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From the Editor

Is Ignorance Bliss? Not in Politics!

Americans may be more divided today than at any time since the Civil War. And that division, if it continues to grow, could result in the dissolution of America and the loss of freedom. “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand,” Jesus warned. That truth is as applicable today as it was during biblical times.

During the 250th anniversary year of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Americans should be unified in our celebration of the principles that made America great. Yet not everyone is celebrating, and not all celebrants have the same understanding of what those principles are — or should be.

Most Americans are proud of their country, even though they may be sharply divided on politics. But a few are ashamed, having bought into the agitprop that America was built on the backs of slaves and is still racist today.

Many Americans believe in limited government under the Constitution. They also believe that the government has overstepped its constitutional boundaries, and they want to rein in big and intrusive government, getting it out of their lives and pockets. Other Americans view the power of government as a positive force that can be harnessed for the benefit of the people. They want the government to get into some pockets for the purpose of providing the people with free healthcare, education, housing, etc. — a concept of governance that’s based on the Marxist dictum, “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.” Those who sincerely believe that this is a recipe for creating a better America fail to understand that a government big enough to give the people everything they want is also big enough to take from them everything they have, including their freedom; that punishing producers via confiscatory taxation or nationalization will destroy the incentive to produce, resulting in less wealth to “share”; and that, in practice, socialism is not about sharing the wealth, it is about controlling the wealth.

The age-old expression “ignorance is bliss” certainly does not apply in politics. The lack of understanding about the principles of freedom has made possible the growing acceptance of socialism on the part of Americans who have forgotten their own heritage.

This ignorance is particularly alarming among the young. A new poll released on July 2 by the Cato Institute found that “nearly half (46%) of Americans — and nearly two-thirds (61%) of Gen Z — don’t know what America’s 250th commemorates.” Cato also found that Americans “are evenly divided on socialism, with equal shares who are favorable and unfavorable. Gen Z stands out with more who are supportive of socialism (53%) than capitalism (45%).”

America’s great political divide is most evident in the war of words between the two major political parties. But even intra-party fractures are apparent. For instance, President Donald Trump blasted Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) for being disloyal to him and the GOP. In a Truth Social post, he claimed that Massie “never votes for us, he always votes with the Democrats.” He also successfully campaigned to get Massie defeated in his primary. Yet, in our latest Freedom Index, which rates all members of Congress based on the Constitution, Massie scored 100 percent. How can that be?

To shed light on that question, we ask you to delve into the Freedom Index to decide for yourself if Massie and the other members of Congress got the scores they deserve. Regarding Trump specifically, we ask that you carefully read our cover story “Principles... Not Personalities,” which argues that we should assess Trump and all other politicians based on their adherence to principles.

Thomas Jefferson warned in 1816, “If a nation expects to be ignorant & free, in a state of civilisation, it expects what never was & never will be.” So long as the lack of understanding persists, we cannot realistically expect to reverse growing division and avoid national ruin. But by reacquainting ourselves with the principles of freedom, we can unite our fellow citizens around those principles and get America back on track again. ■

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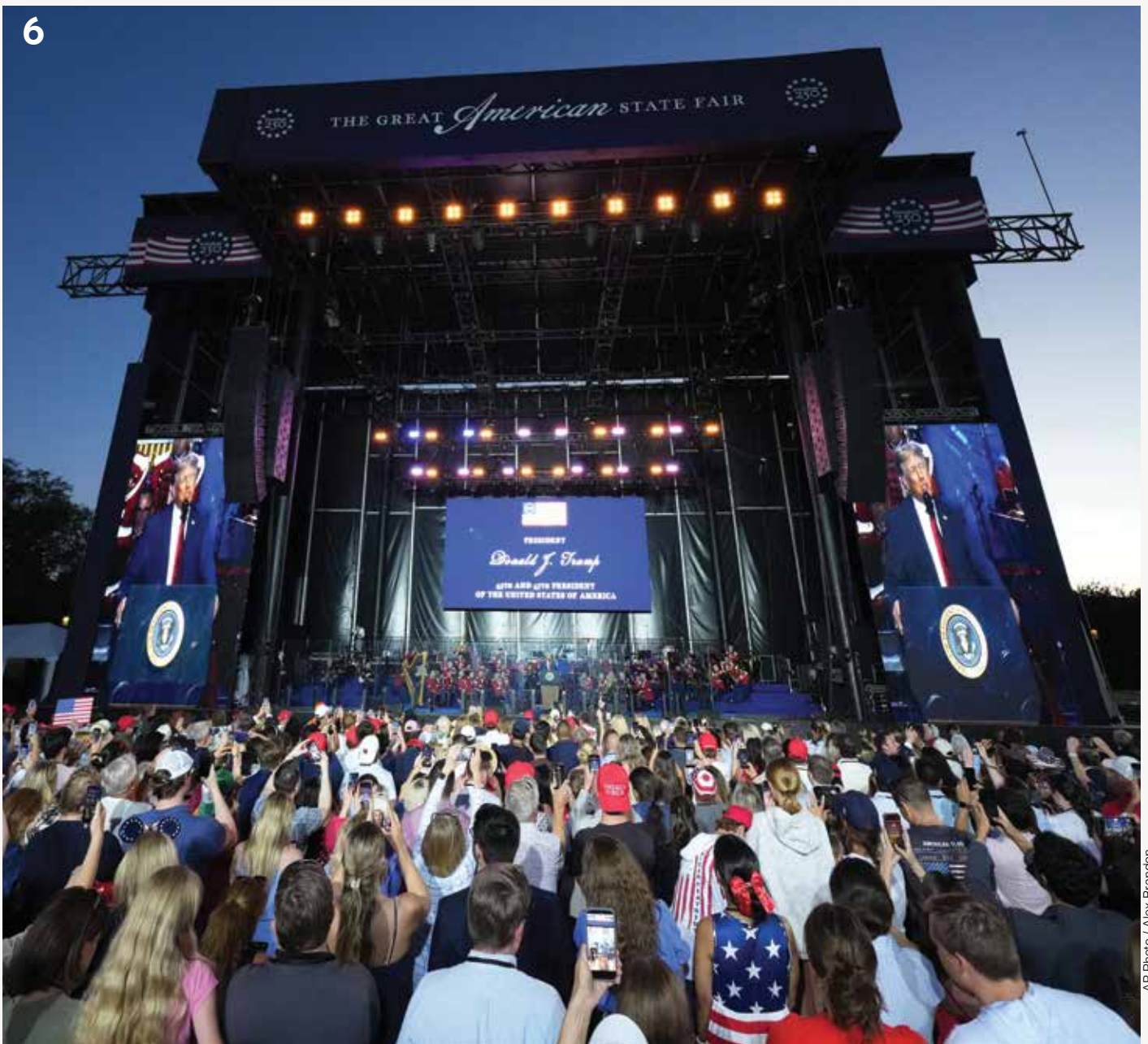
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A review of How to Test Negative for Stupid: And Why Washington Never Will



AP Images / Kyodo

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PRINCIPLES... NOT PERSONALITIES



AP Photo / Alex Brandon

AT A GLANCE

- We should evaluate politicians based on principles — not personalities, and not parties.
- Officeholders take an oath to uphold the Constitution, and we should support them only to the degree that they abide by that oath.
- This constitutional litmus test should be applied to every politician, regardless of who he may be.
- Herein we take a look at President Trump and his actions, using as our standard the Constitution and its underlying principles.

by Gary Benoit

The Democratic Party is no longer your granddaddy's Democratic Party. It has moved so far to the left that it has become the party of wokeism, welfarism, and progressive socialism. Its nationally recognized leaders include New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), both of whom are avowed socialists. In fact, the Democratic Party's socialism has become so overtly Marxist that it is increasingly indistinguishable from communism. Compared to the left-wing radicalism of the Democratic Party, the Republican Party appears to be strongly conservative.

But how conservative is the Republican Party? How conservative is it with President Donald Trump as its standard-bearer? One measuring stick shedding light on this question is *The New American's* Freedom Index, which rates every member of the U.S. House and Senate based on the Constitution. According to this metric, Republicans as a whole score well compared to their Democratic counterparts, but poorly with respect to their oaths of office to the Constitution. (See our most recent Freedom Index on page 40.)

The scores in the Freedom Index may surprise many conservative-minded Americans who, based on media characterizations and campaign rhetoric, believe that Republicans as a whole are far more conservative than they actually are. In fact, this is particularly the case when Republicans are smeared by the left-liberal media as extremists; when they lock horns with the Left; and when they say many of the right things and even accomplish some great things (from the conservative/constitutionalist perspective).

In the current political milieu, it is easy to look at the great divide between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats as black and white, when it is not. It is also easy to place unwarranted faith in our favorite political personalities, when in fact it is principles, not personalities, that truly matter. We

Gary Benoit is editor-in-chief of *The New American*.



AP Photo / Manuel Balce Ceneta

should support our politicians only to the degree that they adhere to the Constitution, campaign promises and even past performance notwithstanding.

Trump and the Exercise of Power

For a case in point, consider Donald Trump, who has as big a personality and public persona as one might possibly imagine in America today. And that personality, both supporters and critics agree, includes a large ego. Should MAGA and other conservative-minded people put complete faith in him?

The political Left and Right are poles apart in their perceptions of Trump. MAGA has viewed him as a champion of "America First" who is battling the Deep State to reverse the American decline and make America great again. The liberal Left, on the other hand, has maligned him as a racist, antisemite, neo-Nazi, etc., who aspires to become a modern-day Hitler. Though such scurrilous accusations have been based on emotion, not evidence, the target of these smears did not help himself when in a June 17 Truth Social post, he wrote, "Presidential Historian Dave King — Sounds good to me!" — followed by King's piece comparing the power Trump wields to that of Hitler and other despots. King began:

Donald Trump is, without question, the most powerful man that the planet has ever known — by a long way.

Historically, powerful people

were characterised by brutal conquest and the fear that they instilled in the populations that came under their influence. Common names that would come to mind are Alexander the Great, the Caesars, Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun, Tamburlaine, Napoleon and, more recently, Hitler, Mao, and Stalin.

Of course, King pointed out, there are differences too:

The overwhelming difference between each of the above when compared with President Trump is their lack of global reach. Their power was limited to restricted local areas (even though some of these areas were quite large in a local context). They had nowhere near the control over modern logistics, manpower, technology, and the global economic muscle that President Trump can enforce.... Mao and Lenin had access to immense power within the Chinese and Russian populations and some of their satellite states. They maintained this power through fear and authoritarianism. But, they lacked the economic and technology resources of the new industrial power, the USA, which resulted in the Cold War and prevented them from ever having a meaningful global reach.

The collapse of Communism ... has seen the USA emerge as the first truly global superpower. Additional-

ly, President Trump is the first leader to be willing to use that power on a global scale. That makes him by far the most powerful person that has EVER walked this planet.

Wow! What in this assessment, it is reasonable to ask, sounds so good to Trump that he'd favorably post it? Trump was not suggesting that he would use his political power to wreak the horrific human death toll and misery that Hitler, Mao, and Stalin did. But that said, it does seem reasonable to conclude that Trump does view himself as "the most powerful man that the planet has ever known," that he is willing to "use that power on a global scale," and that this (in Trump's words) "sounds good" to him. In fact, Trump's willingness to exercise political power to accomplish his global objectives is one of the few things that his supporters and critics would agree on. However, his supporters would say that his intent is to make the world, and America in particular, a better and safer place, while many of his critics would claim he has darker and more sinister motives.

Motivations aside, there is no doubt that President Trump's political friends

and foes alike should keep a close eye on his words and actions to make sure that he is doing the right things for the American people and not overstepping his proper authority. This should be true for all politicians, including members of Congress and others, Democrats and Republicans alike. And it should be true even when our thoughtful observations lead us to believe that a politician really is intending to do what is right and true, even if he may stumble here and there. As a well-known proverb warns, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

Principles First

Good intentions or not, America's Founding Fathers certainly believed that we should not blindly trust our rulers. As Thomas Jefferson famously warned in his Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, "In questions of power ... let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

The U.S. Constitution framed a government based on the timeless principles of the Declaration of Independence. Those principles include the "self-evident" truths that all men "are endowed

by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights"; that those rights include "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"; and that "to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

To prevent the government from exceeding its proper role and devouring the God-given rights it is supposed to protect, the Founders specified the few powers the new national government could exercise (all other powers were left to the states and the people), divided those limited powers among three branches of government (the legislative, executive, and judicial), and interwove into the Constitution a system of checks and balances intended to keep all the branches within the limits of their delegated powers.

The president, members of Congress, and other public officials take a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution, and it is the principles of the Declaration and the strictures of the Constitution that should determine our evaluation of them — regardless of their intentions or what we might think of them personally. Yet in the case of Trump, such an evaluation is difficult, in large part because he has become such a polarizing figure. Strong emotions on both sides — fueled by incessant attacks from the liberal media — have made it exceedingly difficult for those with opposing views to talk to each other about him.

On the Left, the hatred against Trump has become so virulent that it is hardly hyperbolic to observe that many liberal-left Americans have "Trump Derangement Syndrome," a phrase/condition that has been part of the political lexicon/landscape ever since Trump came down the escalator to announce his first bid for the presidency in 2015. TDS victims hate Trump to such an extent that they irrationally reject whatever he says or does simply because he says or does it, even in cases where they might otherwise agree.

On the other hand, some MAGA conservatives have grown to love Trump to such an extent that they tend to support whatever he says or does simply because he says or does it. A few even reflexively



AP Photo / J. Scott Applewhite

dismiss anyone who criticizes Trump as just another leftist or RINO (Republican in Name Only) spewing anti-Trump propaganda, without first considering whether there are merits to the criticism from a conservative/constitutionalist point of view.

Nevertheless, we should always evaluate our politicians based on principles — not personalities, and not parties. Principles are immutable, whereas personalities imperfectly represent those principles (all of us are flawed human beings), may be corrupted by power, and may be deceptive; and political parties can and do change.

Let us now take a look at some of Trump's policies, using as our standard the Constitution and its underlying principles.

Usurpations of Power

When President Trump walked in late to take his seat among the other world leaders at the G7 Summit meeting in June, he paused to remark, "I'm the boss." When later asked on *The Axios Show* how many world leaders believe he's the boss, he said, "All of them," before immediately adding, "But I was just being funny." He also said, "I wasn't trying to be the boss."

Of course, though Trump's public persona may convey that he is the boss, in reality he is not the boss — not of the G7, and not of the United States. Under the Constitution, the president's powers are more limited than those of Congress; Congress possesses *all* legislative powers, while the president is entrusted with faithfully executing the laws. Even when it comes to the power of the sword, the president's role as commander in chief

is a limited one, as Alexander Hamilton explained in *The Federalist*, No. 69:

The President is to be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States. In this respect, his authority would be nominally the same with that of the king of Great Britain, but in substance much inferior to it. It would amount to nothing more than the supreme command and direction of the military and naval forces, as first general and admiral ... while that of the British king extends to the *declaring* of war and to the *raising* and *regulating* of fleets and armies — all which, by the Constitution under consideration, would appertain to the legislature. [Emphasis in original.]

Yet Trump launched a war against Iran on February 28 without first asking

Congress "to declare war," as required by the Constitution. In the House, Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) responded to Trump's executive action by introducing a resolution to direct "the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any part of its government or military, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific authorization for use of military force against Iran." On March 5, this resolution was rejected by a largely party-line vote of 212-219. Massie was one of only two Republicans who voted for his resolution, while 215 Republicans voted against it. The Democrats supported his resolution by a vote of 210 to 4, though it is reasonable to assume that they would have voted very differently if a Democratic president had decided to launch the war unilaterally.

In reality, all members of Congress,



U.S. destroyer firing a missile at Iran during Operation Epic Fury

Stringer/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images

President Trump's political friends and foes alike should keep a close eye on his words and actions to make sure that he is doing the right things for the American people and not overstepping his proper authority. This should be true for all politicians.

both Republican and Democratic, should have voted for this resolution, irrespective of their position on the war, because of their oaths of office to the Constitution. (This vote is included in our Freedom Index, page 40.) If Congress agreed with Trump that America truly needed to go to war against Iran, then it should have exercised its constitutional power to declare war. The fact that other presidents have also usurped war powers belonging to Congress is no excuse for Trump to do so.

What did Trump hope to accomplish by going to war? On March 2, two days after launching “Operation Epic Fury,” he summarized, “First, we’re destroying Iran’s missile capabilities ... and their capacity to produce brand new ones.... Second, we’re annihilating their navy.... Third, we’re ensuring that the world’s number one sponsor of terror can never obtain a nuclear weapon.... And finally, we’re ensuring that the Iranian regime cannot continue to arm, fund, and direct terrorist armies outside of their borders.”

On June 17, Trump signed a 14-point “Memorandum of Understanding” (MoU) with Iran that declared “the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon,” and outlined the framework for the still-to-be-negotiated “final deal.” Here are several highlights:

- In point 8 of the MoU, Iran “reaffirms that it shall not procure or develop nuclear weapons” (Iran has said this in the past). Moreover, Iran and the United States “have agreed to resolve the disposition of stockpiled enriched material pursuant to a mechanism that will be mutually agreed upon ... with the minimum methodology to be down blending on-site, under the supervision of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].”

- In point 5, Iran “will make arrangements using its best efforts for the safe passage of commercial vessels, with no charge for 60 days only, from the Persian Gulf [through the Strait of Hormuz] to the Sea of Oman, and vice versa.” (The Strait of Hormuz was open prior to the war, and there was no charge for the transit.)

- In point 6, the United States “undertakes, with regional partners, to develop a definitive mutually agreed plan with at least USD 300 Billion, for the reconstruction and economic development of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

As we write, hostilities have flared up again despite this MoU’s declaration to permanently end hostilities, and it is unclear what is going to happen next. But what should be clear is that wars do not always go as intended, and do not always accomplish the original objectives; and what should always have been clear, and what was certainly clear to the Founding Fathers, is that no one man should make the decision to take the country to war. Too much is at stake — including, most importantly, lives — not to make the people’s representatives the deciders.

In addition to usurping war powers belonging to Congress, Trump has also usurped tariff powers belonging to Congress, resulting in the Supreme Court’s February 20 ruling that his “emergency” tariffs were unconstitutional. On the other hand, if Trump had asked Congress to approve his tariffs — as he should have done — and if they had done so, then there would have been no constitutional transgres-

sion. In fact, tariffs were once the primary way by which Congress funded the federal government. Moreover, a good case can be made that tariffs are the *least objectionable* form of taxation — certainly, we believe, less objectionable than the obtrusive federal income tax. In our May 26, 2025 issue, prior to the aforementioned Supreme Court decision, we published a cover story headlined “Trump’s Tariffs: The Right Thing, The Wrong Way.”

One may agree with the president on the need to go to war against Iran or ramping up our reliance on tariffs without approving his usurpation of power to carry out these actions.

Shifting Positions

Politicians are wont to shift their positions over time, and Trump is no exception. The president’s military interventionism in the Middle East during his second term, as compared to his relatively noninterventionist approach during his first, is a case in point. When he ran for the presidency the first time, he promised no more endless wars, and during his first term he moved the nation away from war, as promised. On June 13, 2020, he told the graduating class at West Point, “We are ending



AP Photo / John Lamparski

Thomas Massie calling
for release of the
Epstein files



AP Photo / Rod Lamkey

the era of endless wars. In its place is a renewed, clear-eyed focus on defending America's vital interests. It is not the duty of U.S. troops to solve ancient conflicts in faraway lands that many people have never even heard of. We are not the policemen of the world." Four years later, when he gave his election night victory speech after winning his second term, he recalled, "We had no wars. Four years, we had no wars, except we defeated ISIS.... They said, 'He will start a war.' I'm not going to start a war. I'm going to stop wars." Yet in his second term he joined Israel to start a war against Iran. In general, his approach to the use of military force during his second term has been very different from that of his first.

