sharia.

Watch this episode (1min 25secs): <https://www.bansharia.com/woman-episode-01-bansharia-com-series/>

Webinar: Is Sharia A 'Religion of Peace' Or A Strategy For War?

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 1:00–2:15 p.m. ET

NOTE: This transcript was prepared by a transcription service. This version may contain grammatical and spelling errors incurred during transcription. Please refer to the referenced media to confirm.

On March 3, 2026, 1.9 million Texans voted for Proposition 10 on the Republican primary ballot which simply said: "Texas should prohibit sharia law." They evidently did not buy the narrative long promoted by the Muslim Brotherhood, other stealth jihadists and their enablers in the U.S. government namely that Islam – and, hence it's political-military-legal operating system, sharia – is a "religion of peace."

And rightly so. After all, 1400 years of hard experience with Mohammed and his successors demonstrates conclusively that, from its earliest days in Medina to the present moment, sharia has been about power – how to obtain it through jihad (in various forms, but preferably via terrifying violence/conquest), how to hold onto it, how to wield it and how to ensure the submission of non-sharia-adherent Muslims and "infidels."

This is the first of a series of webinars, Tomorrow, hosted by the Institute for the American Future's BanSharia.com Project, aimed at exposing the threat posed by sharia and encouraging the American people to oppose its further insinuation into and imposition on this country. Their immediate purpose, like that of the project's Save Texas, Save America Campaign more broadly is to help make prohibiting sharia a voting issue in this year's elections.

Here is an example of one such effort in Ft. Bend County, Texas in connection with three of today's elections there. It contrasts the expectation conjured by a flyer circulated by partisans of three Democratic female Muslim candidates with what may be a chilling reality – namely, that they support sharia, with all that entails, including forcing women to "cover."

Moderator:

- **Frank Gaffney**, President, Institute for the American Future; Vice Chairman, Committee on the Present Danger: China; host, "Securing America"

Panelists:

- **William Federer**, Internationally renowned historian and author including of What Every American Needs to Know about the Quran
- **Robert Spencer**, Director, JihadWatch.org; author of 34 books, including The History of Jihad from Muhammad to ISIS
- **Dr. Karen Siegemund**, President, American Freedom Alliance
- **Hon. Brent Money**, Member of the Texas State House, founder, the Sharia-Free Texas Caucus
- **Hon. Keith Self**, Member of Congress; Army Ranger veteran; Co-Founder, U.S. House Sharia-Free America Caucus (Invited)
- **Hon. Stephen K. Bannon**, Former Chief Strategist to President Donald Trump; filmmaker; publisher; entrepreneur; former financial analyst; host, "The War Room"

Watch the recording (1hr 20mins 54secs): <https://www.bansharia.com/webinar-is-sharia-a-religion-of-peace-or-a-strategy-for-war/#source-video>



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 September 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM

425 S Main St. Pennington, NJ 08534

Or Livestream on YouTube

Municipal Township Meetings

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

Township Committee Regular Meeting

Monday September 14, 2026, 6:30 PM

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 are unable to attend Township Committee mtgs, the recordings are available. Per the township clerk's office Kathy, they are "usually," available within a few days of the meeting.

Happy viewing click here: https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB_6dlk4EjvYfv...

Or: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/> select How Do I.../ bottom right View/ Video Library

Board of Elections Meeting

Schedule, Agenda, Minutes: <https://www.mercercounty.org/boards-commissions/board-of-elections/board-meeting-schedule-election-timelines>

Tuesday September 8, 2026 at 12:00 PM

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

Mercer County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Notice, Agenda: <https://www.mercercounty.org/government/board-of-county-commissioners/meeting-agenda>

Meeting Schedule -- September 2026

Tuesday September 8, 2026 6:00 PM Agenda Meeting

Thursday September 10, 2026 6:00 PM Formal Meeting

Tuesday September 22, 2026 6:00 PM Agenda Meeting

Thursday September 24, 2026 6:00 PM 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, New Jersey, 08650

(609) 989-6583 {V/TTY

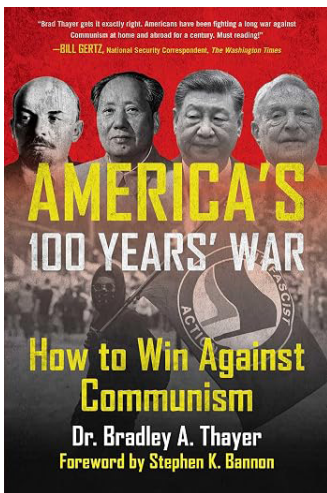
{Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 101-336}



Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) "See You At The Pole" at Hopewell Valley Central High School September 26 2025. Photo courtesy and permission by a contributor.

At the Movies, Bookstores

Book: America's 100 Years' War: How To Win Against Communism



Author: Dr. Bradley A. Thayer Ph.D
Forward by: Stephen K. Bannon
Publisher: War Room Books
Publication Date: August 18 2026
Hardcover, 312 Pages

Overview

The Cold War never ended—because Communism was never defeated.

For more than a century, the United States has been locked in an ideological war most Americans do not perceive. In America's Hundred Years' War, Dr. Bradley A. Thayer argues that the struggle against Communism did not end with the fall of the Soviet Union—it evolved, spread, and embedded itself within American politics, institutions, and culture, and Western civilization.

Tracing the roots of modern political upheaval back to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Thayer contends that Leninism shaped not only the Soviet Union and Communist China, but also the ideological movements now transforming America from within. From the Comintern to the Chinese Communist Party, from Mao and Xi Jinping to George Soros and the progressivism of the modern Democratic Party, Thayer presents a sweeping reinterpretation of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries as one continuous ideological conflict against Communism.

Blending Cold War history, geopolitical analysis, political theory, and cultural critique, America's Hundred Years' War examines the rise of Communist ideology abroad, its penetration into American institutions at home, and the growing battle over American identity, free speech, education, technology, and Western civilization itself. Thayer argues that the key to victory over Communism is a rebirth of American identity: the American spirit, political liberalism, and Western civilization.

Provocative, expansive, and unapologetically ideological, this book offers a stark warning about the future of America and a roadmap for those who believe the fight for the American experiment is far from over.

To purchase: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million

WEBINAR | C.P.D.C. Welcomes Bradley Thayer's Masterpiece, America's 100 Years War

By CPDC originally published on Committee on the Present Danger: China (August 21 2026)

A CPDC WEBINAR – Truly 'Endless War': Communism's Century-long Effort to Destroy Our Country;

C.P.D.C. Welcomes Bradley Thayer's Masterpiece, America's 100 Years War

Friday, August 21, 2026

1:00–2:15 p.m. ET

Thankfully, with today's publication of America's 100 Years War: How to Win Against Communism, Dr. Bradley Thayer has offered not only a compelling insight into the history of a toxic ideology, but a call to action against it that can no longer be deferred.

A highly regarded academic, national security practitioner and founding member of the Committee on the Present Danger: China, Dr. Thayer has long recognized, warned about and led the intellectual resistance to the metastasizing threat posed by Communists, foreign and domestic.

Brad's new book could not be more timely and needed. This fall's elections will see Communists and their jihadist allies making a concerted effort to gain power as Democratic candidates. Republicans must return to their party's roots, born of the abolitionist movement and its defense of freedom, in our time against those that would enslave us all.

This CPDC webinar celebrates the publication of our valued friend and colleague's extraordinary new book and call for it to be widely read, internalized and acted upon by every American who prizes our constitutional Republic and shares the Committee's determination to prevail over enemies within and without who seek its destruction.

Moderator

- **Frank Gaffney**, President, Institute for the American Future; Vice Chairman, Committee on the Present Danger: China; host, Securing America; co-author, The Indictment

Panelists:

- **Dr. Bradley Thayer, PhD**, Senior Fellow, American Freedom Alliance; co-author of Embracing Communist China: America's Greatest Strategic Failure and author, most recently, of America's 100 Year's War
- **Xi Van Fleet**, Refugee from Communist China; internationally renowned freedom-fighter; author among other works of Made in America: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Enabled Communist China and Created Our Greatest Threat (Invited)
- **Dr. Karen Siegemund, PhD**, President, American Freedom Alliance and thought-leader in the fight for freedom
- **K Carl Smith**, President, Frederick Douglas Republicans; author, Douglas vs. Marx
- **Hon. George Rasley**, Editor, ConservativeHQ.com; former senior advisor to the Vice President; former senior congressional staff member; veteran of over 300 political campaigns at every level

Watch Webinar (1hr 5mins 30secs): <https://presentdangerchina.org/webinar-c-p-d-c-welcomes-bradley-thayers-masterpiece-americas-100-years-war/>

Book: How To Raise A Citizen (And Why It's Up To You To Do It)

Author: Lindsey Cormack

Publisher: Jossey-Bass

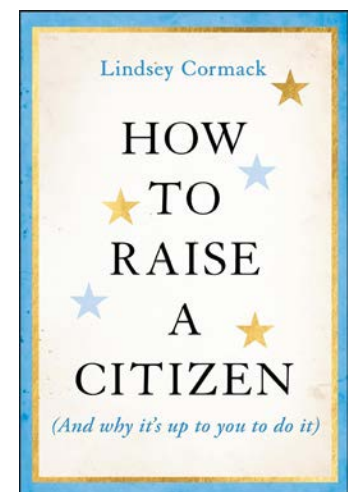
Publication Date: August 13, 2024

Hardcover, 304 Pages

Description

An essential guide to nurturing the next generation of responsible, informed citizens.

Lindsey Cormack's book, How to Raise a Citizen (And Why It's Up to You to Do It), speaks directly to an America in which civic knowledge is alarmingly sparse and many people dread politics. It's a tool for parents, educators, and anyone eager to fill this gap. In the book, Cormack offers an engaging and practical approach to discussing political issues and the inner



workings of the U.S. government with children. She explains why our schools can no longer be the sites of civic education that they used to be and provides parents with strategies and necessary know-how to be able to impart these lessons to their children. From the intricacies of the voting process to the foundational principles of democracy and the significance of key government documents like the Constitution, the author demystifies complex topics with clarity and insight.

You'll also find:

- Data about the current state of the American citizenry, our educational approaches to civics, and the risks of civic disengagement
- A framework for starting important political discussions at home
- Comprehensive explanations of American federalism and how different branches of government are responsible for different functions
- Strategies for navigating federal, state, and local elections

How to Raise a Citizen is a roadmap to a future where political dialogue and civic engagement are not just encouraged but celebrated in our homes. With actionable advice and easy-to-understand explanations, it empowers readers to instill a sense of civic responsibility and curiosity in the young minds they influence.

Perfect for parents, caregivers, educators, and anyone committed to cultivating an informed and active citizenry, this book is an indispensable resource for guiding children to understand, appreciate, and participate in the democratic process. Equip yourself with the knowledge and strategies to raise engaged citizens in today's politically charged world by adding How to Raise a Citizen to your library.