In the case of the release of the Epstein files, Trump sounded supportive of releasing the files during his 2024 presidential bid, but strongly opposed the release after he got back into the White House. However, he finally supported the release when it became obvious that the Epstein Files Transparency Act would be passed by Congress. In June 2024, when Fox News asked him if he would declassify the Epstein files, he said that he would. But on July 16, 2025, he called the Epstein files a hoax, and even blasted his "PAST supporters" for buying into it, in a lengthy Truth Social post:

The Radical Left Democrats have hit pay dirt, again! Just like with the FAKE and fully discredited Steele Dossier, the lying 51 "Intelligence" Agents, the Laptop from Hell ... and even the Russia, Russia, Russia Scam itself, a totally fake and made up story used in order to hide Crooked Hillary Clinton's big loss in the 2016 Presidential Election, these Scams and Hoaxes are all the Democrats are good at.... Their new SCAM is what we will forever call the Jeffrey Epstein Hoax, and my PAST supporters have bought into this "bull***t," hook, line, and sinker. They haven't learned their lesson, and probably never will, even after

being conned by the Lunatic Left for 8 long years. I have had more success in 6 months than perhaps any President in our Country's history, and all these people want to talk about, with strong prodding by the Fake News and the success starved Dems, is the Jeffrey Epstein Hoax. Let these weaklings continue forward and do the Democrats work, don't even think about talking of our incredible and unprecedented success, because I don't want their support anymore!

Taking Trump's cue, congressional Republicans blocked the Epstein Files Transparency Act until Representative Massie was able to get a majority of House members to sign his discharge petition, forcing the bill to the House floor for a vote. Trump abruptly reversed his position on the bill, which passed overwhelmingly in both houses of Congress, and signed it into law on November 19, 2025.

Trump's about-face regarding deficits and debt has also been striking. Prior to becoming president, he opposed raising the national debt limit. For instance, on July 6, 2011, during Barack Obama's presidency, Trump tweeted: "Congress is back. TIME TO CUT, CAP, AND

BALANCE. There is no revenue problem. The Debt Limit cannot be raised until Obama spending is contained." As a U.S. senator, Obama had opposed increasing the national debt limit — but not as president. And so, on July 22, 2011 Trump tweeted what Obama had said on the Senate floor back in 2006: "Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally." Then, on December 28, 2011, Trump tweeted: "He [Obama] is destroying our country: @BarackObama has requested to raise our debt limit to over \$16.4 Trillion by the end of his first term."

Republicans as well as Democrats have supported increasing the national debt. On January 23, 2013, Trump tweeted, "I cannot believe the Republicans are extending the debt ceiling — I am a Republican & I am embarrassed!"

Trump not only opposed adding to government indebtedness, he also said he'd be able to eliminate the national debt. On March 31, 2016, during his first run for the presidency, he told *The Washington Post* that "we've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt." Asked how long that would take, he said, "I think I could do it fairly quickly." And asked what "fairly quickly" meant, he replied, "I would say over a period of eight years."

But since then, Trump has gone from

advocating the elimination of the national debt to advocating the elimination of the national debt *limit*. The latter view has also been expressed by liberal Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). And although Trump has been very critical of Warren, he acknowledged that the two of them agreed on eliminating the debt limit. In a June 4, 2025 Truth Social post, he wrote, “I am very pleased to announce that, after all of these years, I agree with Senator Elizabeth Warren on SOMETHING. The Debt Limit should be entirely scrapped to prevent an Economic catastrophe. It is too devastating to be put in the hands of political people that may want to use it despite the horrendous effect it could have on our Country and, indirectly, even the World.”

The debt limit has not been scrapped. Instead, on July 4, 2025, Trump signed into law legislation that, among myriad other things, raised the debt limit \$5 trillion, to \$41.1 trillion. That legislation was — you guessed it! — his Big Beautiful Bill. Not surprisingly, Trump did not draw attention to the \$5 trillion debt-limit increase when he was working to garner public support for the bill. Nor did he trumpet the bill’s spending provisions. Instead, he emphasized the bill’s tax-cut provisions, and anyone who dared oppose his Big Beautiful Bill was besmirched as opposing tax cuts.

A June 30, 2025 White House press release propagandized (in the headline), “The One Big Beautiful Bill Slashes Deficits, National Debt While Unleashing Economic Growth.”

But if the bill were honestly intended to slash annual deficits and the national debt as promised, then why did it include a provision to raise the national debt limit by \$5 trillion? As it turned out, the national debt surpassed \$39 trillion in March of this year, as compared to \$36.2 trillion when the Big Beautiful Bill was signed into law. The national debt is now increasing at a rate of well over \$2 trillion per year.

This is very different from what Trump predicted in his March 4, 2025 State of the Union address: “And in the near future I want to do what has not



AP Photo / Alex Brandon

been done in 24 years — balance the federal budget. We’re gonna balance it.”

But the Big Beautiful Bill did at least cut taxes, right? Well, not exactly. Although some taxes were cut, it must not be overlooked that the true amount of taxation is what the government spends, not just what it collects in taxes. When tax revenues aren’t sufficient to cover government spending, the piper still must be paid. One way the federal government does this is to monetize the debt via the Federal Reserve. That is, the Fed creates new money out of thin air to finance the debt, and the infusion of this new money into the economy diminishes the purchasing power of the money already in circulation, causing prices to rise. Unfortunately, very few people understand this “inflation tax,” which is why politicians who lower taxes while maintaining or (worse) increasing government spending may be favorably perceived as tax cutters.

To truly cut U.S. government taxes in this broader (and more honest) sense, spending must be cut. The way to rein in spending is to get the government back into its constitutional cage. Confining our efforts to cutting waste and abuse in bloated, unconstitutional federal programs that should not exist in the first place will not restore good government under the Constitution.

Because at least some of Trump’s po-

sitions have changed over time, the only way to use him as the gold standard for what to believe would be to change positions with him. But that would be tantamount to having no position at all, and it certainly would not be principle-based.

A New “Golden Age” for America

In his February 24, 2026 State of the Union address, Trump said that “our nation is back, bigger, better, richer and stronger than ever before.” He observed, “This July 4, we will mark two-and-a-half centuries of liberty and triumph, progress and freedom in the most incredible and exceptional nation ever to exist on the face of the Earth.” And, he added, “you’ve seen nothing yet. We are going to do better and better and better. This is the golden age of America.”

But America cannot do “better and better and better” unless it pursues the path that the Founding Fathers did — limiting the role of government to that of protecting God-given rights, so that the people themselves could enjoy the blessings of liberty, from worshipping God to accomplishing great things only possible in the exhilarating air of freedom when government gets out of the way. Not to put too fine a point on it: The great American experiment in human liberty — the greatest in all history — occurred because of what people unfettered by the chains of tyranny did,

The America that was ...
and can be again



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not because government tried to do great things on behalf of the people. Freedom, not socialism, made America great. And freedom, not socialism, will make America great again.

Yet many American politicians today are pursuing the socialist path to make America great. By their own admission, these socialists include such nationally known figures as U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), as well as the aforementioned Representative Ocasio-Cortez and Mayor Mamdani. But they also include other politicians who do not acknowledge they are socialists, may not think of themselves as socialists, and may even — perhaps earnestly — advocate capitalism over socialism while pursuing the socialist path, at least to some degree.

Though many Americans would find it hard to imagine that super-capitalist Donald Trump has any socialist tendencies whatsoever, we must, in our analysis of his positions, look at his record and let the facts speak for themselves. Under Trump, the U.S. government has “invested” in a growing number of companies during his second term to protect and grow key sectors of the economy. For example, in 2025 the U.S. government purchased a 9.9-percent equity stake in Intel at a cost of \$8.9 billion. The Council on Foreign Relations, the Establishment powerhouse, provides an informative webpage about these deals,

called “Washington’s Growing Portfolio: Tracking U.S. Government Investments.” The page summarizes: “Washington’s latest and boldest experiment in industrial policy is a renewed willingness to take equity stakes. Since January 2025, the U.S. government has announced \$26.7 billion across thirty deals involving direct ownership, broadening a toolkit that has traditionally focused on grants, loans, and tax incentives.”

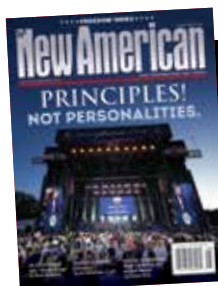
How is this different in principle from the American AI Sovereign Wealth Fund Act introduced in June by avowed socialist Bernie Sanders in the U.S. Senate? That legislation, a Sanders press release summarizes, would “give the public a 50% ownership in the largest artificial intelligence (AI) companies in our country.”

Much more could be said about Trump’s public record, in addition to the survey above focusing on areas in which his positions have strayed from the “America First” campaign he ran on in 2016 and largely put into practice during his first term as president. In our view, the good he accomplished during his first term included nominating pro-life justices to the Supreme Court, which made possible the overturning of

Roe v. Wade; announcing U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), UNESCO, the UN Human Rights Council, and the Paris climate agreement (which had never been ratified by the U.S. Senate, as required by the Constitution); reining in the regulatory state (which unleashed entrepreneurs to such an extent that they were able to achieve American energy independence once again); and controlling the border, stemming the tide of massive illegal immigration. These policies have generally carried over into his second term.

But regardless of who holds which positions, all of us should determine whether those positions are wise or destructive based on the principles of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. This should be the case whether the politician is President Donald Trump, former President Barack Obama, Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Thomas Massie, or Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. We should never put blind faith in man; we should instead, as Jefferson advised, “bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.”

We should recognize, too, that Trump did not create MAGA; MAGA created Trump. Though MAGA and Trump are very much intertwined, MAGA existed long before Trump threw his hat into the political ring, under different names such as the Tea Party. Without the understanding that had been created prior to Trump, his America First message would not have propelled him to the White House despite all of the smears against him. And without continuing to build principle-based understanding, we cannot expect to get back on the path to a new “golden age” for America. ■



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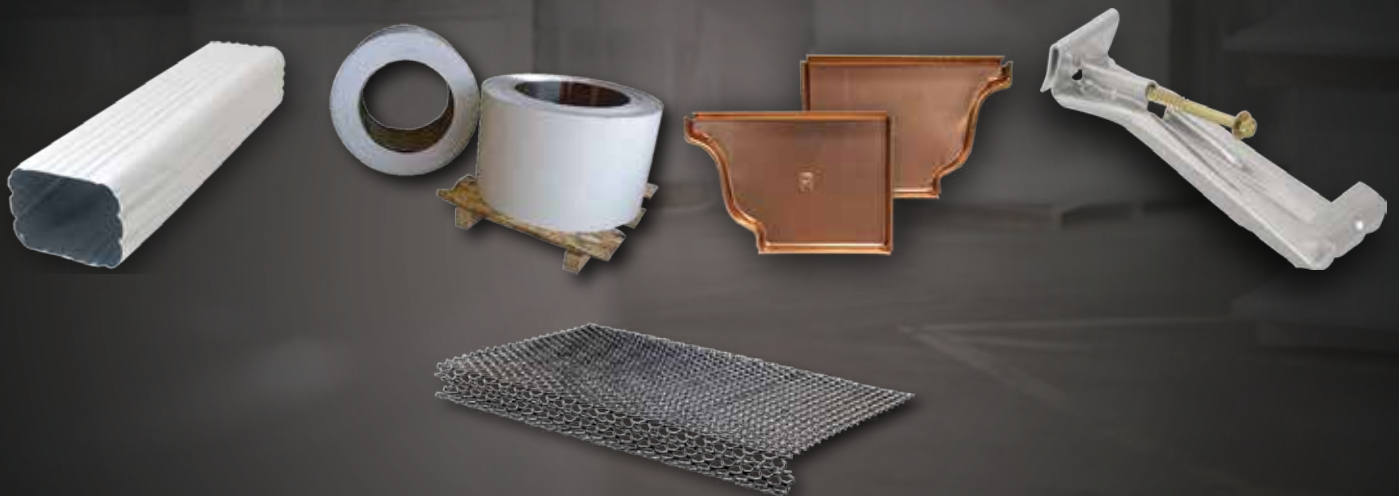


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QUICK QUOTES



“

“This is a truly wonderful and sacred place, a place that will bring all of humanity, I believe, into deeper communion with our one God.... And there is no place, I think, that I feel more at home.”
*Catholic Archbishop **Edward Weisenburger** delivered remarks at the grand opening of the Imam Al-Hasanain Mosque and Islamic Institute of America campus in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.*

“When [a] virus is around and chloroquine is around, chloroquine will let the virus attack a cancer cell... Chloroquine is one of the smartest drugs in history. It will let the viruses attack cancer cells but not normal cells.”

*At a meeting of America's Frontline Doctors, ophthalmologist **Richard Urso** revealed what he discovered when reading the otherwise-overlooked fine print in a 2020 study published in Nature that intended to disprove chloroquine as a treatment for Covid-19.*

“Regardless of whether Respondent ‘forced’ the participants to kiss, her choice of script forced them to express their preferences and consent about a very personal and sexualized activity on the spot in front of their peers. They were also forced to determine whether they were comfortable dissenting from the direction of the script to their teacher, who was in a position of control over the situation.”
*Administrative law judge **Keith J. Kirchubel** recommended the dismissal of a Denver public high-school teacher who assigned optional “same-sex” kissing skits as classroom activities. In a unanimous vote, the school board fired her in May.*

“It’s literally a floating-rate loan from the banks to the Federal Reserve, so it can buy government bonds. So if that were freed up, that would allow the banks to at least consider a small-business loan, an inventory loan, the kinds of things that help the economy grow. And this is on a global basis. It’s not just the Fed. It’s all the major central banks doing the same thing, meaning, taking money from the economy in order to buy government bonds.”

*On CNBC's Squawk Box, former World Bank president **David Malpass** called the Fed a hedge fund that has lost more than one trillion dollars “and counting,” while creating the illusion that the government's financial situation is stable.*

“They defaced the Pride rainbow with a Bible verse telling the LGBTQ community that they do not own the rainbow — that God owns the rainbow.”

*In an interview with a local ABC affiliate, homosexual activist **Cyd Zeigler** criticized three San Francisco Giants pitchers for referencing Bible verses on their Pride Night rainbow caps. Genesis 9:12-16 says that the rainbow is a symbol of a covenant between God and all living creatures.*

“At these fusion centers ... the only people that can get the information are those that have a need to know. But with the Israelis, this doesn't apply. They are able to siphon off the raw data and use it for themselves. They're considered friends and allies, and for some reason that restriction that applies within the federal law enforcement community doesn't apply to this foreign government.”

*Arizona Sheriff **David Hathaway**, former head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, told Judge Andrew Napolitano that post-9/11 government fusion centers grant open access to intelligence data on Americans to a foreign country. ■*

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AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY

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AT A GLANCE

- The people should be able to pick their energy sources in a free market.
- Government should not be picking winners and losers via subsidies and regulations.
- Nuclear and hydroelectric power are not bogeymen.
- The way to achieve energy abundance is to get government out of the way.

by Dr. Noah Robinson

Everything that people need or want is directly or indirectly produced by industry. Industries depend on cheap, abundant energy sources, such as electricity, gasoline, and diesel. As energy prices rise or energy is rationed, all of us become poorer. Our industrial economy has no alternatives; temporary blackouts during storms force

Dr. Noah Robinson is a chemist, vice president of the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, and an Oregon state senator.

us to acknowledge how dependent we are on electricity.

However, our energy needs do not stop with home electricity. Most cars need gasoline or diesel, and if you happen to drive an electric car, you need even more electricity. The food we eat was grown using energy, delivered to the store using energy, and stored for you under environmental conditions maintained by energy. No item exists that does not require energy for its production.

Since energy is so important to society, politicians become involved. What types of energy should be promoted by government? Answer: None at all; let the free market decide.

Energy production thrives when people are free to pick their energy sources. Those who produce the cheapest energy will be able to sell it. Those who produce expensive energy will find themselves either in a niche market or out of business.

Therefore, taxpayers' message to government should be this: Leave the energy industry alone, and let it make our country rich. Unfortunately, governments have not done so. Instead, they have introduced regulations supposedly to "protect" the consumer.

The problem is that regulation is a slippery slope. Once the proverbial camel's nose enters the tent in the name of safety, agencies never stop, and the rules become stifling. The result is high

prices, which are paid by consumers directly. Some people appeal for sensible regulations, but there are few examples in history of regulators getting tired of regulating.

Even worse, well-funded radicals work tirelessly to end the use of virtually every form of effective energy production in favor of their so-called renewable darlings such as wind and solar. As for effective sources, they do not want them regulated — they want them stopped altogether.

The Nuclear Example

Take nuclear, for example. Shortly after the first self-sustaining nuclear reaction in 1942, engineers realized the value of harnessing nuclear fission for electrical power. Within two years, the first full-scale nuclear reactor was built.

Nuclear engineers from that era assumed this technology would take over American electricity production. The industrial revolution was based mostly on hydrocarbon energy derived from coal, oil, and gas, with some hydroelectric. It was assumed that nuclear would replace many of these already-outdated energy sources.

Unfortunately, several factors have been used to frighten the public away from adopting nuclear. First, radiation is invisible and undetectable without a Geiger counter, so it's simple to lie about it. Second, people were erroneously led to associate the nuclear



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weapons used to end World War II with nuclear power plants. Third, regulators base their policies on the outdated and disproven linear-no-threshold model, which claims that any concentration of nuclear radiation is dangerous and even deadly. Most people are not aware that they are bombarded with radiation every day from background sources such as soil, food, and even each other (the most radioactive element in our bodies is potassium — which is required for life). In reality, ionizing radiation is dangerous only at high concentrations over short periods of time. In fact, studies show that people are healthier with a little more background radiation than they typically receive.

The very small amounts of nuclear waste produced by power plants are also used to demonize the technology. Yet all the nuclear waste from more than half a century of electricity production fits safely in small areas near power plants. Furthermore, nuclear waste can be reprocessed and reused. For instance, Generation IV nuclear reactors are specifically designed to use spent nuclear waste from older plants as their fuel.

As for safety, nuclear power generation has the best track record of any energy source. In fact, the accidents at Three Mile Island (TMI) in 1979, Chernobyl in 1986, and Fukushima in 2011 testify to the safety of nuclear power. We know from TMI that “the more volatile fission products plate out on contain-

ment structure surfaces and therefore become immobilized,” as nuclear engineer Jeffrey Mahn reported in *The New American*, explaining why no one — not even emergency crews — was exposed to hazardous levels of ionizing radiation. No one died at TMI.

In Russia, many healthy people have lived for years in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and still do, in violation of government orders. The only reason people died — firefighters working to contain the blaze on the day of the accident — was because, unlike nuclear power plants in the rest of the world, the Chernobyl reactor had no containment structure. Such was the Soviet contempt for life

As for Fukushima, 20,000 people perished in the 9.1-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that destroyed the nuclear plant. Radiation killed no one. Association of American Physicians and Surgeons Executive Director Jane Orient compared the total amount of radiation released to a full-body CT scan, but only if “you stood at the gate of the plant for 10 hours at the highest dose-rate.”

Long-term studies reveal that there is no observed incidence of radiation-induced disease from any of these events.

Today only about 90 reactors (of more than 100 originally built) remain in operation in the United States. They supply around 20 percent of our electricity demand. The result of unscrupulous fear-mongering on the part of vested interests has been abandonment of nuclear’s

enormous benefits as the safest, most reliable, most efficient, and most economical energy source available today.