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

Book website, about author: <https://howtoraiseacitizen.com/>

Hillsdale College: The Story Of America

Episode 20: The Battle of Brooklyn

By Hillsdale College. Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn introduces a new video series, "The Story of America," created in partnership with the White House.

Stories that shaped a nation. Faced with a choice between freedom and tyranny, courageous men and women risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to form a more perfect union—the United States of America. As our nation marks its 250th anniversary, we invite you to watch and learn from these fascinating stories that celebrate the American spirit.



Episode 20 (12mins 46secs): Join Eric Metaxas, Author and Radio Host, as we escape along with Washington under the cover of a miraculous fog. Witness the miracle that paved the way for American independence.

Access the video (12mins 46secs): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTUAIzn-ASc&t=8s>

Watch the series: https://storyofamerica.hillsdale.edu/#watch_series

Support Hillsdale College: <https://secured.hillsdale.edu/hillsdale/support-hillsdale-college...>

Visit our website: <http://hillsdale.edu>

Learn from our online courses: <http://online.hillsdale.edu>

Read Imprimis: <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/>

Hillsdale College is an independent institution of higher learning founded in 1844 by men and women "grateful to God for the inestimable blessings" resulting from civil and religious liberty and "believing that the diffusion of learning is essential to the perpetuity of these blessings." It pursues the stated object of the founders: "to furnish all persons who wish, irrespective of nation, color, or sex, a literary, scientific, [and] theological education" outstanding among American colleges "and to combine with this such moral and social instruction as will best develop the minds and improve the hearts of its pupils." As a nonsectarian Christian institution, Hillsdale College maintains "by precept and example" the immemorial teachings and practices of the Christian faith.

The College also considers itself a trustee of our Western philosophical and theological inheritance tracing to Athens and Jerusalem, a heritage finding its clearest expression in the American experiment of self-government under law.

By training the young in the liberal arts, Hillsdale College prepares students to become leaders worthy of that legacy. By

encouraging the scholarship of its faculty, it contributes to the preservation of that legacy for future generations. By publicly defending that legacy, it enlists the aid of other friends of free civilization and thus secures the conditions of its own survival and independence.

250 Years Ago: The Battle Of Long Island And The American Dunkirk

Washington's army faced destruction after a devastating defeat on Long Island, until a daring nighttime evacuation saved the American Revolution.

By Alan Wakim originally published in The Epoch Times (August 24 2026)

As commander in chief of the Continental Army, Gen. George Washington was responsible for defending the newly declared United States. In the summer of 1776, such a burden would have crushed an ordinary man.

Throughout July and August, Washington and his staff watched from their New York City headquarters as hundreds of enemy ships delivered over 32,000 professional soldiers and auxiliaries from Great Britain and Hesse-Kassel to Staten Island for one purpose: to extinguish American independence and restore British rule over the colonies. Most historians agree that Britain had assembled the largest overseas expeditionary force in its history—a record that stood until World War I.

Washington used the time to strengthen defenses on Manhattan and Long Island for the inevitable showdown.

When the British finally struck on the morning of Aug. 27, the Americans were routed. By nightfall, Washington, many of his best officers, and more than 9,000 soldiers were trapped on the Brooklyn Heights peninsula. With their backs to the East River and Britain's Royal Navy controlling the surrounding waters, the core of the Continental Army faced annihilation.

A disaster of this magnitude could have forced the nation's surrender and the end of the American Revolution.

But Washington was not an ordinary man, and he was about to receive help from an unlikely source.

War or Peace?

Following the British Army's evacuation from Boston on March 17, 1776, Washington knew the British would return and correctly predicted that New York City, for its vital port and strategic position, would be their next target.

Gen. Charles Lee was dispatched to survey the city and recommend measures for its defense. He assessed the Royal Navy's ability to encircle Manhattan, leaving the 13.4-mile island vulnerable to bombardment and invasion. He concluded that it was "impossible to make it defensible," adding, "Whoever commands the sea must command the town."

Lee recommended transforming Manhattan into a costly conquest so that Britain "shall pay a very dear price for it."

The Continental Congress nevertheless ordered Washington to fortify and defend the city. But he faced a logistical nightmare. Of the roughly 19,000 troops available to defend the New York area, about half were inexperienced militiamen. Thousands more were unfit for duty, suffering from dysentery, smallpox, and other diseases.

Adding to Washington's difficulties, Loyalists outnumbered Patriots in much of Manhattan and the surrounding areas.

Despite these issues, Washington arrived in the city on April 13 and began implementing Lee's recommendations. Among them was placing Gen. Nathanael Greene in charge of fortifying Brooklyn Heights across the East River to protect his left flank.

On June 29, the first elements of the massive British fleet arrived off New York. Over the following weeks, thousands of British and Hessian soldiers disembarked on Staten Island, which became Britain's base of operations.

Leading this invasion force were Gen. William Howe and his brother, Adm. Lord Richard Howe. Both retained affection for Americans, who had honored their brother, Lord George Augustus Howe, after his death during the French and Indian War, and hoped to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Duty, however, compelled the brothers to reassert British control over the colonies. Recognizing their desire for reconciliation, the British government also appointed them as peace commissioners.

Lord Howe attempted to initiate peace talks on July 14, but disputes over letters addressed to "George Washington, Esq."—purposely omitting his military rank—delayed the talks for days.

Finally, on July 20, Lord Howe's adjutant general, Lt. Col. James Paterson, met with Washington and his officers and explained the Howes' authority to grant pardons to those who laid down their arms and submitted to British authority. Washington rejected the premise, stating, "Those who have committed no fault want no pardon." The meeting ended with no resolution, leaving war all but inevitable.



"The Battle of Long Island," 2024, by Domenick D'Andrea. Continental troops charge British lines at the Battle of Long Island, Aug. 27, 1776, allowing the main American force to withdraw safely. Public Domain

Final Preparations

On Aug. 1, Gen. Henry Clinton and Gen. Charles Cornwallis arrived after their failed campaign in South Carolina, further strengthening Howe's invasion force.

On Aug. 22, British and Hessian forces landed at Gravesend Bay on Long Island. Washington was uncertain whether the landing was a diversion intended to draw his forces away from Manhattan.

Days earlier, Greene had fallen seriously ill and relinquished command of the Long Island defenses. Gen. John Sullivan temporarily assumed command before Gen. Israel Putnam was placed in overall command.

Continental forces established defensive positions along a string of wooded hills located between Brooklyn Heights and Gravesend Bay. Gen. William Alexander, better known as Lord Stirling, commanded the Continental right flank near the East River. Sullivan commanded the center, covering the Flatbush and Bedford passes. Col. Samuel Miles guarded the left flank between the Bedford and Jamaica passes.

The British Flank Attack

All was ready on the night of Aug. 26.

Around 9 p.m., a British attack force of 10,000 redcoats—led by Howe, Clinton, Cornwallis, and Lord Hugh Percy, and guided by three Loyalist farmers—began marching eastward in total silence. They planned to swing around the Continental left flank, then head west undetected along Jamaica Road and position themselves directly behind the Continental lines before launching a surprise attack.

As part of the plan, British Gen. James Grant and Hessian Gen. Leopold Philip von Heister were to conduct diversionary frontal attacks against the Continental lines, drawing attention away from Howe's massive flanking column.

At 11 p.m., Grant began moving 5,000 redcoats toward Stirling's position. Von Heister and his 5,000 Hessians remained stationary opposite Sullivan's lines.

The Battle of Long Island officially began after midnight as Continental pickets exchanged gunfire with Grant's redcoats near the Red Lion Inn. The pickets resisted briefly before being driven back.

Stirling arrived with reinforcements and checked Grant's advance. By morning, Hessian artillery began pounding Sullivan's lines.

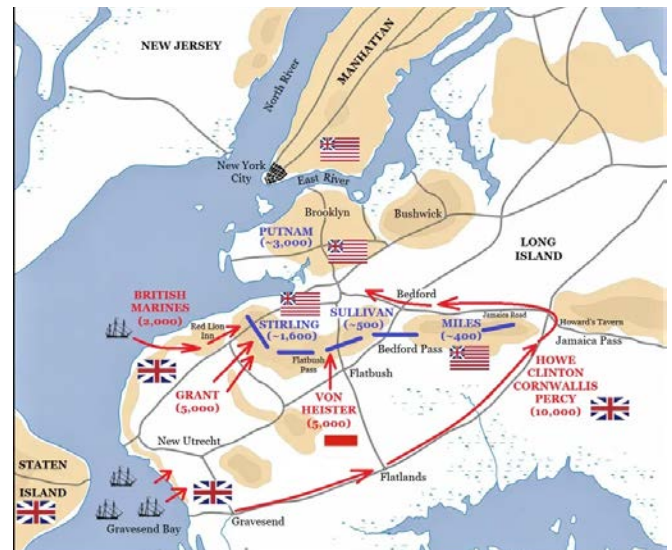
From Manhattan, Washington ordered additional troops across the East River before crossing with Adjutant Gen. Joseph Reed to observe the battle himself.

Howe's flanking column secured its position behind the Continental lines. At 9 a.m., a cannon blast signaled the attack.

To the south, von Heister's Hessians heard the signal and launched their frontal assault with a bayonet charge, quickly trapping Sullivan's men. Savage hand-to-hand combat ensued. Continental lines collapsed under attacks from multiple directions, leading to chaotic retreats. Sullivan and Miles were both captured.

Stirling's force fought valiantly, but by 11 a.m., Hessians, redcoats, and 2,000 British marines were closing in from all sides.

Recognizing the peril, Stirling ordered most of his men to retreat. He, Maj. Mordecai Gist and several companies of the 1st Maryland Regiment remained behind to cover their withdrawal. Washington observed from a nearby redoubt as the "Maryland 400" repeatedly attacked the much larger force, exclaiming, "Good God, what brave fellows I must this day lose!" The regiment suffered devastating casualties, and Stirling was taken prisoner.



This map details the British flanking movement along Jamaica Road, showing how British and Hessian forces encircled the Continental positions near Brooklyn Heights on the morning of Aug. 27, 1776. Alan Wakim



Map detailing the frontline British and Hessian attacks against Continental defenses on Aug. 27, 1776. Alan Wakim

Trapped

By nightfall on Aug. 27, more than 9,000 Americans were trapped in Brooklyn Heights. Washington now confronted one of the most consequential decisions of his life. If the British breached the defenses or moved warships into the East River, the core of the Continental Army faced total destruction. Such a disaster would likely end the war.

Heavy rains the next day forced a lull in the fighting.

At 4 p.m. on Aug. 29, Washington convened a council of war. The decision was unanimous: abandon Long Island. Washington entrusted Col. John Glover and his Marbleheads to lead the evacuation.

Troops quietly gathered equipment and packed up gear. Gen. Thomas Mifflin's rear guard kept campfires burning and manned trenches to trick the enemy into believing the Americans would stay and fight.