The Palo Verde Generating Station in Maricopa County, Arizona, serves to illustrate my point. It includes three nuclear reactors. The site was designed for 10, but anti-nuclear hysteria halted further construction. If those 10 reactors were built in Oregon, they could produce 20 times the power of Hoover Dam and supply 150 percent of my state’s current electricity usage. You read that correctly: A single installation would provide all the electric power Oregon currently uses with 50 percent extra for export or future growth.

Instead, politicians continue to promote the use of solar panels and wind turbines, which now cover vast tracts of Oregon’s landscape. The increase in energy production is minuscule, the land waste is catastrophic, and the cost is astronomical.

One of my colleagues in the Oregon Senate, Democrat Lew Frederick, stubbornly opposes nuclear power. He cites a lifelong concern about nuclear waste disposal. A supporter of Oregon’s 1980 ban on new nuclear power plants (which prohibits construction until a federal long-term waste repository is operational), he is now working to block legislative efforts to introduce next-generation reactors. The irony is that current plants’ on-site waste storage is entirely manageable; we could increase the size 100-fold without causing difficulties.

Hydrocarbons: The Other Bogeyman

Having successfully put the brakes on our nuclear industry, radical groups next set their sights on hydrocarbons (i.e., coal, oil, and gas), which, in the absence of nuclear, keep our country functioning. Burning hydrocarbon fuels releases carbon dioxide (CO₂); according to eco-radicals, that “man-made” CO₂ heats the Earth to catastrophic levels via the greenhouse effect.

They conveniently ignore water vapor as the main driver of the greenhouse effect; CO₂’s influence is minuscule. In fact, real-world data show that Le Chatelier’s principle applies to rising atmospheric CO₂ levels. This principle is a law of chemical science: When stress, such as a change in concentration, is applied to a chemical system at equilibrium or a somewhat steady state (e.g., the atmosphere), the system will shift to relieve the stress. Energy researcher Steve Goreham paints a practical picture: “Just as adding more blankets to the first blanket on your bed provides a diminishing warming benefit, adding more CO₂ to the atmosphere has a declining warming effect.”

Historical data also disprove eco-alarmism. The Earth entered a warming trend 200 years before significant use of hydrocarbons, with no measurable temperature change attributable to their introduction. Furthermore, storm frequencies and intensities are trending level to down; they are certainly not getting worse.

Regardless, consistently erroneous computer models overrule scientific evidence, and, fed by public fear, the push to eliminate hydrocarbons translates into hundreds of billions of tax dollars wasted in an endless pursuit of “alternative” forms of energy production. Meanwhile, stringent hydrocarbon regulations increase costs across the board. In Oregon, due to the high prices of fuel and electricity, the cost of living is rapidly becoming unaffordable.

My father, Dr. Art Robinson, a chemist and former Oregon state senator, organized a petition project in the late 1990s and again in 2007 because he was troubled by claims of a scientific consensus on the modern global-warming hype. The petition reads:



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We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth’s atmosphere and disruption of the Earth’s climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.

Some 31,500 American scientists (including more than 9,000 Ph.D.s) signed this petition, and it was presented to the U.S. Congress. Though science is not

determined by poll, this petition disproved the idea of a scientific consensus that CO₂ is destroying the planet.

Today, the petition is embroiled in a multi-billion-dollar lawsuit in Multnomah County, Oregon. The county filed in 2023 against more than two dozen entities, mostly in the oil industry, demanding \$51.5 billion to compensate for damage to its climate caused by burning hydrocarbons. A particular heat wave a few years ago is specifically cited as evidence, but the lawsuit provides no scientific data. Ironically, Multnomah County continues to purchase fuel from the same companies.

In another bizarre twist, Multnomah County also blames the petition project for the bad weather. It therefore named The Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine (OISM) in the lawsuit. This is a nonprofit research institute where my father and I work; it has nothing to do with the petition project. Despite being made aware of this, the county refuses to drop OISM from the lawsuit.

Their suit cannot succeed. Petitioning the government for redress of griev-



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ances is protected by the Constitution, and Multnomah County has sued the wrong party regardless. However, plenty of lawyers will get rich as the suit plays out. My father and I wonder sometimes what pull the county's attorneys have that allows them to pay themselves so much tax money for a frivolous and counterproductive activity.

The Solution

Yet this is where irrational fear of dependable energy sources has taken us. Rather than rightly remaining a free-market issue, energy production is shackled under the heavy chains of political debate and bureaucratic regulation. We have only government subsidies to thank for the wind turbines and solar panels that pollute our landscape nationwide and provide electrical generation only when the wind blows or the sun shines. They are completely incapable of maintaining base-load power (which is the baseline demand that exists regardless of time-of-day fluctuations or seasonal peaks) without expensive battery systems.

Meanwhile, a plethora of energy-reduction programs are being administered all over the country. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill replaced the Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits for electric vehicles (EVs) with a tax deduction for interest on EV loans, and continued tax credits for wind, solar, and

other boondoggles. Following California's lead, more than a dozen states have adopted zero-emission vehicle mandates, requiring automakers to sell an increasing percentage of EVs, to reach 100 percent by 2035 in some jurisdictions. Washington state has implemented a cap-and-trade program, and in Oregon, the Clean Fuels Program requires fuel providers to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 37 percent within the next nine years. All these programs make fuel less affordable and force us into EVs, but without nuclear or hydrocarbons, charging large numbers of such vehicles will be nearly impossible.

Meanwhile, data centers are being targeted politically because of the large amounts of electricity they require. So far as the needed electricity is concerned, the issue is not data centers. The issue is political roadblocks that stress our electrical systems and stifle our ability to answer for data centers' increased demand.

Had the free market been allowed to work, electricity would be readily available and amazingly affordable. The small city of Galena, Alaska, learned that lesson the hard way in the early 2000s. With no connection to an outside grid, the residents used diesel generators to meet demand through their long winters, when electric rates topped 67 cents per kilowatt-hour (\$1.18 in today's dol-

lars). In 2004, Toshiba Corporation was looking for a beta site to demonstrate its new small modular nuclear reactor, which promised to drop electric rates to several cents per kilowatt-hour. Enter the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the deal never came to fruition. The licensing and permit process would have cost millions of dollars and more than a decade to complete, prior to any groundbreaking or construction. The town of Ester, Alaska, suffered a similar fate.

Just as then, our current energy problems are caused by government and special-interest meddling. Subsidies ensure an unlevel playing field, so unreliable and inefficient "renewables" get top billing while nuclear and hydrocarbons struggle to compete and necessary maintenance on our electric grid is consistently ignored.

No form of energy production should be subsidized. We simply need to let them all compete.

Meanwhile, politicians take positions on energy issues based on political expedience rather than scientific reality. Sadly, most politicians do not understand electricity generation. Regardless, energy generation should not be a political issue. Once politicians acknowledge that they are not competent to make decisions on energy production and leave the industry alone, we will all be wealthier and lead far better lives. ■



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UN CLAIMS ALL MUST FIGHT “CLIMATE CHANGE”

AT A GLANCE

- Climate alarmism is still being used as a rationale for global governance.
- The World Court ruled last year that governments have a legal duty to fight climate change.
- This year the UN General Assembly voted to give this ruling real force.
- The UN's climate agenda is another reason to get the U.S. out of the UN.

AP Photo / Kyodo

by Alex Newman

Reports about the death of climate alarmism have been greatly exaggerated. In fact, obeying United Nations climate decrees is now officially “international law.” At least that is what two key UN entities and more than 140 national governments would like humanity to believe.

In one of the most consequential developments yet for the global climate movement, the UN General Assembly voted to formally endorse and “operationalize” a 2025 ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) declaring that governments are legally obligated to combat climate change.

Supporters hailed the move as a historic victory for “climate justice.” Critics blasted it as a brazen assault on national sovereignty, self-government, affordable energy, and constitutional government.

The major UN move came even as U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration were stepping up their war on the “climate change”

Alex Newman is a senior editor of The New American, and author of Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes and Indoctrinating Our Children to Death.

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AP Photo / Lounis Tiar/Sipa USA

machine. But the U.S. government's vigorous opposition was not enough to stop the UN's power grab.

In one of its most breathtaking rulings, the ICJ — also known as the "World Court" or "World Supreme Court" — ruled July 23, 2025 that all governments have a legal duty to protect "human rights" and fight "global warming" by restricting emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Officially, it was "advisory." But on May 20 this year, the governments of the world, acting through the UN, voted to give it real force.

Among other elements, the new resolution charges the UN boss with advancing "compliance" with the court's controversial decision. It also purports to interfere with the sovereign authority of governments to set their own policies on issues such as energy, the environment, and even immigration, multiple governments warned.

The UN chief was enthusiastic about it, though. "The world's highest court has spoken," gushed UN Secretary-General António Guterres, a longtime Socialist Party operative. "Today, the General Assembly has answered."

In a May 20 statement welcoming the General Assembly vote, Guterres described its resolution as "a powerful affirmation of international law, climate justice, science and the responsibility of

states to protect people from the escalating climate crisis."

Critics argued that the vote, which passed with 141 governments and tyrants in favor versus eight against and 28 abstentions, represents yet another brazen power grab by globalist forces. The UN General Assembly, or UNGA, has been described by top UN officials as the "Parliament of Humanity."

The UN resolution seeks to transform the opinion of the so-called World Supreme Court into a de facto legal weapon against national sovereignty, hydrocarbon energy, economic freedom, and, ultimately, human prosperity, opponents argued.

Trump Opposition to the UN Climate Play

Multiple critics have pointed out that this goes far beyond environmental policy. Instead, it is a frontal assault on self-government dressed up in the language of international law and human rights.

The legal foundation to criminally prosecute those who refuse to play along with the climate narrative is being laid down rapidly through these measures. Indeed, the resolution treats the ICJ opinion as "irrefutably authoritative and as setting out binding obligations on States," warned U.S. officials.

Among those forcefully opposing the

UN General Assembly measure was the Trump administration on behalf of the American people. U.S. taxpayers are by far the largest financiers of the UN, even though the outfit consistently works against the rights and interests of Americans.

"Throughout the negotiation of this resolution, the United States has been consistent in conveying our opposition to this initiative," argued Ambassador Tammy Bruce, deputy U.S. representative to the UN. "The United States did not support seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on climate change and has many concerns about the Court's opinion."

The ICJ's July 2025 ruling, spanning hundreds of pages, declared that governments have a "legal duty" under international law to prevent "environmental harm" by slashing CO₂ emissions. Failure to do so, the court warned, could constitute an "internationally wrongful act."

ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa painted an apocalyptic picture: Man-made global warming is supposedly an "existential problem of planetary proportions" imperiling "all forms of life." States must "cooperate" to meet emission targets, phase out fossil fuels, and provide "climate justice" reparations to poorer nations, Iwasawa and other members of the court declared.



AP Photo / Peter Dejong

In comments delivered ahead of the General Assembly vote, Ambassador Bruce highlighted some of the problems the U.S. government saw with the resolution and the World Court ruling.

“In brief, this resolution is highly problematic in calling on States to comply with so-called ‘obligations’ that are based on non-binding conclusions of the Court on which UN Member States’ views diverge,” she said. “The resolution includes inappropriate political demands relating to fossil fuels and on other climate topics, and we believe there is no basis for the resolution’s mandate to the Secretary-General to report on the complex and nuanced legal issues addressed by the Court.”

Several other governments expressed similar concerns, Bruce said.

Specifically, the UN resolution and the ICJ ruling claim that all governments have obligations that would “impermissibly interfere with each States’ [sic] sovereign rights to regulate and manage its own energy policy,” Bruce continued. The UN resolution also pretends that “peoples,” rather than individuals, have “human rights,” she noted.

The World Court and Its Climate Ruling

The ICJ climate case — pushed by Pacific Island governments such as Vanuatu with heavy UN backing — was

billed as the most significant ever before the court. One analyst said it was tantamount to putting the entire industrialized world on trial.

The ruling was designed from the outset to provide legal cover for the entire UN climate regime, including the 2015 Paris Agreement, and to arm activists, nongovernmental organizations, and foreign governments with tools to harass energy producers and sovereign nations, analysts observed.

“Failure of a state [government] to take appropriate action to protect the climate system ... may constitute an internationally wrongful act,” ICJ President Iwasawa said, making clear that the climate movement ultimately intends to use global “authorities” to impose its agenda on humanity by force.

The court echoed that view in its unanimous, 500-page opinion. “Failure of the state to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from [greenhouse gas] emissions including through fossil fuel production, fossil fuel consumption, the granting of fossil fuel exploration licenses, or the provision of fossil fuel subsidies may constitute an internationally wrongful act,” the court warned, a clear threat.

The International Court of Justice, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, is considered the principal judicial

body of the UN. Its 15 judges are elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council — bodies in which tyrannical regimes often hold equal sway with free nations.

Along with the International Criminal Court, critics have long derided the ICJ as a “kangaroo” court. Among other concerns, analysts have noted its politicized rulings that advance globalist agendas over genuine justice. Key principles from the U.S. Constitution are notably absent.

In its climate ruling, the court leaned heavily on “customary international law,” the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and even nebulous “human rights” obligations. Trump has announced U.S. withdrawal from many of those schemes, but globalist legal experts believe the ruling still applies under human rights.

Indeed, the UN’s top court asserted that a “clean, healthy, and sustainable environment” is a human right, a view echoed in the General Assembly resolution adopted on May 20. As such, states must curb emissions to comply with their supposed international human-rights obligations. Critics have long noted that the UN rejects the traditional U.S. and Christian understanding of God-given rights, instead promoting a



AP Photo / Yasushi Kaneko

Soviet-style view of revokable “rights” to government “services.”

The ruling has especially significant implications for Western nations. Wealthy nations, the ICJ suggested, bear heightened responsibilities for dealing with climate change. That should include taxpayer-funded financial support and potential liability for what it described as “transboundary harm.”

The opinion’s “advisory” nature is a fig leaf. While the ICJ lacks its own army, its rulings carry “moral authority” and are routinely weaponized in domestic courts, international negotiations, and activist litigation, as multiple UN officials pointed out before and after it was handed down.

The UNGA resolution amplifies this by welcoming the opinion and going even further, calling on states to “take all possible steps” to avoid climate harm, and keeping it on the agenda for future action. It also reinforces purported obligations under the Paris Agreement and

paves the way for lawsuits, reparations claims, and pressure on holdouts such as the Trump administration.

Critics Ridicule It All as Narrative Implodes

Ironically, the General Assembly decision came amid more and more bad news for proponents of the increasingly embattled man-made global-warming hypothesis. Polling shows most Americans reject the whole narrative, and even Democrats and the establishment media admit that talking about climate is a non-starter with U.S. voters.

A stunning new poll released just days after the UN vote showed most Americans reject the UN’s climate hypothesis altogether. According to the survey by Pew Research, only 48 percent of Americans even believe human emissions of carbon dioxide are causing climate change. About 22 percent believe the warming is natural, 17 percent are not sure what is causing it,

and 12 percent do not even believe the planet is warming at all.

Among Republicans, just one in five believe human activities are causing global warming, Pew revealed. Almost 40 percent believe the warming is natural, and one in four do not even believe the globe is heating up. About three out of four Democrats, by contrast, believe human emissions of CO₂ are to blame for observed warming.

This partisan divide underscores a deeper truth, analysts said. The “climate crisis” narrative is less about science and more about ideology, power, and control. Republicans and skeptics, informed by decades of failed doomsday predictions — from the 1970s global-cooling scare to Al Gore’s ice-free Arctic prophecies — recognize the narrative for what it is. Democrats and globalists cling to it as a vehicle for wealth redistribution, central planning, and eroding national borders in favor of supranational governance.

But even Democrats and leftists are recognizing the political danger of peddling the alarmism. Indeed, *The New York Times*, among the most alarmist “news” outfits in America, recently ran an op-ed headlined “Democrats Don’t Have to Campaign on Climate Change Anymore.”

The piece, written by Syracuse University Environment Professor Matthew Huber, urged Democrats to stop talking about climate change if they want to win elections. While he encouraged them to keep pursuing climate policies, he said they must focus on regaining credibility with the working class to win elections — and the working class is apparently not buying the UN’s climate narrative.

Just weeks before the General Assembly vote, even the hyper-alarmist UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was forced to concede that its most alarmist scenarios were not grounded in reality. The outfit, long criticized for politicizing science, revised its modeling that had suggested temperature increases of 4 to 5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Those scenarios are now gone.

President Trump responded to the news on Truth Social with his characteristic style. “GOOD RIDDANCE! After 15 years of Dumocrats promising that

‘Climate Change’ is going to destroy the Planet, the United Nations TOP Climate Committee just admitted that its own projections (RCP8.5) were WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!” he said.

Trump and Experts Pushing Back

The Trump administration has been a wrecking ball to the climate movement. Indeed, it has withdrawn from numerous UN climate agreements, including the 1992 treaty, the aforementioned UNFCCC, that underpins the whole UN climate regime. Speaking to the UN, the president himself ridiculed the climate narrative as the greatest “con job” in human history.

The administration is also ending the domestic assault on CO₂, including many of the regulations on energy production. Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency is even reversing the Obama-era “endangerment finding” claiming that CO₂ — the gas exhaled by all living creatures — is “pollution” that must be regulated.

Legal experts and skeptics immediately pushed back on the UN’s climate ruling, too. Astrophysicist Dr. Willie Soon, a leading voice debunking climate alarmism, called the decision “a joke at a cosmic proportion.”

The court, he told *The New American*, demonstrates “zero understanding of climate science” while threatening America First policies under President Trump. “Since when has ICJ or the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change proved that rising gas of life can cause all the computer model-produced imaginary disasters?” asked Soon, who has published multiple peer-reviewed studies debunking the narrative on CO₂.

Climate Depot publisher Marc Morano, often dubbed the top enemy of “climate action,” was equally blunt. “Facing the insurmountable collapse of their global climate agenda ... the UN ‘high court’ has ruled nations are compelled ... to comply or pay ‘reparations’ and fund ‘climate justice’ programs,” he told *TNA*. “Thank God for Donald Trump leading the global collapse of the UN climate bullcrap!”

Roots in Globalist Ideology

This push for a global “climate regime” to dictate policy to nations goes back decades. The UN’s climate apparatus — rooted in the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and subsequent frameworks — has always been about more than temperature. It is a vehicle for socialist dreams of world government, wealth transfers from developed to developing nations, and control over energy, the lifeblood of modern economies.

By demonizing human emissions of CO₂ as pollution, the UN and governments are able to regulate the “gas of life” (essential for plant photosynthesis) and literally all human activity. Of course, CO₂ comprises a tiny fraction of the atmosphere, with human contributions even smaller. Indeed, human emissions of CO₂ make up a fraction of one percent of all the “greenhouse” gases in the atmosphere.

The ICJ case itself originated from a UNGA request, with broad participation from nearly 100 governments and various organizations. Joe Biden’s administration, true to form, urged



AP Photo / Tony Gutierrez

a strong ruling, framing climate change as a “gravest challenge” requiring global coordination.

Now, with Trump back in office dismantling these schemes domestically and eyeing exits from international entanglements, the globalists are doubling down through global judicial and assembly maneuvers.

Critics rightly point out the selective outrage. Communist China, the world’s top emitter by far, faces little real pressure as it continues building coal-fired power plants. Governments and tyrants ruling “developing nations” are still demanding trillions in “loss and damage” funding while building coal plants, too.



AP Photo / Joshua A. Bickel

Meanwhile, Western nations are pressured to deindustrialize, accepting energy poverty in the name of climate virtue as jobs and production are shipped to China and other nations ruled by hostile tyrants. Clearly this is not about “science,” experts say. Instead, it has all the characteristics of a scam.