By 11 p.m., the evacuation was underway. Glover's men ferried soldiers, horses, equipment, and artillery across the river to Manhattan. But the operation proceeded slowly. By dawn, less than half had escaped. The discovery of the evacuation could trigger an immediate British attack.

Then a dense fog rolled in, blanketing Brooklyn Heights and the East River and obscuring the Americans' activity. Under its cover, the evacuation continued.

The deception worked. Mifflin's rear guard quietly withdrew from the trenches and boarded the boats. By 7 a.m., the evacuation was complete. Witnesses noted Washington was among the last to depart.

Once the last boats were away, the fog lifted, and redcoats were seen rushing toward the shore. The hunters missed the hunted by mere minutes.

Aftermath

Britain won a decisive victory at the Battle of Long Island at the cost of 64 killed, 293 wounded, and 31 missing or captured. American losses were more staggering: 300 dead, 650 to 800 wounded, and up to 1,100 captured.

Washington, however, refused to quit. He denied the British the victory that mattered most—the destruction of his army.

With help from Glover's Marbleheads and divine providence—which contemporaries credited with providing the fog—Washington's army lived to fight another day.

Like the Allied evacuation from Dunkirk more than 160 years later, the retreat transformed what might have been a catastrophic military defeat into a desperate escape that preserved the army.

This proved critical. The fight for New York, and the war itself, was far from over.

Access the article: <https://www.theepochtimes.com/bright/the-battle-of-long-island-and-the-american-dunkirk-6078621>

More information about the battle:

Visit the Brooklyn Public Library new Battle of Brooklyn exhibition: To learn more about the exhibition and how to sign up for a tour: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/exhibitions/battle-brooklyn-fought>

Brooklyn Battlefield (American Battlefield Trust): <https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/brooklyn-battlefield>

We the People of Interest

Our New Jersey Signers Of The Declaration Of Independence

Publishers note: In July 2026, our 250th Semiquincentennial, we wanted to encourage getting to know our esteemed New Jersey Signers of the Declaration of Independence. From November 2025 through March 2026 we featured our five heroic NJ Signers. They truly did pledge their Lives, their Fortunes and their Sacred Honor. They all deserve our utmost gratitude and we should all take the time to learn, remember and pass on the stories and legacy of these unsung heroes of American history.

- **Abraham Clark** (featured in January 2026: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/0126-MercerWe-revised.pdf>)
- **John Hart** (featured in November 2025: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/1125-MercerWe.pdf>)
- **Francis Hopkinson** (featured in February 2026: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/0226-MercerWe-revised.pdf>)
- **Richard Stockton** (featured in March 2026: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/0326-MercerWe.pdf>)
- **John Witherspoon** (featured in December 2025): <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/1225-MercerWe.pdf>)

Freedom 250: Signers Of The Declaration Of Independence

Celebrating the Triumph of the American Spirit

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history—250 years of American Independence. "With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history," said President Trump of this momentous anniversary.

Under the President's leadership, the Salute to America 250 Task Force ("Task Force 250") is executing a full year of festivities, which began on Memorial Day, 2025, and will continue through the end of 2026.

The White House is engaging all levels of government, the private sector, non-profit and educational institutions, and every citizen across the country to celebrate this historic milestone. To achieve this ambitious vision, we have created a new public-private partnership called Freedom 250.

Task Force 250 aims to inspire a renewed love for American history, encourage citizens to experience the beauty of our country, ignite a spirit of adventure and innovation to help our nation succeed for the next 250 years, and invite Americans to pray for our country and our people and rededicate ourselves as One Nation Under God.

From the Freedom 250 website watch a brief video and read a brief bio on each of the Declaration of Independence Signers: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/freedom250/founders-museum/signers/profiles/>



Painting: The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. Artist: John Trumbull, 1817-1818. Location: Capitol Rotunda.

TPUSA Honors Charlie Kirk One-Year Later With A Night Of Remembrance At The UCCU Center On The Campus Of Utah Valley University

By TPUSA HQ originally published in Turning Point USA (August 21 2026)

Turning Point USA will hold the "Freedom Built to Last Memorial" on September 10, 2026, at the UCCU Center on the campus of Utah Valley University (UVU), marking one year since the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

The gathering will honor Charlie as a faith-filled husband, father, and defender of free speech with a memorial that serves as a deliberate act of remembrance and a call for students and supporters to continue his life's work.

The event will punctuate a week of commemoration. Simultaneously, TPUSA Faith is leading a nationwide initiative inviting Christians of every denomination and tradition to honor Charlie's mission to make Heaven crowded by inviting a friend or family member to church beginning Sunday, September 13, and throughout the month of September.

Americans from every corner of the country are welcome to share the moment on social media with a simple message: Charlie's seat continues to be filled by a new generation of faith-filled believers.

Event Details:

What: The Freedom Built to Last Memorial Honoring Charlie Kirk

When: September 10, 2026 at 6:30pm MT

Where: UCCU Center on the campus of Utah Valley University, 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, UT 84058

Who:

- **Glenn Beck**, Host of The Glenn Beck Show, Founder of Blaze Media & Torch, and Bestselling Author
- **Frank Turek**, Speaker, Author, and President of Cross Examined Ministries
- **Andrew Sypher**, TPUSA Chief Field Officer
- **Caleb Chillcut**, Utah Representative for TPUSA's College Department

Livestream: A livestream of the memorial will be available on YouTube, X, Facebook, and Rumble.

Access the article: <https://tpusa.com/live/tpusa-honors-charlie-kirk-one-year-later-with-a-night-of-remembrance-at-the-uccu-center-on-the-campus-of-utah-valley-university/>



Rest In Eternal Peace Dolly Parton

Enjoy the iconic song written and first sung by Dolly Parton,
"Dolly Parton - I Will Always Love You (Live)" (4mins 17secs):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr8tffNHJno>

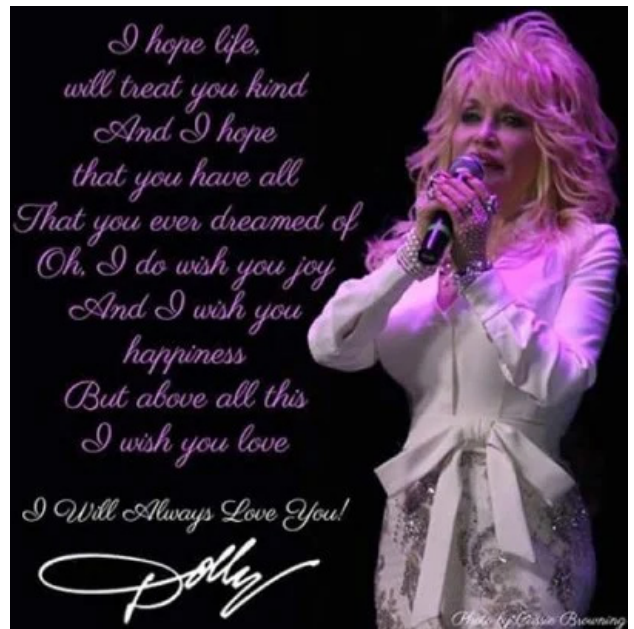


Photo courtesy of uk.pinterest.com

Editor's Note: We close this newsletter with the below sermon.

Sermon – Communism In Churches – c. 1960

By Bishop Gerald Kennedy [c. 1960] made available in Wallbuilders (May 29 2023)

Bishop Gerald Kennedy (1908-1980) was a pastor and instructor in various colleges and churches in Connecticut, California, and Nebraska. He was the head of the United Methodist Church in southern California for 20 years (1952-1972). In the following sermon, Bishop Kennedy addresses the evils of Communism and how the Bible relates to this issue.

"For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of people saying, " Do not call conspiracy all that this people call conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread". " Isaiah 8:11-12

There has been a good deal of talk in these days about communist infiltration into the churches. I never paid much attention to it because I know the churches and it is obvious that they are the real bulwarks against this evil system. Besides, you will discover this talk has two main sources. First, it comes from religious racketeers who like all racketeers, prey on legitimate enterprises. Second, it comes from men who fear judgment and change and who believe it is 1860 instead of 1960. So I never paid it much mind.

It came to me that a more careful examination should be made and I am sorry to report that there are unmistakable signs of communist doctrines having captured the minds of some churchmen. It is much more subtle and dangerous than we have recognized and I feel it is my duty to speak a warning. For the people who have been making all the fuss about this issue, have missed the point. A friend of mine once remarked about a speech of mine: "The bishop hit the nail right on the head, but it was the wrong nail." This is the perfect description of the activities of most of the brethren attacking churches.

In the eighth century B.C., Isaiah wrote a good word for us. There were those conspiring against Ahaz the King and there were others urging a conspiracy with Assyria. But, says God, these are not the conspiracies to worry about. He would say that same thing to us and we need to face the real dangers.

In the first place, we have been invaded by the communist doctrine that

Religion Is An Opiate.

Karl Marx in his Introduction to Critique of...Hegel wrote: "Religion...is the opium of the people" and that doctrine became one of the assumptions of the communist creed. It must be confessed that religion as they observed in Russia, gave some reason for this definition.

One of the things that impresses the visitor to Russia, is the number of churches. They are everywhere so that one gets the impression that here is a very religious people. Yet in the days of the revolutionary movement, the church was usually on the side of privilege and power. It raised no clear voice against injustice and poverty and in the minds of many people it was a sedative protecting the status quo.

Now this doctrine has invaded our own life. What is the message of the church in America? Very often it is a message of adjustment. We are supposed to use our religion merely as a technique of getting along with other people and accepting the conditions of our existence without protest. We do not talk very much about being converted to a new life, but rather we urge our people to learn contentment in the midst of boredom. Ours is the psychological path which leads to acceptance

rather than rebellion. From many a pulpit the voice of the preacher has become a lullaby accompanied by violins. The sound of the trumpet is strangely silent.

What shall we say about our examples as Christians? Well, we probably hold to a higher moral code on the average, than some others. But nothing much happens because of the great increase in church membership and a man would be hard put to define any sharp, observable differences between Christians and non-Christians. For us as well as for them, Carl Sandburg's eleventh commandment seems to prevail: Do whatever you want to do to be comfortable.

The goal of our striving seems to be quietness. That this is a part of our Christian witness is true. Contentiousness is not listed as Christian virtue. Paul's words are: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Romans 12:18) But this is no doctrine of peace at any price and the Apostle's own example is a stormy one. He was in his own time, and this is a hard word for us to hear, a controversial figure.

The Christian message when it is not contaminated with this communist poison is prophetic and often fierce. The words of the Prophets were strong and bitter as they denounced evil in all the world and in their own societies. The Christian word is to repent and be saved. It is a demand to bring life in harmony with God's austere demands. It is a word of judgment as well as righteousness. The Christian message is heroic and frightening in its expectations.