Implications for Sovereignty and Economy

Despite being based on largely discredited pseudoscience and models producing endless debunked predictions, the ICJ ruling and the subsequent UNGA resolution threaten profound consequences.

Among other measures, they could justify lawsuits against U.S. companies, increase pressure for phasing out reliable energy in the West, and even justify demands for “climate reparations” from Third World dictatorships.

Self-government and individual liberty are also under threat. Without serious action from U.S. authorities, domestic courts may cite the ruling and the UNGA resolution, eroding the U.S. Constitution’s supremacy. The same will happen across what was once known as “Christendom” and the “Free World.”

Trump’s agenda of pursuing American energy dominance, withdrawing from UN climate schemes, and slashing regulations directly counters this — for now. But, obviously, Trump will not be in office forever. Few of his climate

policies have been enshrined in law. As such, a future president can and almost certainly will embrace the UN agenda going forward, at least if Congress does not act now.

Globally, the ICJ ruling and the UNGA resolution bolster support for upcoming UN climate summits. They are also likely to fuel ever-more-draconian “Nationally Determined Contributions” under the Paris Agreement, framing them as binding obligations. Just last year, the UN climate summit adopted an agreement claiming humanity had already burned through four-fifths of its “carbon budget.”

Historical Parallels and the Path Forward

From the League of Nations to the United Nations, internationalist bodies have sought to subordinate nations and people to international law. Supposed man-made climate change serves as the perfect pretext: invisible, global, urgent, never-ending, and requiring endless sacrifice from the productive West.

At least on this issue, President Trump appears to understand the stakes. What is left of the movement he built has clearly rejected the false choice between environmental stewardship and prosperity.

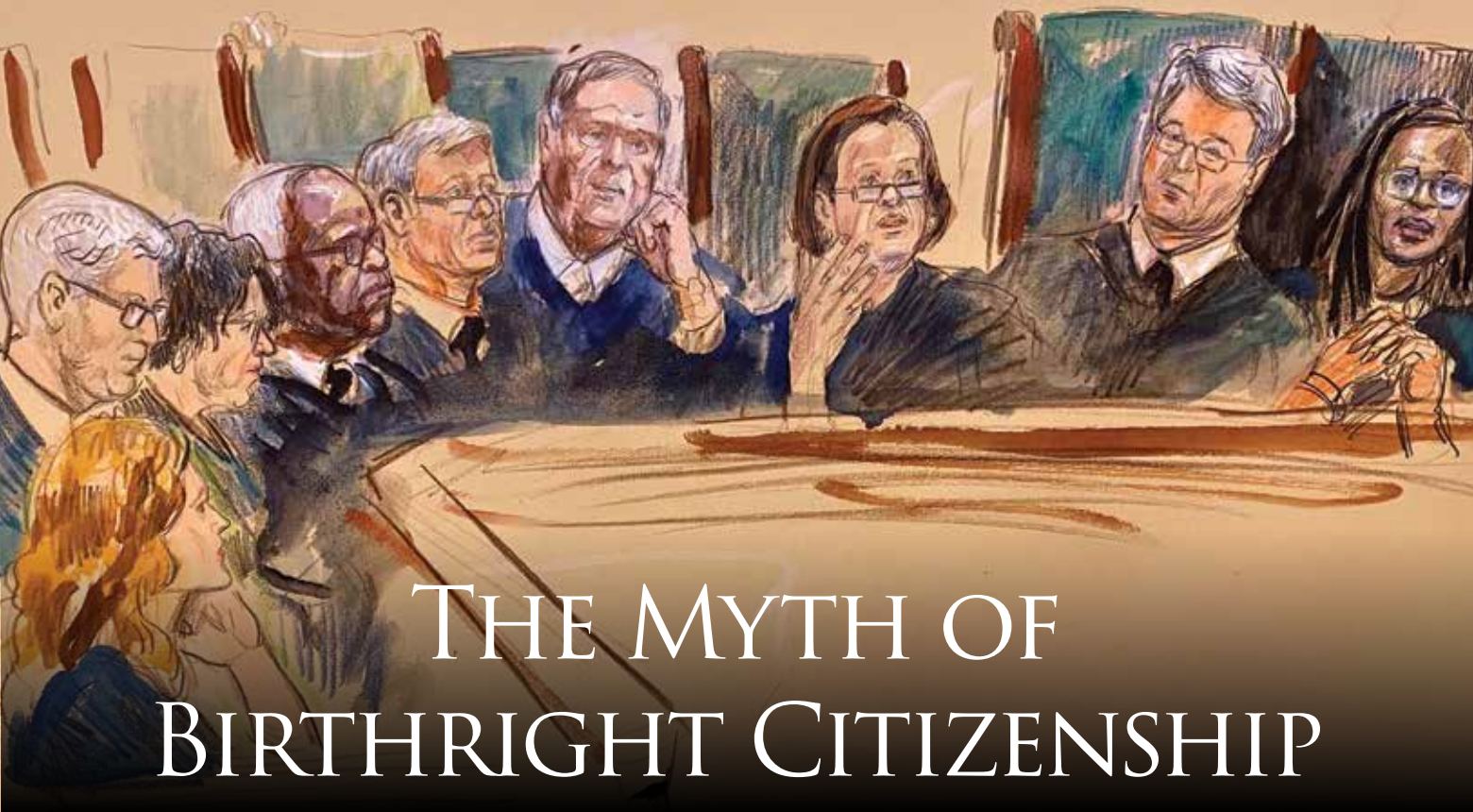
As even a brief overview of the evidence shows, true environmental protection flows from property rights, innovation, and human ingenuity — not

top-down edicts from The Hague or the UN headquarters in New York City.

Trump’s actions are not enough to stop this global agenda. Americans must demand that Congress reject any implementation of the ICJ ruling or the UNGA’s resolution. The U.S. government should reaffirm non-recognition of ICJ jurisdiction, defund related UN programs, expose the faulty science behind the scheme, and ultimately abandon the UN entirely. States can and should lead the way by prioritizing affordable energy and rejecting the abuse.

The UNGA vote and ICJ opinion are symptoms of a much deeper problem: the erosion of national sovereignty in favor of unaccountable global governance. This latest salvo should serve as a powerful reminder of why vigilance against the climate-industrial complex and the forces of globalism remains essential. The gas of life is not the enemy; centralized power pretending to save the planet at the expense of liberty is.

It is true that the climate movement is under tremendous pressure. But the battle is far from over, as the ICJ and UNGA made clear with their latest moves. With public skepticism rising and a resolute president in office, the globalists’ “legal” maneuvers may ultimately backfire, accelerating the very collapse of their narrative. But that will take work. Sovereignty, science, and sanity can still prevail — if Americans insist on it and get busy. ■



AP Images / Dana Verkouteren

AT A GLANCE

- In *Trump v. Barbara*, the Supreme Court struck down Trump's executive order repudiating birthright citizenship.
- Trump has announced that he will ask the Supreme Court to rehear the case.
- The Supreme Court has not granted a rehearing in an argued case since 1965, and has reversed itself in a rehearing only once.
- This article looks at the language of the 14th Amendment and the intent of its framers to show that birthright citizenship is a myth.

On June 30, 2026, in Trump v. Barbara, a divided Supreme Court held that children born on U.S. soil to parents unlawfully or temporarily present are citizens at birth. On July 8, 2026, the president announced that he will ask the Court to rehear the case. Joe Wolverton II, J.D., The John Birch Society's constitutional law scholar, first published this refutation of birthright citizenship in May 2025. The Court has now enshrined the very myth he refuted. Wolverton's answer to that myth, and to the Court, follows, and includes material from his original article.

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

On June 30, 2026, the Supreme Court of the United States read the plain text of the 14th Amendment, read the men who wrote it, and chose to believe neither. In *Trump v. Barbara*, the Court struck down President Donald Trump's executive order of January 25, 2005 — "Protecting the

Joe Wolverton II, J.D. is The John Birch Society's constitutional law scholar.

Meaning and Value of American Citizenship," which repudiated so-called birthright citizenship — and decreed that the children of aliens unlawfully or temporarily present on our soil are citizens the instant they draw breath. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, closed his opinion with a flourish:

Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights, to freely participate in our political communi-

ty. The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to "every free-born person in this land." We keep that promise today.

That is not true. The Framers of the 14th Amendment made no such promise to the children of those who owe their allegiance to a foreign power. The Court did not keep a promise. It rewrote one.

Read the vote before you accept the rhetoric. The order fell by six votes to three, but the constitutional holding, the



AP Photo / Charlie Riedel

sweeping declaration that the Constitution itself compels birthright citizenship for the children of illegal aliens, commanded only five. Chief Justice Roberts was joined on that point by Justice Amy Coney Barrett and the Court's three liberals — Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson — and by no one else. Justice Brett Kavanaugh concurred in the result alone, concluding that the president's order collided with a federal statute, not the Constitution, and noting that Congress remains free to legislate exceptions. Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito dissented outright, and Justice Neil Gorsuch joined Thomas. Strip away one vote and the constitutional rule collapses. It hangs by a thread, and the Court knows it.

The majority's reasoning was not new. It was a century-old error dressed for the occasion. Roberts reached back to the English common-law rule of *jus soli*, a rule forged for the subjects of a king and not the citizens of a republic, and pressed it into service as though the American Revolution had never happened. He leaned on the 1898 decision in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, and on what he called 128 years of settled understanding, as if the repetition of an error could ripen it into truth. He waved away any requirement that the parents be lawfully domiciled here as atextual. He treated the qualifying clause "subject

to the jurisdiction thereof" as little more than a formality satisfied by mere presence. Roberts has handed Americans' birthright to anyone who can reach the maternity ward.

The dissenters were not fooled, and they were not wrong. Justices Thomas, Gorsuch, and Alito read the amendment as its authors wrote it, and they said so plainly. Thomas, in a lengthy opinion joined by Gorsuch, wrote that the majority's account of our citizenship tradition "is not historically accurate," and warned that the Court had repurposed an amendment written to secure the rights of freed slaves into a charter for political projects the Reconstruction Congress never contemplated. "I am not sure," Thomas added, "that today's opinion will stand the test of time." Alito called the ruling "a serious mistake," and insisted that the 14th Amendment confers citizenship only on those children who, at birth, owe allegiance solely to this country. On that question — allegiance — the whole matter turns. Three justices stood with the text, the record, and the truth. The majority stood with a slogan.

The President Answers

Eight days later, the president refused to let the matter rest. On July 8, 2026, Donald Trump announced that he would ask the Supreme Court to rehear the case.

"AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP IS NOT FOR SALE," he wrote, pointing to reports of billboards along our southern border advertising delivery packages starting at \$4,000, citizenship thrown in for the price. "The Supreme Court's ruling is wrong," he declared. "I will be asking for a Rehearing by the United States Supreme Court, IMMEDIATELY. This miscarriage of justice will destroy America if they don't change their absolutely insane decision."

The odds are long, and honesty requires saying so. The Court has not granted a rehearing in an argued case since 1965, and has reversed itself after a rehearing only once in its history. The filing deadline is July 25. No member of the majority has signaled the slightest willingness to reconsider. A rehearing petition, standing alone, is a plea into a closed door.

But the fight does not end at that door, and was never going to be won in a single term. Justice Kavanaugh's concurrence left an opening that the majority could not close: He located the defect in a statute, which means Congress may act. Senators have already introduced constitutional amendments to restore citizenship to its proper foundation. The question is no longer whether the Court will fix its error. The question is whether the political branches, and the people, will.

The Myth, and Why It Endures

For far too long, the American legal and political landscape has been distorted by a fundamental misunderstanding of the 14th Amendment: that merely being born on U.S. soil makes one a citizen. This misconception contradicts the original intent of the amendment's framers. It undermines the foundational principle that citizenship arises from allegiance, not geographic happenstance. On June 30, a majority of the Supreme Court did not merely tolerate that misconception. It carved it into the United States Reports (where Supreme Court opinions are officially published).

A closer examination of the Constitution, its framers' intent, and the relevant historical precedents reveals that birthright citizenship, as the Court has now decreed it, is neither constitutionally mandated nor consistent with the principles of American law and government. The argument the majority brushed aside is the argument that time and the text still vindicate. Here it is again, in full, for those who will read the amendment before they celebrate it.

The Crux of the Issue: Jurisdiction and Allegiance

The primary argument for birthright citizenship hinges on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment, which reads:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

Advocates of birthright citizenship isolate the phrase "born or naturalized in



AP Photo / Andrew Leyden / NurPhoto

the United States," and disregard the critical qualification that follows: "and subject to the jurisdiction thereof." That latter phrase is not mere surplusage. It carries substantive legal meaning rooted in allegiance, not mere presence. The Court in *Barbara* read the qualifier as satisfied by the bare fact of standing on American ground. The men who wrote it thought otherwise.

Senator Jacob Howard (R-Mich.), who introduced the Citizenship Clause in 1866, explicitly stated its intent:

This will not, of course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens, [or] who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers accredited to the Government of the United States, but will include every other class of persons.

Senator Howard's remarks make clear that the mere accident of birth within U.S. borders does not automatically confer citizenship if the individual's allegiance lies with a foreign power. How can a person be both a citizen and an alien simultaneously if mere birth location were the sole determinant of citizenship? The majority never answered that question. It simply declared the question irrelevant.

Historical and Legal Foundations

The principle that citizenship is determined by allegiance, rather than mere nativity, predates the 14th Amendment. The American legal tradition, heavily influenced by English common law and principles of natural law, consistently rooted citizenship in the voluntary allegiance of an individual, or, in the case of minors, of their parents.

For far too long, the American legal and political landscape has been distorted by a fundamental misunderstanding of the 14th Amendment: that merely being born on U.S. soil makes one a citizen.

Swiss legal scholar Emmerich de Vattel, whose treatise *The Law of Nations* profoundly influenced the Founding Fathers, defined citizenship as follows:

Natural-born citizens are those born in the country, of parents who are citizens. As the society cannot exist and perpetuate itself otherwise than by the children of the citizens, those children naturally follow the condition of their fathers and succeed to all their rights.

Vattel's definition underscores that citizenship is inherited from one's parents, not dictated by the location of birth. The society's continuity depends on the transmission of allegiance from citizen parents to their offspring. This principle was fundamental to the understanding of citizenship at the time of the Constitution's drafting.

To grasp how influential Vattel was on the founding generation, consider this: In 1775, Benjamin Franklin wrote to Charles Dumas that Vattel's *The Law of Nations* "has been continually in the hands of the members of our Congress now sitting." The very men shaping the Republic were not merely familiar with Vattel's work; they were steeped in it. They relied on his wisdom to guide their foundational decisions regarding citizenship and so many other fundamental constitutional concepts.

Judicial Misinterpretation: *Wong Kim Ark* and Its Limits

The case the *Barbara* majority leaned on hardest is *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* (1898). There the Court held that a child born in the United States to Chinese parents who were lawful permanent residents was a citizen. Critical to that decision was the lawful and permanent resident status of Wong Kim Ark's parents, a fact that distinguishes it sharply from cases involving the children of illegal immigrants or temporary visitors.

Wong Kim Ark did not grant citizenship to the children of those unlawfully present. The Court's reasoning rested on the premise that the parents were subject to U.S. jurisdiction in the full sense of



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the term, meaning lawful presence and adherence to U.S. laws. Chief Justice Roberts stretched that narrow holding into a universal rule, insisting that the domicile of Wong's parents was incidental. Justice Thomas answered him directly: *Wong Kim Ark* "addressed only the citizenship of a child born to parents who were lawfully and permanently domiciled in the United States." The Court could have honored the precedent. Instead, it inflated it.

The Deception of Modern Interpretations

Proponents of birthright citizenship point to the ruling in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), in which the Court discussed the rights of undocumented immigrants' children to public education. That ruling, suggesting an equivalence between lawful and unlawful presence under the 14th Amendment, lacks binding authority. It cannot serve as a constitutional justification for birthright citizenship.

The amendment's framers intended to secure the rights of freed slaves, not to grant citizenship indiscriminately to the children of illegal immigrants. As Representative John Bingham (R-Ohio), a key architect of the 14th Amendment, declared:

Every human being born within the United States of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty is ... a natural born citizen.

The language is unequivocal. Allegiance, not birthplace, is the linchpin of citizenship. Bingham did not simply write, "every human being born within the United States." He added the qualifier, "of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty." The Court read that qualifier out.

The Consequences of Misinterpretation

Misapplying the 14th Amendment to justify birthright citizenship incentivizes illegal immigration and undermines the principle of consent of the governed. If citizenship becomes a mere consequence of location, the social and legal bond essential to the American polity is dissolved. The billboards the president described, hawking American citizenship on installment plans, are not an aberration. They are the market responding rationally to a Court-created subsidy.

Consider what the Court has blessed. A woman slips aboard a ship without a ticket, waits until it clears the harbor,



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and then announces that because her child was born below deck, the child owns a share of the vessel. That is the logic of *Barbara*. Sneaking onto the ship does not make you a shareholder in the line, and it does not make your son the captain's heir. Citizenship is membership in a crew, bound by loyalty and duty. It is not a souvenir of where a woman happened to be standing when the labor pains began.

This distortion of the 14th Amendment not only erodes national sovereignty, it also disrespects the legislative power to regulate immigration. Allowing those who violate immigration laws to confer citizenship upon their offspring effectively nullifies Congress' authority over immigration policy. A nation that cannot decide who belongs to it has ceased, in the most basic sense, to govern itself.

Answering the Chief Justice

Return, then, to Chief Justice Roberts' closing line. He says the Framers extended citizenship to "every free-born person in this land," and that the Court keeps that promise today. But the operative words of the amendment are not "every free-born person." They are "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." Senator Howard, who wrote the clause,

told the Senate it would exclude the children of foreigners and aliens. Roberts has now told us it does not. Between the man who drafted the words and the man who, 160 years later, prefers a different result, the Constitution sides with the draftsman.

The majority mistook geography for allegiance. That is the precise error the amendment's authors labored to prevent. To be "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States, in the full and original sense, is to owe it allegiance, not merely to stand upon its soil for an afternoon. A tourist is subject to our traffic laws. She is not thereby made a member of our political community, and neither, by the mere circumstance of where she happens to give birth, is her child. Justice Thomas said the majority's history is not accurate. He is right. Justice Alito said the decision is a serious mistake. He is right. And a constitutional holding that commands a single vote of margin is not settled law. It is a wound awaiting a remedy.

Conclusion: Allegiance as the Cornerstone

To reduce citizenship to an accident of birth is to dismantle the very essence of the American social contract. The Con-

stitution, properly understood, does not countenance the indiscriminate bestowal of citizenship based on mere geography. Citizenship is a legal and social bond, fundamentally rooted in allegiance and voluntary association with the American nation.

The Court in *Trump v. Barbara* chose the myth over the meaning, the slogan over the sentence that follows it. But a decision is not a doctrine merely because five robed lawyers say so, and a promise the Framers never made cannot be kept by pretending they made it. The president's call for a rehearing is a long shot. So was every worthy fight for the original Constitution at the moment it was joined. The amendment process remains. The Congress remains. The people remain. And the text, stubborn and unchanged, still reads "subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

To preserve the integrity of citizenship and to maintain the sovereignty of the United States, it is essential to reject the false doctrine of birthright citizenship, whatever the Court has now decreed. The American people must stand resolute in defense of the rule of law and of allegiance as the foundation of citizenship. The Court has spoken. It has not spoken the last word. ■



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THE FOURTH BRANCH FALLS THE END OF *HUMPHREY'S EXECUTOR*

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AT A GLANCE

- This year the Supreme Court overturned its 1935 decision *Humphrey's Executor v. United States*.
- *Humphrey's Executor* prohibited the president from firing heads of "independent" agencies for disagreeing with his policies.
- It created a fourth branch of government comprised of "quasi-legislative" and "quasi-judicial" powers, blurring the Constitution's separation of powers.
- In overturning the 1935 decision, the Supreme Court got it right.

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

On June 29, 2026, the Supreme Court of the United States did what it should have done 90 years ago. It buried *Humphrey's Executor v. United States*. By a vote of six to three, the Court restored a truth the Framers thought self-evident: The executive power belongs to the president, and to the president alone. The "headless fourth branch" is headless no longer. It is lifeless. The idol erected in 1935 lies shattered on the floor of the temple.

To measure the magnitude of this victory, we must return to the crime that made it necessary.

In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Humphrey's Executor v. United States*, a case that altered the constitu-

tional architecture of our Republic. At issue was whether President Franklin D. Roosevelt could remove a member of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), William E. Humphrey, simply because he disagreed with Humphrey's policies.

Roosevelt, drunk on New Deal ambition, demanded total loyalty from every corner of the federal government. Humphrey, an appointee of Calvin Coolidge, resisted Roosevelt's radical plans to centralize economic power. For this disobedience, Roosevelt fired him. But the law creating the FTC had explicitly stated that commissioners could be removed only for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office" (15 U.S.C. Section 41). Roosevelt's reason — political disagreement — did not qualify.

Humphrey sued for his salary, but died

while the case was pending. His executor carried on the lawsuit, and the case reached the Supreme Court. In a unanimous decision, the Court sided against the president. With this ruling, the Court announced that Congress could create "independent" agencies whose officers were beyond the president's removal power.

In one stroke, the Court severed executive accountability from executive authority. Worse still, the justices invented two new categories of government power, "quasi-legislative" and "quasi-judicial," and bestowed them upon unelected bureaucrats. No such categories exist in the Constitution. There is legislative power, judicial power, and executive power. Nothing more, nothing less. But from that day forward, the fiction



AP Photo / Charlie Riedel

of “independent” agencies metastasized into what Justice Robert Jackson would later call “a veritable fourth branch of the Government.” (*FTC v. Ruberoid Co.*, 343 U.S. 470, 487 [1952], Jackson, R., dissenting.)

The Original Constitutional Design

The Framers were explicit: Executive power belongs to the president alone. Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution declares, “The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.” That is not ambiguous. That is not conditional. That is not subject to congressional tinkering.

Alexander Hamilton, in *The Federalist*, No. 70, stressed the necessity of “unity” in the executive branch to ensure “decision, activity, secrecy, and dispatch.” If the executive branch is fractured, if its officers do not answer to one man elected by the people acting through electors, then responsibility becomes diffused and liberty imperiled. Hamilton insisted that “a feeble Executive implies a feeble execution of the government.”

James Madison warned against the blending of powers. In *The Federalist*, No. 47, he wrote, “The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands ... may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.” The Founders intended each branch to guard its own prerogatives jealously. The executive, therefore, must be able to remove those exercising

executive power, or else he ceases to be responsible for the execution of the laws.

The Court in *Humphrey’s Executor* ignored these principles. By declaring that agencies such as the FTC could act in part “quasi-legislatively and quasi-judicially,” the Court blurred the clean lines of separation. It allowed bureaucrats to legislate, enforce, and adjudicate, fusing the very powers the Constitution worked to keep apart.

From *Myers* to *Humphrey’s*: A Radical Shift

The decision in 1935 was not merely a small departure; it was a wholesale reversal of precedent. Less than a decade earlier, in *Myers v. United States* (1926), Chief Justice (and former president) William Howard Taft had written for the Court that the president’s removal power was absolute when it came to executive officers. Taft explained:

The vesting of the executive power in the President was essentially a grant of the power to execute the laws. But the President alone and unaided could not execute the laws. He must execute them by the assistance of subordinates. This view has since been repeatedly affirmed by this Court. (*Myers v. U.S.*, 272 U.S. 52, 117 [1926].)

The logic was unassailable. If the president is responsible for enforcing the law,

he must have the power to remove those acting in his name. To deny him that power is to deny the people the ability to hold him accountable.

By 1935, the winds had changed. The Great Depression had become the pretext for Roosevelt’s vast New Deal apparatus. The Court, cowed by political pressure and public hysteria, sought to accommodate the new bureaucratic behemoth. Thus it carved out an exception in *Humphrey’s Executor*, distinguishing “purely executive” officers from “independent” commissioners.

The former could be removed at will. The latter could not. This artificial distinction has plagued our Republic ever since.

The Rise of the Invisible Empire of Edicts

The consequences were immediate and dire. Independent agencies multiplied and metastasized, each claiming insulation from presidential control. The Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) all trace their legitimacy to the poisoned tree of *Humphrey’s Executor*.

These agencies churn out regulations with the force of law, thousands of pages each year. They send armed agents to enforce those rules. And when citizens resist, they drag them before

If the president is responsible for enforcing the law, he must have the power to remove those acting in his name. To deny him that power is to deny the people the ability to hold him accountable.

administrative-law judges employed by the very same agencies. In other words, they legislate, they prosecute, and they adjudicate. That is tyranny incarnate.

Montesquieu warned in *The Spirit of the Laws* that “there can be no liberty where the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or body of magistrates.” Yet in the iron web of bureaucracy, those powers, and judicial power too, are united in the same agency. The result is predictable: suffocating regulations, arbitrary enforcement, and justice denied.

Consider the farmer strangled by EPA wetland rules, the small business destroyed by Occupational Safety and Health Administration mandates, the

gun owner threatened by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives “interpretations” that change with the political winds. None of these rules passed Congress. None were signed by the president as laws. They are the edicts of unelected mandarins.

The Tyranny of the “Quasi”

The genius, and the fraud, of *Humphrey’s Executor* was its invention of “quasi-legislative” and “quasi-judicial” categories. By declaring that agencies act “in part” as legislatures and “in part” as courts, the Court gave them cover to operate outside Article II’s requirements. But these categories are fictions. No “quasi” power exists in the Constitu-

tion. Power is legislative, executive, or judicial. There is nothing in between.

By allowing this blending, the Court violated the very principle Madison identified as the bulwark of liberty. What was once three branches became four. And unlike the three branches designed by the Framers, this fourth branch answered to no one. It was independent not only of the president, but of the people themselves.

This is no academic quibble. The rise of the leviathan of licenses and letters suffocated liberty in every sector of life. Ordinary Americans lived under laws they never voted for, enforced by agents they never chose, and judged by commissions they could not appeal to at the ballot box.

The Founders knew the danger. Thomas Jefferson declared, “An elective despotism was not the government we fought for.” Yet that is precisely what the administrative state, the Deep State dressed in a suit and tie, became: despotism hidden behind a thin veil of elections. We may cast ballots for electors who elect the president, but if presidents cannot control the executive branch, then even that indirect voice of the people is reduced to a whisper in a bureaucratic storm.

The Court Chips Away

In recent years, the Court had begun to chip away at the edges of *Humphrey’s Executor*. In *Morrison v. Olson* (1988), it upheld a for-cause removal restriction for an independent counsel, but Justice Antonin Scalia’s lone dissent thundered with the truth: “This wolf comes as a wolf.” In *Free Enterprise Fund v. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board* (2010), the Court struck down a double layer of removal protection and reaffirmed that the president must be able to



AP Photo / Mattie Neretin / Sipa USA

remove those for whom he cannot continue to be responsible.

More recently, in *Seila Law LLC v. CFPB* (2020), the Court struck down a for-cause removal protection for the single director of the CFPB, holding that such a structure violated the separation of powers. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, confined *Humphrey's* to "multimember expert agencies that do not wield substantial executive power." In *Collins v. Yellen* (2021), the Court reaffirmed the president's removal authority over the head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

The trajectory was clear: *Humphrey's Executor* was no longer untouchable. The Court had already admitted, in effect, that the doctrine could not stand as written. All that remained was the killing blow.

***Trump v. Slaughter:* The Reckoning Arrives**

In March 2025, weeks into his second term, President Trump removed the two Democratic members of the Federal Trade Commission, Rebecca Slaughter and Alvaro Bedoya. He offered no statutory "cause." He told them only that

their continued service was inconsistent with his administration's priorities, and that they were removed pursuant to his authority under Article II of the Constitution. Slaughter sued, hiding behind the tattered shield of *Humphrey's Executor*. A district court, considering itself bound by the 1935 decision, ordered her reinstated. The D.C. Circuit refused to pause that order. The government appealed to the Supreme Court, which stayed the reinstatement and set the case for argument.

This was no peripheral skirmish. *Trump v. Slaughter* presented the precise scenario of *Humphrey's Executor*. A president, elected by the people through electors as set forth in Article II, removes a commissioner for political disagreement. No procedural fog. No statutory loophole. The issue could not have been clearer. Either the president controls the executive branch, or unelected bureaucrats do. The Court chose the Constitution.

By a vote of six to three, in an opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts (joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett), the Court held

that the FTC Act's for-cause removal restriction violates the separation of powers. And it overruled *Humphrey's Executor*. The reasoning marched straight from first principles. Article II vests the executive power in a single president. The modern FTC, the Court held, "unquestionably exercises executive power." It enforces some 80 statutes, investigates violations, prosecutes offenders, adjudicates disputes in house, and files civil suits on behalf of the United States. That is executive power exercised by any honest definition, no matter how many times the New Deal draped it in the robes of the "quasi."

Roberts did not flinch. *Humphrey's*, he wrote, had been "tethered to a highly circumscribed and almost fictional view of the FTC's role." Its framework "has not withstood the test of time." For 90 years it had been "a result in search of a rationale." Then came the hammer that will echo through the law reviews for a generation: "If anything more is left of *Humphrey's*, we overrule it." And to leave no doubt about the principle restored, the chief justice stated it plainly: "Subordinates who exercise the President's power are subject to removal by him."

AP Photo / Jose Luis Magana





The Court even named the beast. It invoked the “veritable fourth branch,” the very phrase Justice Robert Jackson coined in 1952, and drove a stake through its heart. It spoke, in fact, the language of the Founders, warning against reestablishing “the kingly office” by another name and quoting Hamilton on the accountability a unitary executive secures. The originalist case that men like this writer have pressed for decades did not merely prevail. It was written into the United States Reports.

The dissent, penned by Justice Sonia Sotomayor and joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson, wailed that the decision “reshapes our Government” and hands the president “a power unknown even to the English Crown against which the Founders revolted.” Read that again: The dissenters equate the president’s control of his own branch with monarchy. But it is not monarchy to demand that the man the people elect answer for the government he heads. It is the opposite of monarchy; it is accountability. The president remains bound by statute, by appropriations, by the courts, by Congress, and by the ballot box. What he no longer must tolerate is a phalanx of insulated commissars who wield his power while answering

to no one. The dissent mourns the death of the fourth branch. The Constitution never authorized its birth.

The Work That Remains

Let no one mistake this victory for the end of the war, though. Justice Gorsuch, concurring, sounded the essential warning: Striking down *Humphrey’s Executor* does not cure every constitutional disease of the administrative state. As he put it, “the fourth branch’s powers still exist; they have just been reassigned to the President.” The legislative power the agencies have seized still needs to be returned to Congress. The judicial power they have usurped still needs to be returned to the Article III courts. And a great deal of what the bureaucracy does needs to be returned to the states, where the 10th Amendment left it, or abolished outright.

Trump v. Slaughter restored the chain of accountability. It did not shrink the leviathan. That task falls to Congress, to future presidents willing to wield the authority now confirmed to them, and to a citizenry who remember that the Constitution is not a suggestion. Restoring who commands the administrative state is the first step. Dismantling its fused and unconstitutional powers is the next.

A Republic Reclaimed

For 90 years, *Humphrey’s Executor* served as the cornerstone of the unconstitutional fourth branch. On June 29, 2026, that cornerstone was demolished. *Trump v. Slaughter* was not just another case on the docket; it was the crossroads of constitutional fidelity and cowardice, and the Court chose fidelity.

The justices refused to keep sanctifying the lies of the New Deal. They returned to the truth of Article II. They chose the separation of powers over the swamp. And with that choice comes accountability. If the agencies run amok, the people now know whom to hold responsible, and whom to punish at the polls. That is liberty in action. That is what the Framers intended.

The Founders gave us a system designed for liberty. Roosevelt and his Court allies defaced it in 1935. Ninety years later, the Supreme Court restored the original design. The idol has fallen. The fourth branch is condemned. And the long, patient labor of the Constitution’s defenders has, at last, borne fruit.

Humphrey’s Executor has been consigned to the ash heap of history. Let it rot there. ■

The Freedom Index

A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution

Our third look at the 119th Congress shows how every member of the House and Senate voted on key issues such as foreign aid, war powers, ObamaCare subsidies (House only), and immigration.

House Vote Descriptions

21 Appropriations. H.R. 6938 would appropriate \$187 billion in total funding for select federal agencies in fiscal 2026. Among other provisions, it would provide \$49.1 billion for the Department of Energy, \$37.1 billion for the Department of Justice, \$24.4 billion for NASA, \$14.5 billion for the Department of the Interior, \$11.1 billion for the Department of Commerce, \$8.8 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$8.8 billion for the National Science Foundation, and \$5.5 billion for more than 3,000 earmarks.

The House passed H.R. 6938 on January 8, 2026 by a vote of 397 to 28 (Roll Call 7). We have assigned pluses to the nays because most of the spending would go to federal departments, agencies, and programs that have no authorization or basis in the Constitution. Furthermore,



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this reckless spending is yielding record increases in the national debt.

22 ObamaCare Subsidy Extension. H.R. 1834 would extend enhanced ObamaCare subsidies, originally enacted under the 2021 American

Rescue Plan Act and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, by an additional three years.

The House passed H.R. 1834 on January 8, 2026 by a vote of 230 to 196 (Roll Call 11). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Article I,

About This Index

The Freedom Index: A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution” rates members of Congress based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements. For information on the criteria we use to select the votes, go to FreedomIndex.us/about.

To learn how any representative or senator voted on the key measures described herein, look him or her up in the vote charts. The scores are derived by dividing a congressman’s constitutional votes (pluses) by the total number he cast (pluses and minuses) and multiplying by 100. The average House score for this index is 40 percent (64 percent for the Republicans and 16 percent for the Democrats), and the average Senate score is 38 percent (52 percent for the Republicans and 22

percent for the Democrats). Two representatives (Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Warren Davidson of Ohio) and one senator (Rand Paul of Kentucky) earned 100 percent. We encourage readers to examine how their own legislators voted on each of the 10 key measures. We also encourage readers to commend legislators for their constitutional votes, and to urge improvement where needed.

This is our third index for the 119th Congress. Our first index for the current Congress (votes 1-10) appeared in our August 2025 issue, and our second index (votes 11-20) appeared in our February 2026 issue. An online version of the Freedom Index is also available (click on “Freedom Index” at TheNewAmerican.com), as are Congressional Scorecards on individual members of the House and Senate and Legislative Scorecards on state legislators (see ad on page 52). ■

House Vote Scores ✓

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
ALABAMA												
1 Moore (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	83%
2 Figures (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
3 Rogers (R)	67%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	62%
4 Aderholt (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
5 Strong (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
6 Palmer (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
7 Sewell (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
ALASKA												
AL Begich (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	83%
ARIZONA												
1 Schweikert (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
2 Crane (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	97%
3 Ansari (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
4 Stanton (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	10%
5 Biggs (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	96%
6 Ciscomani (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
7 Grijalva (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	17%
8 Hamadeh (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
9 Gosar (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	93%
ARKANSAS												
1 Crawford (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
2 Hill (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
3 Womack (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	55%
4 Westerman (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
CALIFORNIA												
1 Gallagher (R)												
2 Huffman (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	11%
3 Kiley (I)	30%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	50%
4 Thompson (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
5 McClintock (R)	78%	+	+	+	?	+	+	-	+	-	+	83%
6 Bera (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	4%
7 Matsui (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
8 Garamendi (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	8%
9 Harder (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
10 DeSaulnier (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	11%
11 Pelosi (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	4%
12 Simon (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
13 Gray (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	28%
14 Swalwell (D)		-	-	?	-	?	?	+				5%
15 Mullin (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	11%
16 Liccardo (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
17 Khanna (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
18 Lofgren (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	4%
19 Panetta (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	10%
20 Fong (R)	67%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	?	+	64%
21 Costa (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	14%
22 Valadao (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	53%
23 Obornolte (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
24 Carbajal (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
25 Ruiz (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
26 Brownley (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
27 Whitesides (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	11%
28 Chu (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
29 Rivas (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
30 Friedman (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
31 Cisneros (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
32 Sherman (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
33 Aguilar (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
34 Gomez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
35 Torres (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
36 Lieu (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
37 Kamlager-Dove (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	3%
38 Sánchez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
39 Takano (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
40 Kim (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
41 Calvert (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
42 Garcia (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	4%
43 Waters (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	7%
44 Barragán (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
45 Tran (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	10%
46 Correa (D)	40%	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	19%
47 Min (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
48 Issa (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
49 Levin (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
50 Peters (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
51 Jacobs (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
52 Vargas (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	10%
COLORADO												
1 DeGette (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
2 Neguse (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
3 Hurd (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	52%
4 Boebert (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	86%
5 Crank (D)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
6 Crow (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
7 Petersen (D)	30%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	13%
8 Evans (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
CONNECTICUT												
1 Larson (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
2 Courtney (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
3 DeLauro (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
4 Himes (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
5 Hayes (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
DELAWARE												
AL McBride (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
FLORIDA												
1 Patronis (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	75%
2 Dunn (R)	50%	-	+	?	-	+	?	-	+	-	+	59%
3 Cammack (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	87%
4 Bean (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	87%
5 Rutherford (R)	63%	?	?	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	58%
6 Fine (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	75%
7 Mills (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	79%
8 Haridopolos (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
9 Soto (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
10 Frost (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
11 Webster (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
12 Bilirakis (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	62%
13 Luna (R)	75%	-	+	+	+	?	+	-	+	?	+	81%
14 Castor (D)	11%	-	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
15 Lee (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	61%
16 Buchanan (R)	67%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	63%
17 Steube (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	93%
18 Franklin (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a representative did not vote. If a representative cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 40, 42, and 44.

Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize Congress to subsidize health insurance. ObamaCare reduced individual choice in the health-insurance market, increased costs for many Americans, and has been poorly run from the beginning, exactly what is to be expected when the federal government attempts to regulate and subsidize healthcare.

23 Democracy Grants. During consideration of the fiscal 2026 financial-services, general-government, national-security, and State Department appropriations bill (H.R. 7006), Representative Eli Crane (R-Ariz.) offered an amendment to eliminate \$315 million in federal funding for the National Endowment for Democracy, a government-funded, nongovernmental organization that provides grants to political groups and other organizations abroad, and \$2.2 billion for other democracy programs.

The House rejected Crane's amendment on January 14, 2026 by a vote of 127 to 291 (Roll Call 27). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize the federal government to fund nongovernmental organizations or provide foreign aid. Furthermore, the United States is a constitutional republic, not a democracy. The Founders recognized that simple majorities threaten individual rights and produce a "tyranny of the majority," and the U.S. government should not impose "democracy" on other countries.

24 Ban Funding for "Kill-switch" Mandate. During consideration of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) offered an amendment that would prohibit the use of federal funds to implement Section 24220 of the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which requires that all new passenger motor vehicles be equipped with "advanced drunk and impaired driving prevention technology."