Our examples are the apostles and the martyrs rather than well meaning, harmless people whose good intentions have all the toughness of a marshmallow. Negro young people have grown weary of waiting for us to give them the ordinary courtesies of our social life. Repudiating those who counsel only endurance and waiting, they move gently but unhesitatingly toward claiming the right of service in restaurants. They make it a religious movement and they shame a Christianity which stands by unwilling to give a witness to the simple dignity of all men.

The goal of the church is justice, not ease. If this means stirring us up, then of course that is our duty. It is a sad time when any disinherited member of a society cannot be sure of a champion in the Christian Church. This passion for justice is something we have inherited from the Old Testament. It is lost only when we accept the doctrine that Christians are merely dispensers of an opiate.

There is a story out of South Africa indicating what this communistic doctrine can do for a church. A Negro Zulu was stopped by an official at the door of a church in Capetown. "Don't you know that this church is for whites only," he was asked. "I am only going in to sweep the church, sir," the Negro replied. "Well, all right", the churchman, said, "But don't let me catch you praying in there." I am sure that the South African church would be shocked to learn that this kind of practice is pleasing to communism. It strengthens their thesis and makes it possible for them to proclaim to the world: I told you so.

Another Communist belief is that

Religion Is An Extra.

That is to say it is not part of the essential curriculum of life, but one of those courses offered for people who have extra time or a special interest.

I have a friend who teaches at a girls' college. Because of the modern strenuous life, they have a course called Rest. For an hour twice a week, a girl can get a small credit for simply taking a nap under supervision, and for those who think they might enjoy it, perhaps it should be allowed.

I was looking at the great Volga dam outside Stalingrad one day, and listened to a young man describe its wonders. It is a magnificent sight and will produce tremendous electrical power. He was proud of it and his eyes shined. "Look at it," he said. "Why do we need God?"

Now that same spirit has entered into us. We put great emphasis on the beauty of our cathedrals and the beauty of our services. We talk about worship as if it were only relaxation and aesthetic enjoyment. Our appeal is often made on the basis of the value of a change of a pace and the satisfaction of sitting in a restful environment for an hour. Indeed, not too long ago, a man wrote a book recommending church attendance primarily because it was good to do something that took a little effort.

There are some issues a man must be concerned with if he is to survive. He must learn to read, he must learn to write, he must learn elementary arithmetic. But there are so-called "enrichment" courses which he is free to take or leave. Communists believe that religion is not vital for modern men because it is a hang over from a superstitious and ignorant past. If the Pope has no battalions, Stalin said he is not to be taken seriously. Since Christ has no armor, communistic materialism says he can be ignored. You simply do not bring religion into the practical, important concerns of living in Russia and this has invaded the churches of America.

Now this is the subversion of our faith. One of those dedicated, passionate atheists was arguing with a minister one time, who, growing weary of the man's intensity, said, "If God does not exist, it cannot be as important as you are making it." And the atheist answered him fiercely, "Can't you see it is terribly important! There is nothing more important." In that word we have a judgment on our yielding to communism's propaganda that religion is just an extra.

Can we not see that if God does not exist it is of ultimate significance? But if God does exist, I must forget all else and come to terms with that truth. The committed atheist is more religious than the uncommitted Christian. For it is blasphemy to say that I believe in God and then behave as if God does not matter. There is no affirmation I can make that compared with the shattering importance of saying, "I believe in God the Father Almighty."

If God is, then His law is of the utmost consequence to me and to every man. I need to know how He operates and what He demands. I had better learn of the framework within which I must live my life. What is more important than coming to terms with the way things are? Whatever I may want to say about God and His laws, let me not be so foolish as to say they are extras in the business of living.

All of this is of the utmost concern for any man facing the real questions of his existence. If my life has meaning, it depends on religious assumptions. If I am an eternal creature, every immediate situation is affected. Whether or not I get a raise next year is not so important a question as what God is. Whether I fail or succeed in my ambition will not affect me nearly as much as what I decide about God. Let us have done with this communist doctrine that God is something we can take or leave. Let the churches recover the seriousness of their message and give no more comfort to the enemy by assuming that they are merely teachers of another philosophy.

Florence Nightingale was a strong-minded young woman of good family. Not content to live uselessly, she became a nurse. When the Crimean War broke out, she learned that more men were dying in the hospitals than on the battlefield. At the request of Sidney Herbert, secretary at war, she went to Scutari with thirty-eight nurses and began the organization of the hospital service. Sometimes she became impatient and critical, even of God, and she wrote one time, "I must remember that God is not my private secretary." God is not our employee nor is He the creature of our convenience.

Another sign of communistic infiltration is an assumption that

Propaganda Is More Important Than Truth.

That this is communist doctrine I need not argue. It has been stated in their official documents that anything is good that puts their cause forward and anything is bad that holds it back. If the lie will help the cause, then tell the lie and since there is no divine law to worry about, the communists are committed to the doctrine that the end justified the means. We have watched Russia march forward over broken promises and disregarded treaties. At the root of much of our trouble is the distrust which springs out of disillusioning experiences with men who make propaganda more important than truth.

I do not think any of us are so naïve as not to know that our government uses espionage. But the inept and bungling way the U-2 incident was handled, fills some of us with despair. What a defense we made! We confessed that maybe we do spy, but so do they. Maybe we did lie, but so do they! And the world looks on and sees very little to choose between two powerful goliaths. When we lose our moral leadership, we lose our most effective weapon. If we cannot say to the world that we do hold higher moral standards than Russia, we are in a bad way. People need to believe that America speaks truth.