The House rejected Massie's amendment on January 22, 2026 by a vote of 164 to 268 (Roll Call 43). We have as-

signed pluses to the yeas because this federal "kill-switch" mandate to forcibly "monitor the performance" of every driver and automatically "prevent or limit motor vehicle operation" violates the fundamental right of the American people to travel freely with a reasonable expectation of privacy. The Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution not only protect against "unreasonable searches and seizures" of persons and their possessions, but also provide that no person shall be deprived of "liberty, or property, without due process of law."

25 Repealing Weapon Regulations and Taxes. H.R. 2189 would exclude "less-than-lethal projectile devices," including certain Tasers, from the federal definition of a firearm, exempting them from regulation under the Gun Control Act of 1968 and from the federal firearms-and-ammunition excise tax.

The House passed H.R. 2189 on February 12, 2026 by a vote of 233 to 185 (Roll Call 70). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the Second Amendment to the Constitution declares that the people's right to keep and bear arms — including nonlethal arms —

"shall not be infringed." Furthermore, the Ninth Amendment recognizes that the people retain rights not specifically enumerated in the Constitution, including the God-given right of self-defense. Federal regulations that burden civilian access to weapons violate these fundamental rights.

26 Repealing Energy-efficiency Programs. H.R. 4758, the "Homeowner Energy Freedom Act," would repeal three programs established by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and rescind about \$300 million in unobligated funds designated for them. The programs provide rebates for high-efficiency electric home appliances, grants to train residential energy contractors, and federal assistance encouraging state and local governments to adopt updated or zero-emission building-energy codes.

The House passed H.R. 4758 on February 25, 2026 by a vote of 210 to 199 (Roll Call 78). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the Constitution does not authorize the federal government to subsidize household appliances or provide grants that promote energy efficiency or "zero-emission" policies. Such programs



Weapon regulations: The House passed legislation to exclude "less-than-lethal projectile devices" from gun regulation.

AP Photo / Rolf Vennenbernd

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
19 Donalds (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	86%
20 Cherfilus-McCormick (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	4%
21 Mast (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
22 Frankel (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	?	-	4%
23 Moskowitz (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
24 Wilson (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	?	-	8%
25 Wasserman Schultz (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
26 Diaz-Balart (R)	40%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	53%
27 Salazar (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	50%
28 Gimenez (R)	33%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	?	-	52%

GEORGIA

1 Carter (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
2 Bishop (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	13%
3 Jack (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
4 Johnson (D)	20%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
5 Williams (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
6 McBeth (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
7 McCormick (R)	60%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	70%
8 Scott (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
9 Clyde (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	86%
10 Collins (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	83%
11 Loudermilk (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	69%
12 Allen (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
13 Scott (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
14 Fuller (R)									+	-	+	

HAWAII

1 Case (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	13%
2 Tokuda (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%

IDAHO

1 Fulcher (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	87%
2 Simpson (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%

ILLINOIS

1 Jackson (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
2 Kelly (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	3%
3 Ramirez (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
4 García (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
5 Quigley (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	4%
6 Casten (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
7 Davis (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
8 Krishnamoorthi (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
9 Schakowsky (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	?	-	7%
10 Schneider (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	4%
11 Foster (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
12 Bost (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
13 Budzinski (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
14 Underwood (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
15 Miller (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	87%
16 LaHood (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
17 Sorensen (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%

INDIANA

1 Mrvan (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	11%
2 Yakym (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
3 Stutzman (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	79%
4 Baird (D)	63%	?	?	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	61%
5 Spartz (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	82%
6 Shreve (R)	70%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
7 Carson (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
8 Messmer (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
9 Houchin (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	69%

IOWA

1 Miller-Meeks (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	62%
2 Hinson (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
3 Nunn (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	54%
4 Feenstra (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%

KANSAS

1 Mann (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
2 Schmidt (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
3 Davids (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
4 Estes (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	69%

KENTUCKY

1 Comer (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	76%
2 Guthrie (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
3 McGarvey (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
4 Massie (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	100%
5 Rogers (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
6 Barr (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%

LOUISIANA

1 Scalise (R)	67%	-	+	?	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	68%
2 Carter (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	10%
3 Higgins (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	86%
4 Johnson (R)	57%	-	+	?	?	?	?	-	+	-	+	67%
5 Letlow (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	75%
6 Fields (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%

MAINE

1 Pingree (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	+	-	11%
2 Golden (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	20%

MARYLAND

1 Harris (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	83%
2 Olszewski (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	3%
3 Elfreth (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
4 Ivey (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
5 Hoyer (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
6 McClain Delaney (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
7 Mfume (D)	22%	?	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	11%
8 Raskin (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%

MASSACHUSETTS

1 Neal (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
2 McGovern (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
3 Trahan (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
4 Auchincloss (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
5 Clark (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
6 Moulton (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	?	-	4%
7 Pressley (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	?	10%
8 Lynch (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
9 Keating (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	-	7%

MICHIGAN

1 Bergman (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	62%
2 Moolenaar (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
3 Scholten (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	10%
4 Huizenga (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
5 Walberg (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
6 Dingell (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	+	-	10%
7 Barrett (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
8 McDonald Rivet (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
9 McClain (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	64%
10 James (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
11 Stevens (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
12 Tlaib (D)	22%	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	18%
13 Thaneadar (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	?	10%

MINNESOTA

1 Finstad (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	71%
2 Craig (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
3 Morrison (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A "?" means a representative did not vote. If a representative cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 40, 42, and 44.

distort the free market, pick winners and losers, and use taxpayer funds to advance a radical environmental agenda aligned with the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

27 War Powers. H. Con. Res. 38 would direct “the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran or any part of its government or military, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific authorization for use of military force against Iran.”

The House rejected H. Con. Res. 38 on March 5, 2026 by a vote of 212 to 219 (Roll Call 85). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the Constitution delegates the power to declare war to Congress, not the president. Five days earlier, President Donald Trump had transgressed this congressional power when he initiated a war against Iran without first asking Congress for authorization. Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), who introduced this resolution, was one of only two Republicans who voted yea. Yet every member of Congress — regardless of his position on the war — should have voted for this resolution insisting that the president abide by the Constitution.

28 Haiti “Temporary Protected Status” Designation. H.R. 1689 would require the secretary of homeland security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status (TPS) until April 2029.

The House passed H.R. 1689 on April 16, 2026 by a vote of 224 to 204 (Roll Call 120). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation allows more than 350,000 Haitian nationals to live and work in the United States, regardless of whether they are unlawfully present or entered the country illegally. Moreover, there is nothing “temporary” about TPS; Haiti has been designated for TPS since 2010. Illegal aliens ought to be deported from the United States — not granted sanctuary indefinitely. Mass migration, which is an “invasion” per the Constitution, has become the most



Warren Davidson



Thomas Massie

Perfect scores: Warren Davidson of Ohio and Thomas Massie of Kentucky were the only two members of the House to earn 100 percent in this installment of the Freedom Index.

immediate threat to America. It destroys national unity, allegiance, and sovereignty by undermining both the rule of law and the value of citizenship. “We the People” must demand secure borders, the deportation of every illegal, and a moratorium on all immigration until the crisis ends.

29 FISA Extension. Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) made a motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 4465, which would extend by 45 days the expiration date of Title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978. Section 702 of FISA allows U.S. intelligence agencies to target foreign individuals located outside the United States to acquire foreign intelligence information. In order to acquire the “foreign intelligence,” though, the federal government uses databases to conduct warrantless “backdoor searches” of American citizens’ emails, text messages, and phone calls when they communicate with targeted foreigners.

The House agreed to Jordan’s motion on April 30, 2026 by a vote of 261 to 111 (Roll Call 155). We have assigned pluses to the nays because using FISA to spy on U.S. citizens without a warrant violates the Fourth

Amendment. While the bill includes provisions to ostensibly protect the privacy of U.S. citizens, they fail to uphold Americans’ Fourth Amendment-protected rights. Furthermore, the FISA Court approves just about any surveillance request that comes its way, and given the track record of intelligence agencies, it isn’t likely that they would actually follow such rules.

30 Ukraine Aid. The Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913) would authorize additional aid to Ukraine, including up to \$8 billion for military assistance via loans. It would also impose penalties for Russia. On June 4, 2026, *Congressional Quarterly* reported that Congress has already “provided \$188 billion to Ukraine for military, economic and humanitarian aid to date.”

The House passed H.R. 2913 on June 4, 2026 by a vote of 226 to 195 (Roll Call 207). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the United States should not be interjecting itself into the Russia-Ukraine war, and should instead follow a noninterventionist foreign policy that puts America first. Moreover, Congress has not declared war as required by the Constitution for military activity. ■

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
4 McCollum (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
5 Omar (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	17%
6 Emmer (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
7 Fischbach (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	76%
8 Stauber (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
MISSISSIPPI												
1 Kelly (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%
2 Thompson (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	?	10%
3 Guest (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
4 Ezell (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	76%
MISSOURI												
1 Bell (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
2 Wagner (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	62%
3 Onder (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	79%
4 Alford (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
5 Cleaver (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
6 Graves (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	69%
7 Burlison (R)	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	97%
8 Smith (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
MONTANA												
1 Zinke (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
2 Downing (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	80%
NEBRASKA												
1 Flood (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	62%
2 Bacon (R)	30%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	50%
3 Smith (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	61%
NEVADA												
1 Titus (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	+	-	8%
2 Amodei (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
3 Lee (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
4 Horsford (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
NEW HAMPSHIRE												
1 Pappas (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
2 Goodlander (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
NEW JERSEY												
1 Norcross (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	12%
2 Van Drew (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
3 Conaway (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	3%
4 Smith (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
5 Gottheimer (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	-	-	8%
6 Pallone (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
7 Kean (R)	29%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	?	?	?	52%
8 Menendez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
9 Pou (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
10 McIver (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
11 Mejia (D)										+	-	
12 Watson Coleman (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
NEW MEXICO												
1 Stansbury (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
2 Vasquez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	14%
3 Leger Fernandez (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
NEW YORK												
1 LaLota (R)	33%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	?	-	52%
2 Garbarino (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	52%
3 Suozzi (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	11%
4 Gillen (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
5 Meeks (D)	11%	-	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
6 Meng (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
7 Velázquez (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	+	-	10%
8 Jeffries (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
9 Clarke (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	13%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
10 Goldman (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	?	-	4%
11 Malliotakis (R)	40%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	52%
12 Nadler (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	-	-	7%
13 Espaillat (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	4%
14 Ocasio-Cortez (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	+	+	-	10%
15 Torres (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
16 Latimer (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	-	-	3%
17 Lawler (R)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	47%
18 Ryan (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
19 Riley (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
20 Tonko (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
21 Stefanik (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	?	-	+	?	+	54%
22 Mannion (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
23 Langworthy (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
24 Tenney (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
25 Morelle (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
26 Kennedy (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
NORTH CAROLINA												
1 Davis (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	+	?	+	-	-	-	18%
2 Ross (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
3 Murphy (R)	20%	?	?	?	-	?	+	-	?	-	-	56%
4 Foushee (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
5 Foxx (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
6 McDowell (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
7 Rouzer (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
8 Harris (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	83%
9 Hudson (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
10 Harrigan (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	83%
11 Edwards (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
12 Adams (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
13 Knott (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	80%
14 Moore (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
NORTH DAKOTA												
AL Fedorchak (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
OHIO												
1 Landsman (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	10%
2 Taylor (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
3 Beatty (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	11%
4 Jordan (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
5 Latta (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
6 Rulli (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%
7 Miller (R)	44%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	?	-	55%
8 Davidson (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	93%
9 Kaptur (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	13%
10 Turner (R)	30%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	45%
11 Brown (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
12 Balderson (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
13 Sykes (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	-	-	3%
14 Joyce (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	48%
15 Carey (R)	30%	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	50%
OKLAHOMA												
1 Hern (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
2 Brecheen (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	90%
3 Lucas (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
4 Cole (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
5 Bice (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
OREGON												
1 Bonamici (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
2 Bentz (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
3 Dexter (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
4 Hoyle (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	13%
5 Bynum (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
6 Salinas (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%

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	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
PENNSYLVANIA												
1 Fitzpatrick (R)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30%
2 Boyle (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	7%
3 Evans (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	+	-	11%
4 Dean (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
5 Scanlon (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
6 Houlihan (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
7 Mackenzie (R)	50%	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
8 Bresnahan (R)	40%	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	53%
9 Meuser (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
10 Perry (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	93%
11 Smucker (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
12 Lee (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
13 Joyce (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
14 Reschenthaler (R)	67%	-	+	?	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%
15 Thompson (R)	44%	-	+	?	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	55%
16 Kelly (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
17 Deluzio (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
RHODE ISLAND												
1 Amo (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
2 Magaziner (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
SOUTH CAROLINA												
1 Mace (R)	71%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	?	?	?	73%
2 Wilson (R)	50%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	62%
3 Biggs (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	90%
4 Timmons (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
5 Norman (R)	83%	+	+	?	+	?	+	-	+	?	?	92%
6 Clyburn (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
7 Fry (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	90%
SOUTH DAKOTA												
AL Johnson (R)	56%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	?	59%
TENNESSEE												
1 Harshbarger (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	86%
2 Burchett (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	90%
3 Fleischmann (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
4 DesJarlais (R)	67%	-	+	+	+	+	?	-	+	-	+	68%
5 Ogles (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	?	-	+	+	+	86%
6 Rose (R)	78%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	70%
7 Van Epps (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
8 Kustoff (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
9 Cohen (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
TEXAS												
1 Moran (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
2 Crenshaw (R)	67%	-	+	+	+	+	?	-	+	-	+	66%
3 Self (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	90%
4 Fallon (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
5 Gooden (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
6 Ellzey (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
7 Fletcher (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	10%
8 Luttrell (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	77%
9 Green (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
10 McCaul (R)	50%	?	?	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	60%
11 Pfluger (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	63%
12 Goldman (R)	60%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
13 Jackson (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	77%
14 Weber (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
15 De La Cruz (R)	60%	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	68%
16 Escobar (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
17 Sessions (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
18 Menefee (D)	40%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	+	-	40%
19 Arrington (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	76%
20 Castro (D)	13%	-	-	-	-	?	-	+	-	?	-	7%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
21 Roy (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	97%
22 Nehls (R)	75%	-	+	?	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	84%
23 Gonzales (R)		-	+	?	+	?	?	?				65%
24 Van Duyne (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
25 Williams (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%
26 Gill (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	87%
27 Cloud (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	90%
28 Cuellar (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	30%
29 Garcia (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
30 Crockett (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	+	-	7%
31 Carter (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
32 Johnson (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	?	+	-	-	-	7%
33 Veasey (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	10%
34 Gonzalez (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	32%
35 Casar (D)	22%	-	-	?	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	12%
36 Babin (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	66%
37 Doggett (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
38 Hunt (R)		?	?	?	?	?	?	-	+	-	+	76%
UTAH												
1 Moore (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
2 Maloy (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	60%
3 Kennedy (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	87%
4 Owens (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
VERMONT												
AL Balint (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
VIRGINIA												
1 Wittman (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	57%
2 Kiggans (R)	40%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	55%
3 Scott (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
4 McClellan (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
5 McGuire (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	80%
6 Cline (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	83%
7 Vindman (D)	30%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	13%
8 Beyer (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
9 Griffith (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	70%
10 Subramanyam (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	7%
11 Walkinshaw (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
WASHINGTON												
1 DeBene (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	3%
2 Larsen (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	3%
3 Perez (D)	30%	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	23%
4 Newhouse (R)	40%	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	52%
5 Baumgartner (R)	67%	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	?	+	62%
6 Randall (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	11%
7 Jayapal (D)	22%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	?	12%
8 Schrier (D)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	7%
9 Smith (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	7%
10 Strickland (D)	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	?	-	3%
WEST VIRGINIA												
1 Miller (R)	67%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	?	68%
2 Moore (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	80%
WISCONSIN												
1 Steil (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	67%
2 Pocan (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
3 Van Orden (R)	44%	-	-	?	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	59%
4 Moore (D)	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	10%
5 Fitzgerald (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	76%
6 Grothman (R)	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	72%
7 Tiffany (R)	90%	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	93%
8 Wied (R)	70%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	73%
WYOMING												
AL Hageman (R)	80%	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	87%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a representative did not vote. If a representative cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to House vote descriptions on pages 40, 42, and 44.

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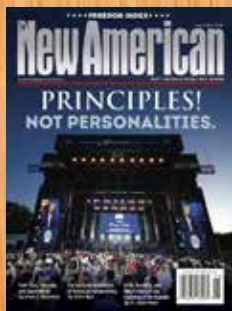


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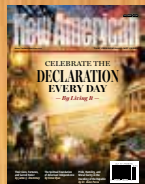
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Principles! Not Personalities.

We should evaluate politicians based on principles — not personalities, and not parties. Herein we take a look at President Trump and his actions, using as our standard the Constitution and its underlying principles.

(August, 2026) TNA2608



Celebrate The Declaration Every Day By Living It

Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. But in order to hold on to their independence, and to restore any freedoms that they have already lost, Americans must understand the ideals and principles that led to the Declaration. (July, 2026) TNA2607



Conspiracy for Global Control

There is indeed a sinister Deep State that operates behind and above the façade of constitutional government and so-called free institutions of media, business, and academia. (May, 2026) TNA2605



Minneapolis Mayhem

Minneapolis is being set up as ground zero for a new American civil war. (March, 2026) TNA2603



Is The Dollar Sinking?

Peter Schiff Weighs In on the State of the Economy. (February, 2026) TNA2602



COP30: UN Grabs More Power

As was evidenced at COP30, the grand scheme is to control the planet, not save it. The U.S. must get out of both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN itself. (January, 2026) TNA2601

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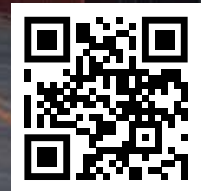
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Senate Vote Descriptions

21 Appropriations. H.R. 6938 would appropriate \$187 billion in total funding for select federal agencies in fiscal 2026. Among other provisions, it would provide \$49.1 billion for the Department of Energy, \$37.1 billion for the Department of Justice, \$24.4 billion for NASA, \$14.5 billion for the Department of the Interior, \$11.1 billion for the Department of Commerce, \$8.8 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, \$8.8 billion for the National Science Foundation, and \$5.5 billion for more than 3,000 earmarks.

The Senate passed H.R. 6938 on January 15, 2026 by a vote of 82 to 15 (Roll Call 11). We have assigned pluses to the nays because most of the spending would go to federal departments, agencies, and programs that have no authorization or basis in the Constitution. Furthermore, this reckless spending is yielding record increases in the national debt.

22 Refugee-assistance Funding. During consideration of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to eliminate \$5.16 billion in refugee-and-entrant-assistance funding for the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Senate rejected Paul's amendment on January 30, 2026 by a vote of 32 to 67 (Roll Call 14). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because this program encourages increased immigration, which is a tool of the Deep State to fundamentally transform the United States by deliberately changing the country's demographics, thus radically altering the voting patterns of the nation. Additionally, although Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution authorizes Congress "to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization," it does not authorize Congress to facilitate immigration.



Perfect score: Rand Paul of Kentucky was the only senator to earn 100 percent.

AP Images / J. Scott Applewhite

23 Foreign Aid. During consideration of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148), Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.) made a motion to table an amendment by Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) that would eliminate \$12 billion in bilateral economic assistance for the United States African Development Foundation.

The Senate agreed to Coons' motion on January 30, 2026 by a vote of 58 to 42 (Roll Call 17). We have assigned pluses to the nays because foreign aid is not among the enumerated powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution. Article I, Section 8 does not grant Congress the power to send aid to foreign countries or nongovernmental organizations.