Walter Lippmann wrote:

"In a situation like ours the damage to our prestige would be irreparable if we all rallied around the President and pretend to think that there was nothing seriously wrong. For that would prove to the world that the blunders will not be corrected but will be continued and that our whole people are satisfied with bad government. It is the dissenters and the critics and the opposition who can restore the world's respect for American competence." (May 19 Column)

Is truth something to use when convenient? It is a pity that Jeremiah could not have adopted that philosophy, for it would have saved him bitter criticism and deep suffering. But the religious man who believes in God, knows that truth is either an absolute which has to be respected at all times, or there is no use in telling the truth at any time. We must tell the truth about our enemies always or nobody will believe us if only on occasion we state the facts. A Christian stands for truth even when it hurts the most, for only then does he have any authority or any lasting influence.

The church is not always guiltless. A church conference can try to justify its reluctance to right a wrong by placing its action under the cloak of God's will. I heard a delegate say the he had a vision from God which made it clear that segregation, at least for the present, was all right. And nothing did more to sicken honest Christian than such errant nonsense and hypocrisy.

A man died in Los Angeles a little while ago, who according to his lights, was a pretty decent fellow. He was a bartender and helped many a friend with a small loan and even fed men who were hungry. As a result, they started calling him Honest Joe but Joe Sims objected. He said this put too much strain on him and he did not want to be under the necessity of living up to the name. He said he was only fairly honest, and they give him the name of Fairly Honest Joe.

When a man is only fairly honest, he is not honest at all. Who knows when the honest runs out? Shall we be called "fairly honest America?" Are we satisfied to be "fairly honest Christians?" We must destroy this communist doctrine that propaganda is above the truth and that to be fairly honest will be enough. As George Washington said at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, we must raise a standard to which wise and honest man can repair. "The event is in the hands of God."

Finally, there has crept into our thinking the evil doctrine that

The Church Should Mind Its Own Business.

To see this idea in action is one of the most distressing sights in Russia for an American. The churches are often full of people and there are many churches. But the religious concerns have to be limited to the other-worldly, and nothing very sharp dares to be said about that subject. It is a religion that is irrelevant to this present world and must "mind its own business." Strangely enough, this shocks Americans who are not churchmen, for freedom of religion is an accepted part of our life. Its loss changes the very nature of a society.

Now there are always those who want a church kept under close surveillance by some self-appointed guardian or organization. But today there has been a number of especially loud voices insisting that the church has no business in great areas of life. They speak about the church being religious or spiritual and they express shock that religion should go beyond such boundaries. It is the line direct from Moscow and it is a point of view entirely in harmony with the Kremlin.

The National Council of Churches is attacked because it dares study issues connected with the international and economic orders. Some of the critics are heads of large American corporations and they would be upset to learn that this kind of talk is communistic. But it is! In nearly every church there is at least one layman who protests when the church says anything that has to do with the world and the men in it. The old refrain is heard so often that we have grown insensitive to its subversive nature. Nothing pleases atheism more and nothing so undermines the Christian foundations of the nation.

Let us take a clear look at the nature of life. Can you divide it into compartments and be Christian in one but not in others? You might as well say that if a man is sick in one organ only, there is no need to worry about it. What nonsense! The body is either sick or healthy. When a man has a sick finger, he is sick all over. No man is so foolish as to limit healing to one part of the body. Life is a whole and the Gospel either speaks to all of it or it has no significant word for any of it.

If a plague should break out in East Los Angeles, the people in Beverly Hills might say it is none of their business. They might say it if they were crazy. We know that sick neighborhood is a threat to all of the city and it is everybody's business to make sure that everybody is healthy.

The Gospel deals with all of life, because it comes to heal the whole man. The Bible knows nothing about partial religion or a church that is supposed to mind its own business. It brings all the orders of life together under the rule of God and its goal is a kingdom which includes all men in all their conditions. Let us root out this communistic doctrine that religion is limited to one day or one part of life. Let the church be allowed – no let it be commanded, to bring the witness of its Lord and the judgment of its prophets into each man's heart and world.

A few years ago I was in Wiesbaden, Germany on a preaching mission for the Air Force and I called on Martin Niemoeller. It was a great hour for me as I remembered this man's heroic witness. He was a U-Boat commander in the First World War and after the war he became pastor of a great church in Berlin. Finally unable to keep silent in the face of Nazi evil, he spoke out and was put in a concentration camp. Martin's father was speaking to a friend about the experience, and said:

"When you go back to America, do not let anyone pity the father and mother of Martin Niemoeller. Only pity any follower of Christ who does not know the joy that is set before those who endure the cross despising the shame. Yes, it is a terrible thing to have a son in a concentration camp. Paula here and I know that. But there would be something more terrible for us: if God had needed a faithful martyr, and our Martin had been unwilling."

Today the Christian Church faces a crucial and terrifying moment in history. It may have to suffer and show a courage that has not been characteristic of it in past years. But if God calls on us for a witness, and we are not willing, that is our final failure. We must root out these subversive doctrines – that religion is an opiate, that religion is an extra, that propaganda is more important than truth, that religion must mind its own business. It is time for the church to purify itself and proclaim the Gospel.

Access the sermon: <https://wallbuilders.com/resource/sermon-communism-in-churches-c-1960/>

God Bless America!

Mercer We the People of Hopewell Valley Newsletters:

Access previous issues at: <https://hvrageop.org/mercervethepeople/>

To report a correction or share feedback, please email us at info@mercervethepeople.com

Mercer We the People

PO Box 332, Titusville NJ 08560

United States of America