24 War Powers. S. J. Res. 104 would direct "the President to remove the United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Iran, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or a specific authorization for use of military force."

On March 4, 2026, Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va.), who introduced S. J. Res. 104

along with Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), attempted to get his resolution out of committee and to the Senate floor by making a motion to discharge it. His motion was rejected by a vote of 47 to 53 (Roll Call 46). We have assigned pluses to the yeas because the Constitution delegates the power to declare war to Congress, not the president. Four days earlier, President Donald Trump had transgressed this congressional power when he initiated a war against Iran without first asking Congress for authorization. Paul was the only Republican who voted yea. Yet every senator — regardless of his position on the war — should have voted for this resolution insisting that the president abide by the Constitution.

25 Housing. H.R. 6644, the "21st Century ROAD to Housing Act," would make multiple changes to federal housing regulations and programs. Among other provisions, it would ban large institutional investors from owning residential properties for more than seven years, permanently reauthorize the Community Develop-

Senate Vote Scores ✓

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
ALABAMA												
Tuberville (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	77%
Britt (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
ALASKA												
Murkowski (R)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	34%
Sullivan (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	47%
ARIZONA												
Kelly (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
Gallego (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	11%
ARKANSAS												
Boozman (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	47%
Cotton (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	59%
CALIFORNIA												
Padilla (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Schiff (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
COLORADO												
Bennet (D)	29%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	?	?	?	15%
Hickenlooper (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
CONNECTICUT												
Blumenthal (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Murphy (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	20%
DELAWARE												
Coons (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Blunt Rochester (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
FLORIDA												
Scott (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87%
Moody (R)	67%	?	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	72%
GEORGIA												
Ossoff (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Warnock (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
HAWAII												
Schatz (D)	33%	-	-	-	+	+	?	-	-	-	+	17%
Hirono (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
IDAHO												
Crapo (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	60%
Risch (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	66%
ILLINOIS												
Durbin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%
Duckworth (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	14%
INDIANA												
Young (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	57%
Banks (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
IOWA												
Grassley (R)	44%	-	-	+	-	-	+	?	+	+	-	55%
Ernst (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	60%
KANSAS												
Moran (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	50%
Marshall (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	63%
KENTUCKY												
McConnell (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	46%
Paul (R)	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
LOUISIANA												
Cassidy (R)	44%	-	?	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	59%
Kennedy (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	77%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
MAINE												
Collins (R)	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	30%
King (I)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
MARYLAND												
Van Hollen (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%
Alsobrooks (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
MASSACHUSETTS												
Warren (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	20%
Markey (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	20%
MICHIGAN												
Peters (D)	22%	?	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	14%
Slotkin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
MINNESOTA												
Klobuchar (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Smith (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	14%
MISSISSIPPI												
Wicker (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	45%
Hyde-Smith (R)	50%	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	57%
MISSOURI												
Hawley (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	67%
Schmitt (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	76%
MONTANA												
Daines (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	62%
Sheehy (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	67%
NEBRASKA												
Fischer (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	53%
Ricketts (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	53%
NEVADA												
Cortez Masto (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
Rosen (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
NEW HAMPSHIRE												
Shaheen (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Hassan (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
NEW JERSEY												
Booker (D)	33%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	?	+	14%
Kim (D)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
NEW MEXICO												
Heinrich (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
Luján (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
NEW YORK												
Schumer (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Gillibrand (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	10%
NORTH CAROLINA												
Tillis (R)	40%	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	53%
Budd (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	73%
NORTH DAKOTA												
Hoeven (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	57%
Cramer (R)	50%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	52%
OHIO												
Moreno (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
Husted (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	67%
OKLAHOMA												
Lankford (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	57%
Armstrong (R)	60%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	60%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
OREGON												
Wyden (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Merkley (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%
PENNSYLVANIA												
Fetterman (D)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7%
McCormick (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	63%
RHODE ISLAND												
Reed (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
Whitehouse (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	14%
SOUTH CAROLINA												
Graham (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	47%
Scott (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	57%
SOUTH DAKOTA												
Thune (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	53%
Rounds (R)	40%	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	50%
TENNESSEE												
Blackburn (R)	67%	-	+	+	-	?	+	+	+	+	-	69%
Hagerty (R)	67%	?	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	75%
TEXAS												
Cornyn (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	63%
Cruz (R)	70%	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	79%

	Votes: 21-30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1-30
UTAH												
Lee (R)	90%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	86%
Curtis (R)	56%	-	+	+	-	-	?	+	+	+	-	72%
VERMONT												
Sanders (I)	30%	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	24%
Welch (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	18%
VIRGINIA												
Warner (D)	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	-	-	+	10%
Kaine (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
WASHINGTON												
Murray (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	14%
Cantwell (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	17%
WEST VIRGINIA												
Capito (R)	30%	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	45%
Justice (R)	50%	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	60%
WISCONSIN												
Johnson (R)	80%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	80%
Baldwin (D)	20%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	13%
WYOMING												
Barrasso (R)	60%	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	70%
Lummis (R)	70%	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	79%

The scores are derived by dividing the constitutionally correct votes (pluses) by the total number of pluses and minuses and multiplying by 100. (A “?” means a senator did not vote. If a senator cast fewer than five votes in this index, a score is not assigned.) Match numbers at the top of the chart to Senate vote descriptions on pages 49, 51, and 52.

ment Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, create multiple new federal grant programs, and prohibit the creation of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) through December 31, 2030.

The Senate passed H.R. 6644 on March 12, 2026 by a vote of 89 to 10 (Roll Call 53). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Constitution does not authorize the federal government to regulate or spend money on housing. To truly restore affordable housing, Congress must eliminate every existing federal agency, regulation, and program. Additionally, Representative Warren Davidson (R-Ohio) described the four-year CBDC ban as merely “a pre-launch development period” that would fail to actually stop its creation.

26 VA Abortion-services Rule. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) made a motion to proceed to S. J. Res. 103, which would provide for congressional disapproval of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rule related to “Reproductive Health Services” (90 Fed. Reg. 61310, December 31, 2025).

The Senate rejected Blumenthal’s motion on March 25, 2026 by a vote

of 48 to 50 (Roll Call 72). We have assigned pluses to the nays because the VA rule related to “Reproductive Health Services” lawfully excludes “abortions and abortion counseling” from the VA’s “medical benefits package.” Abortion is murder, not healthcare. No person — let alone one of our nation’s veterans or his or her family member — has a right to intentionally kill a preborn child. The right to life is a fundamental, God-given, and “unalienable” right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and secured by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the Constitution.

27 Border Security vs. Government Programs. During consideration of a budget resolution for fiscal 2026 (S. Con. Res. 33), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered an amendment to cut \$45 billion for foreign aid, \$16 billion for the Department of Education, \$5 billion for refugee programs, and \$4 billion for the National Science Foundation in order to offset a \$70 billion increase in border-security spending.

The Senate rejected Paul’s amendment on April 23, 2026 by a vote of 25 to 73 (Roll Call 99). We have assigned pluses



Protecting the homeland: Border security is a legitimate use of federal revenue.

to the yeas because most, if not all, of the money to be cut is being spent on unconstitutional programs. Such spending exacerbates the national debt while diverting resources from core constitutional functions such as protecting the states “against Invasion.”

28 DACA Amnesty. During consideration of the Secure America Act (S. 2), Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) made a motion to waive the Budget Act against a point of order raised against his amendment to redirect \$10 million in funds for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The amendment would also prohibit the use of the funds to detain or deport DACA recipients.

The Senate rejected Durbin’s motion on June 5, 2026 by a vote of 48 to 51 (Roll Call 152). We have assigned pluses to the nays because this amendment would defund federal immigration enforcement for the purpose of providing amnesty to illegal aliens.

Illegal aliens ought to be deported from the United States. Mass migration, which is an “Invasion” per the Constitution, has become the most immediate threat to America. It destroys national unity, allegiance, and sovereignty by undermining both the rule of law and the value of citizenship. “We the People” must demand secure borders, the deportation of every illegal, and a moratorium on all immigration until the crisis ends.

29 Law-enforcement Grants. During consideration of the Secure America Act (S. 2), Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) offered an amendment to redirect \$31 billion designated for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Department of Justice grants for rehiring laid-off law-enforcement officers and hiring and training additional officers for community-oriented policing.

The Senate rejected Cortez Masto’s amendment on June 5, 2026 by a vote of 45 to 53 (Roll Call 160). We have assigned pluses to the nays because Article

I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize federal involvement in domestic law enforcement. In addition to creating dependence on Washington, D.C., federal grants often come with regulations, oversight, and standardized requirements that effectively subordinate local police departments and county sheriffs to federal priorities, moving the nation closer to a nationalized police system.

30 FISA Reauthorization. Senator John Thune (R-S.D.) made a motion to proceed to S. 1318, which would extend for three years the expiration date of Title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978, including Section 702 that has been used to spy (without a warrant) on American citizens who electronically communicate with targeted foreigners.

The Senate rejected Thune’s motion on June 5, 2026 by a vote of 47 to 52 (Roll Call 164). We have assigned pluses to the nays because spying on American citizens without a warrant is an egregious violation of the Fourth Amendment. ■

FREEDOM INDEX ONLINE

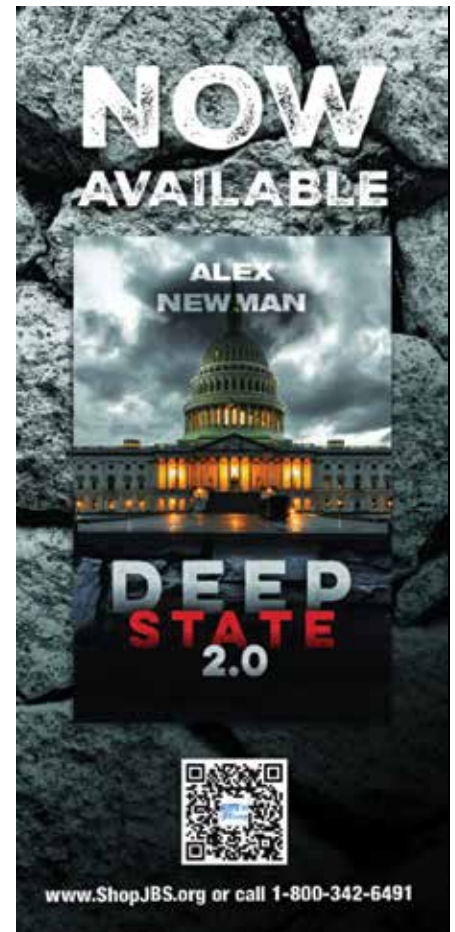
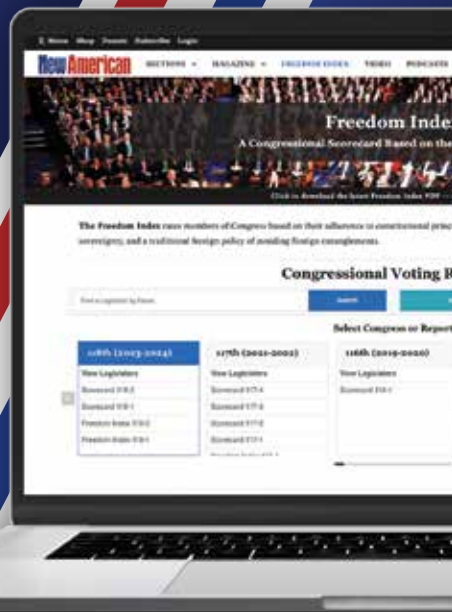
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"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Supreme Court Wins Affirm the Second Amendment

by D. Michael DeRidder

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered important decisions on the Second Amendment in a series of landmark cases this term. These rulings build on the historical-tradition test from *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), in which the Court struck down gun-control laws that contradict our Republic's founding principles.

The recent decisions reaffirm the constitutionally protected, God-given right of individuals to keep and bear arms for self-defense, and uphold the principle of an armed populace capable of protecting life and liberty.

Hawaii's "Vampire Rule" Rejected: *Wolford v. Lopez*

In *Wolford v. Lopez*, the Supreme Court struck down a Hawaii law banning concealed carry on private property open to the public (gas stations, restaurants, stores, etc.) unless the property owners expressly give permission. This default carry ban, known as the "Vampire Rule," created a de facto prohibition that severely restricted the right to bear arms in public.

Applying the *Bruen* framework, the Supreme Court held that Hawaii's carry ban violates the plain text of the Second Amendment by restricting the people from bearing arms for self-defense outside the home. The Court also maintained that the Second Amendment embodies a uniform national standard.

The Court rejected Hawaii's reliance on 18th-century anti-poaching laws and post-Civil War Black Codes as historical analogues. Responding to the latter, Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the majority opinion, "Hawaii's claim that this tainted artifact illuminates the original understanding of the right to keep and bear arms cannot be taken seriously."

Justice Amy Coney Barrett also issued a rebuke, writing in her concurring opinion, "It is beyond me why Hawaii would claim that these vile laws can justify its present-day restriction.... The Black Codes were enacted to subordinate newly freed slaves."

This decision helps ensure that citizens can exercise their right to self-defense without government-imposed obstacles. An armed citizenry fully capable of defending itself is precisely what the Founders envisioned, and what the Second Amendment protects.

Blanket Disarmament Invalidated: *United States v. Hemani*

In *United States v. Hemani*, the Supreme Court held that 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3), which prohibits firearm possession by unlawful users of controlled substances, cannot be applied to disarm individuals based solely on marijuana use without proof that the use renders them unusually dangerous.

The ruling prevents the government from disarming citizens based on personal conduct that does not match historically regulated behavior.

In a concurring opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas explained the extent of Congress' enumerated powers under the Commerce Clause, writing that it "authorizes Congress only 'to regulate the buying and selling of goods and services trafficked across state lines.'... It gives Congress no power to regulate 'activities wholly separated from business, such as gun possession.'... The power to regulate 'commerce' can by no means encompass authority over mere gun possession, any more than it empowers the Federal Government to regulate marriage, littering, or cruelty to animals, throughout the 50 States."

While the Court's decision is narrow in scope and does not strike down § 922(g)(3) in full, it reaffirms that the Second Amendment protects the right of "all Americans" to keep and bear arms, protecting them from disarmament schemes that would erode the armed citizenry essential to a free Republic.

Armed Populace: Essential to a Free State

The Supreme Court's decisions reaffirm that efforts to disarm Americans undermine the very foundation of our Republic. However, although these victories strengthen our legal position, we must remain vigilant in defending the Second Amendment and respond to every infringement as non-negotiable. As gun-control forces continue working to advance "assault weapon" bans, red-flag laws, and other schemes, we must support leaders who will stop these unconstitutional infringements before they become law.

The Second Amendment is the cornerstone of American freedom, and an armed populace is essential to protecting the Republic the Founders built for us. These Supreme Court decisions prove we can win the fight to protect our God-given rights without compromise. ■

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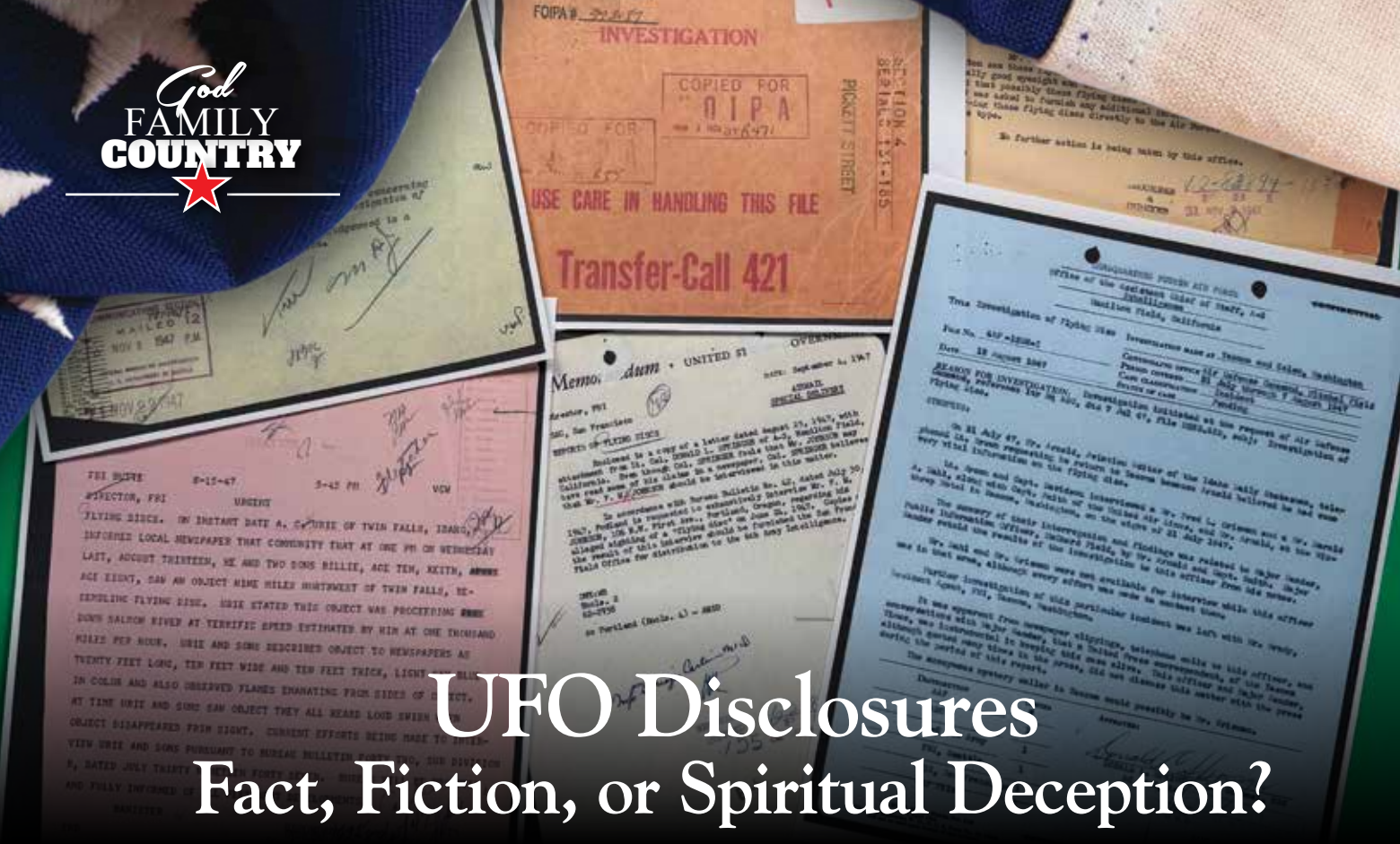


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UFO Disclosures Fact, Fiction, or Spiritual Deception?

AP Images / Jon Elswick

by Rebecca Terrell

The possibility of extraterrestrial life is moving from the realm of science fiction to the sphere of serious consideration. Why the buzz? In May, President Donald Trump ordered the public release of government files related to aliens and unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Hundreds of formerly classified government documents — eyewitness testimony, photos, and audio and video files dating back decades — are now available on the Pentagon’s website, www.war.gov/UFO/.

According to enthusiasts, these documents are just the beginning. In June, government whistleblower David Grusch repeated claims that the federal government has recovered nonhuman “biologics” and technology from crashed UFOs. During a Capitol Hill event hosted by the House Task Force on the Declassification of Federal Secrets, he also said, “During my investigation, I found slush funds to the tune of billions of dollars per annum for these activities,” prompting audit demands from federal lawmakers.

Hollywood Hoopla

Interestingly, the current release of files is playing out as anticipated in *The Age of Disclosure*, a documentary released 13 months prior to Trump’s data dump. It features U.S. officials and military personnel who claim that the federal government has been aware of alien life since about 1947 (the year of the Central Intelligence Agency’s birth). They said that various

governments worldwide have been attempting to reverse-engineer technology and materials extracted from UFO wreckage. Dan Farah, who directed the film, told *Variety* that the documentary’s title anticipated a (hypothetical) government release of classified information about aliens and UFOs. Was this a lucky guess, or was the timing tactical?

Another coincidence was the June release of Stephen Spielberg’s much touted *Disclosure Day* in theaters. He wrote it in 2023, the same year that Grusch first testified to Congress about reverse-engineered UFO technology. In a recent CBS News interview, Spielberg admitted that he “absolutely” thinks aliens “have been here, and they are here.” His story, too, is about a cataclysmic release of the government’s alien archives. Spielberg predicted that his movie will “mess up a lot of people” and make them question their “fundamental beliefs.”

Pastoral Collusion

Odd verbiage, considering an April podcast, “Beware of Deceptive Government Reports About To Be Released,” by Pentecostal evangelist Perry Stone. In it he reported that a religious associate told him about a recent meeting of federal officials and leaders of various Christian denominations.

“There were a large number of pastors that had been invited to go to a certain state to hear some men in the United States government and others,” Stone revealed. His friend told him that these officials “were telling us as pastors, ‘You need to prepare your people, and you need to get ready to answer them for what you’re about to hear being released.’”

Stone said the officials spoke of spacecrafts made of ma-

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

terials that are “not a part of our planet,” “very strange reptilian-looking creatures,” and other unnatural phenomena.

He speculated that much of the document release could be “government fabrications” to cover official crimes, or to cause apostasy among Christians. He also questioned, “Are these demons?”

Spirits of Wickedness in Heavenly Places

“Many, if not most, of these UFO sightings are, in fact, demons,” exorcist Msgr. Stephen Rossetti explained in a social-media post, “and they can do things that we can’t do.”

“The reason why this is important is because they will try to manipulate us,” he expounded, warning against dabbling in the world of aliens and UFOs. “All that sort of thing connects us with the dark world.” He called it a portal for demons to “break into the physical world.”

Even though Rossetti explained these statements as his own opinion, not *de fide* Church teaching, Cardinal Robert McElroy removed Rossetti as an exorcist in the Archdiocese of Washington, claiming that his statements “linking UFOs to demonic presence ... undermine the Church’s very precise teaching on the devil, demons and exorcism.” The announcement included no further explanation, nor did the archdiocese respond to *The New American’s* inquiries.

Why was Rossetti removed? He is far from the only religious leader to equate aliens and demons.

Canadian exorcist Father Carlos Martins told the *Daily Mail* that “modern UFO encounters, particularly alien abduction stories, often mirror the psychological and physical torment seen during cases of alleged demonic possession.” He explained that Satan can

manipulate both the physical world and human imagination, making people believe they are witnessing extraordinary phenomena, extraterrestrial life, or alien civilizations.

“What he’s done then is set up a competing account to the Christian scriptures,” Martins said, “so there’s an indirect repudiation of the truth of revelation.”

Well-known exorcist and theologian Father Chad Ripperger echoes Martins’ warnings, as does Indianapolis exorcist Father Vincent Lampert. Ohio’s Father William Jenkins went into greater detail on the podcast *What Catholics Believe*.

“I believe these are diabolical things” that can take advantage of modern man’s credulity by presenting an alien visitor as the “promised one” of all religions — the Buddhist Bodhisattva, the Mahdi of the Muslims, the Jewish Messiah, Lord Maitreya of the Theosophists, and the Christ of Christians.

“He’ll be very convincing,” Jenkins contended, “and he’s going to bring peace to the world torn by war and strife, and he’s going to be hailed by mankind as its savior.” In reality, however, “he’ll be the son of perdition. He’ll be the Antichrist ... the greatest fraud in the history of mankind.”

The Dark Side

Skeptics may chalk up such statements to religious paranoia, but the belief that aliens are demons extends beyond purely religious spheres. Internet pioneer and astronomer Jacques Vallée; alien-abduction researcher Dr. Karla Turner; Library of Congress bibliographer Lynn Catoe; John A. Keel, author of *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse*; and Dr. Pierre Guerin of the French National Council for Scientific Research are among many respected scientists and researchers who have made the connection between so-called extraterrestrials and demonic entities.

Equally worthy of note are numerous

revelations of the Deep State penchant for the occult: reports from Bohemian Grove, Epstein Island, California’s Presidio Army base, the FBI’s “Finders” investigation, and more. (For details about the decades-long government-sanctioned network of child trafficking, satanic ritual abuse, and human sacrifice, see Joachim Hagopian’s five-volume *Pedophilia & Empire: Satan, Sodomy, and the Deep State*.)

In fact, author and occultist Kenneth Grant bragged in his 1980 book *Outside the Circles of Time* that the surge of UFO reports beginning in 1947 was sparked by occult rituals carried out the previous year by the Ordo Templi Orientis, Aleister Crowley’s perverse offshoot of Freemasonry. Rocket engineer Jack Parsons and Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard served as the unholy duo who conducted the mystical ceremonies. Dubbed the “Babalon Working,” these rituals opened a gateway, Grant said, for nonhuman intelligences that only *appear* as visitors from another planet.

Disclosure vs. Discernment

Whether one accepts the demonic hypothesis, the extraterrestrial hypothesis, or neither, it is undeniable that there is now a concerted focus on UFO entities, pushed by federal officials and major media. Government disclosures, whistleblower testimonies, and media campaigns are too precisely timed to be coincidental.

Amid the hype, Christians should remember Jesus’ warning that “false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect” (Mark 13:22). As further disclosures are made, discernment — not credulity — will be essential. The greatest danger lies not in alien life, but in falling for deception when it is cloaked as enlightenment, salvation, or an angel from heaven, clothed in light. ■

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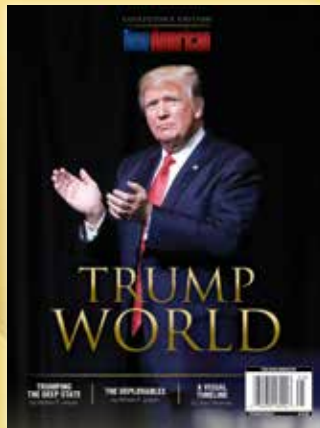
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FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

AP Images / Kyodo

American Exceptionalism ***World Cup Tourists See the Real America — and Love It!***

AT A GLANCE

- World Cup tourists had preconceived notions of America.
- Coming here, they found out they were wrong.
- America was better than they thought!

by Selwyn Duke

“I have always found Americans by far the politest people in the world,” wrote G.K. Chesterton in his 1922 book *What I Saw in America*. Admittedly, of course, much has changed in the last 100 years. What hasn’t changed, apparently, is how foreign tourists react when going beyond New York City or Washington, D.C., and seeing the real America.

They go gaga.

This was evident with FIFA World Cup visitors who traveled through our heartland. In fact, many were swooning,

Selwyn Duke has written for The New American for more than a decade. He has also written for The Hill, Observer, The American Conservative, WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.

exhibiting greater love for America than a lot of Americans do. This is a great opportunity to take stock of what a wonderful, unique country we’re blessed to have. Introducing the World Cup story, commentator Sloan Oliver wrote June 24:

In 1959, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev visited the United States. He was awed at what he saw — capitalism at work in food abundance, huge grocery store selections, self-service cafeterias, agricultural efficiency, infrastructure (roads and highways), and our entertainment. Khrushchev never sang praises of America (after all, he was a communist), but he was deeply impressed by what he saw. He was impressed because what he saw was not what he had been told — that America was ... a “stratified

society” with an oppressed working class on the brink of collapse. (Apparently, he had no self-awareness of oppression under communism.) He believed what he’d been told, but seeing America firsthand forced his beliefs to change. He witnessed America’s exceptionalism.

“Fast forward 67 years,” Oliver continues, and

hundreds of thousands of World Cup visitors are just as awed by America as was Khrushchev. Their social media postings are allowing the entire world to witness the real United States, exactly as it is — not the version long-portrayed by the leftist, Euro-America media (LEAM). The LEAM had convinced the world that the United



An Iraq fan watching the match between Iraq and Norway in Foxborough, Massachusetts

States is a racist country, populated by foreigner-hating, gun-toting bigots who seek to destroy the planet, one gas-guzzling pickup at a time. Like Khrushchev, most of these tourists are visiting for the first time and can't believe what they're seeing. They are experiencing America's exceptionalism. They're loving on America more than our Dems (which isn't hard to do). For that reason alone, I'm loving the World Cup.

As to what, specifically, so awed these visitors, well, let me count the ways. As Cuban immigrant Armando Simon stated, also June 24:

Overwhelmingly, they are blown away by the abundance of food, both in restaurants and in grocery stores, not just in amount but in variety (e.g., the dozens and dozens of varieties of coffee, or cereal, or snacks). They have been likewise overwhelmed by the size of every-

thing, from onions to sandwiches to steaks to stores to cars. They found refreshing the unashamed patriotism, evident by all the flags. The availability of fireworks to be bought by anyone was surprising. As with the wide variety of food, wildlife, and cars/trucks, they are shocked at the variety of climate, whereas they come from areas that are uniform in climate. They keep repeating how well Americans have it here — even the health-care system was praised.

Some sampled firing guns in gun ranges (but they should be careful in returning home; last year, someone who did so was arrested by the British Stasi). They openly stated that we have more freedom than they have in their country.

Visitors found that Americans welcomed them with open arms, sometimes even giving them free rides, drinks, or food.

Statistics reflect the last point, too. As

has long been reported, Americans lead the world in charitable giving. Perhaps even more tellingly, “72% of Americans help strangers and 42% of us volunteer,” related Axios in 2022. This is significant because, assuming a person has ample disposable income, giving money can be *relatively* easy. But our lives in this world are finite, and giving of yourself likely reflects even greater generosity.

I've benefited from it myself, too. I think here of the four young people in Maine who, learning that a friend and I were unsure about our route (this was in the pre-GPS days), led our car with theirs *all the way to our destination*. There's also the Pine Tree State elderly mother and grown son who let us camp overnight in their yard with our tent; we'd made their acquaintance eating dinner in their little country restaurant. And when I traveled playing amateur competitive tennis in the South at age 20, the hospitality was unrivaled. Residents in towns hosting tournaments housed *every single player* in their homes, often treating us like princes (and the pig roast the town threw for us in Elkin, North Carolina, was to die for). So I well know why Argentine writer and poet Jorge Luis Borges expressed the admiration he did for our country. “I found America the friendliest, most forgiving, and most generous nation I had ever visited,” he wrote in 1970. “We South Americans tend to think of things in terms of convenience, whereas people in the United States approach things ethically.”

We approach things with fun, too. As immigrant Yael Bar tur wrote in the *New York Post* June 15, “Bright red fire trucks. Walmart's cathedral of abundance. The miracle of free refills.” These are just a few of the American wonders World Cup tourists encountered here, she said — and they couldn't get enough. She then provided more specifics:

I've traveled the Earth, from Canada to Mexico, Old World to Third World, Africa to the Far East. All the countries I've visited have their charms, too, but there's no place like the United States.



The NYNJ World Cup 26 & Telemundo Fan Village at Rockefeller Center, New York City

AP Images / Anthony Behar / SipaUSA

“A place like this could ONLY exist in America and I LOVE it,” posted Sean from Scotland as he toured a Texas Buc-ees in abject astonishment.

“The vibes are insane!” exclaimed Freddy from Germany while road-tripping through Louisiana to New Orleans.

And Elsa from Sweden is demanding of X, “Why did no one tell me ranch sauce is like crack?”

They’re dining at Waffle House and Chick-Fil-A [sic], reporting from the front lines with unfettered joy.

They’re discovering country music and friendly strangers as they’re flooded with recommendations from locals....

Of course, many of the above are *little* things. But, as is said, the little things can make life worth living. In the least, they’re the spices that enhance life’s flavor. Moreover, a healthy, robust little-thing world reflects *having gotten the big things right*. (For example, securing a healthy market system so that people are incentivized to create luxuries large and small.) And Bar tur mentioned some of the bigger things explicitly, also telling us:

Not only is our homeland jam-packed with lovely sights (“I’m in

a place right now that’s so beautiful I’m probably about to make 50 posts about it,” raved Freddy of Alabama’s Gulf Coast), it’s also the land where we can say whatever we want, buy whatever we want and vote however we like.

Yes, we have our problems. But note here that approximately 12,000 people are arrested in Britain every year for *internet postings*. That doesn’t happen in the United States.

Learning of this unique beauty, too, some World Cup visitors were as contrite as they were content. And I’ll preface this with another relevant personal anecdote. A few years ago I had occasion to reconnect via Facebook with a relative in Europe, someone I’d spent a bit of time with as a child, but whom I haven’t seen in decades. Things began swimmingly, but when this man (who calls himself a “Green”) learned of my politics, his mood darkened. We had just a few chat conversations, and among his impressions was that if he went to a bar in Texas, he’d be beaten up for his views (you know, those “intolerant” MAGA types). I couldn’t disabuse him of that notion, either. The irony is that this fellow has never, to the best of my knowledge, even been to the United States. But that’s not necessary, you see — he watches European media.

This brings me to British World Cup fan “Oliver Henry,” posting a TikTok video *from Texas*. “We owe America a huge apology, because America is nothing like what the media tells us,” he confessed June 20. “Everyone is so friendly, everyone is so accommodating, and I’ve honestly had the best time.” The “people of Texas have been the friendliest and most accommodating people I have ever met,” he added.

In fairness, though, he did agree with my relative’s sense that he’d probably end up minus a body part or two after visiting the Lone Star State. “Part of my heart will forever stay in Texas” is how Henry put it.

Not Always Appreciated — but Never Duplicated

Despite this, recent Gallup data show that only about 41 percent of Gen Z are “extremely” or “very” proud of America. They should try living elsewhere. Oh, I get where this attitude comes from: Being a social critic, I myself often address the negative. (I had to write a “Last Word” column for *The New American* once. My editor said, “It’s 800 words — keep it positive.” My response: “Most people who know me are happy to get eight positive words, never mind 800.”) But I’ve traveled the Earth, from Canada to Mexico, Old World to Third World, Africa to the Far East. All the countries I’ve visited have their charms, too, but

there's no place like the United States. What follows are other Americana foreigners love:

- Massive food-portion sizes and free drink refills — don't complain. I doggy-bag it and get two or three meals out of some eatery orders. This all reflects a very American generosity. Coming to mind here, too, is a group of Austrian kids I coached (tennis) decades ago. While at a restaurant, an American boy present returned his meal, dissatisfied, to a very compliant waitress. One of the European lads remarked that such a thing likely wouldn't be "possible" in Austria. Generosity defines traditional Americans.

- Air conditioning everywhere — love it. Sticking to bed sheets isn't my thing.

- Ice in every drink — Europeans really do believe in global warming, especially in their beverages.

- Ubiquity of potable water — European nations don't have drinking fountains as we do. You must pay for H₂O.

- Road trips on interstates — our vast highways facilitate adventure.

- Halloween trick-or-treating.

- Twenty-four-hour diners and convenience stores.

- Drive-thrus for everything.

- National parks road-tripping — the Grand Canyon alone is larger than small European countries.

Even Better

America also has vast, wide-open spaces unknown in densely populated Western European nations. Germany has 84 million people and is about the size of Montana, which has one million. Britain's 69 million souls live in an area a smidgen smaller than Oregon, which has a 4.28-million population. And Poland's 38 million occupy an area almost as large as New Mexico, which has 2.1 million residents. You can camp in the United States and see grizzly bears and



Croatia fans enjoying Fort Worth, Texas

AP Images / Julio Cortez

mountain lions and almost get lost — it's real adventure. In most of Europe, such animals are only in zoos.

We should note here, too, Thomas Jefferson's warning. The paraphrase goes: "When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe."

(This is another reason to tamp down (im)migration. It's now the *only* source of U.S. population growth.)

Related to this, Europe is also far more regulated than the United States; it can be stifling. One example: The European Union effectively bans high-powered vacuum cleaners (over 900 watts). That really sucks, too — a lot more than your European vacuum may.

Apropos to regulation, years ago in Margaretville, New York, I saw a father and son emerging from the town's gun store. The boy, about 10, was openly carrying (legal in Delaware County) a beautiful new Ruger Mini-14 rifle. You won't see that in Europe with its strict gun control and über-statism.

Oh, no one was worried about the kid shooting up the town, either. Most American locales are actually quite safe. (Sixty-eight percent of our murders occur in just five percent of our counties. And the U.S. homicide rate is now the lowest it has been since possibly 1900.) A 17-year-old "nephew" — by affection, not blood — I was hosting four years ago remarked about this, too. After spending some time in Rye, New York, he said, visibly impressed, that he felt safer there than in Poland (where he'd long been living).

Not Just for the Rich

Lastly, I'll mention America's great infrastructure. A story: During my aforementioned travels playing tennis decades ago, I learned that accessing tennis courts could be difficult in Europe. Club membership was often necessary. In contrast, even small American towns often have courts attached to a school that anyone can use — for free. Or consider golf, once "a game

Recent Gallup data show that only about 41 percent of Gen Z are "extremely" or "very" proud of America. They should try living elsewhere.



Adidas FIFA World Cup 2026 watch party for the France vs. Norway match, Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York

AP Images / Anthony Behar / SipaUSA

for the rich.” Americans began building municipal courses back in the mid-1890s. Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, near where I grew up in the Bronx, may be the oldest extant public course in the country (opened in 1895). Note, too, that the game initially could be played *at no cost* except for a small caddie fee; this “democratized” the sport. And this illustrates how we Americans long ago made once-uncommon activities commonly available to the common man.

Going further, no other country matches our concentration and diversity of athletic facilities — e.g., baseball fields, football fields, soccer pitches, and basketball courts. The United States also has unmatched scale and geographic spread for scientific and cultural institutions, such as public libraries, theaters, opera houses, performing-arts venues, and museums. The point is that if you have a hobby, vocational aspiration, or passion, you can cultivate it in America like nowhere else.

In fairness, though, Europe itself “is kind of like a big museum,” wrote investigative journalist John Stos-

sel last year. That is, “Tourist money keeps it going,” he explained — but there’s little economic growth. How little? “Years ago, America’s economy grew neck and neck with the European Union’s,” Stossel also informed. “Then, about 15 years ago, Europe stopped growing. Today, the USA is 50% richer — even though the European Union has 100 million more people.” In fact, staggeringly, America’s poorest state, Mississippi, is richer in per-capita GDP than *most European countries*. This includes Great Britain, which just a century ago ruled the largest world empire in history.

This said, not everyone is happy about tourists’ World Cup warm fuzzies. As *The Economist* observed June 18, “The American wealth enticing holidaymakers troubles European [pseudo-]elites. America, once a peer, seems to be racing ahead.” American pseudo-elites and their supporters likewise frown. Yet we have been racing ahead — and the only ones who can stop us are ourselves.

Oh, sure, we have our problems, our

moral decline primary among them. Even here, however, perspective is warranted. We’re not China, with its panopticon aspirations, social-credit system, and one-million-plus people in concentration camps. We’re not the Muslim world, which may behead hapless souls for leaving Islam and accepts various other brutalities. We’re not Africa, with its widespread sexual violence, mass killings, ethnic targeting, mutilations, abductions, torture, and conscription of child soldiers. And we’re not Europe, with its hate-speech laws that allow you to say most everything but the Truth.

Of course, every country has something to recommend it. I found the Poles to be extremely clean, the French and Italians offer delectable cuisine, and the bread in Europe can be a meal unto itself. Nonetheless, there is no place like home when that home is America.

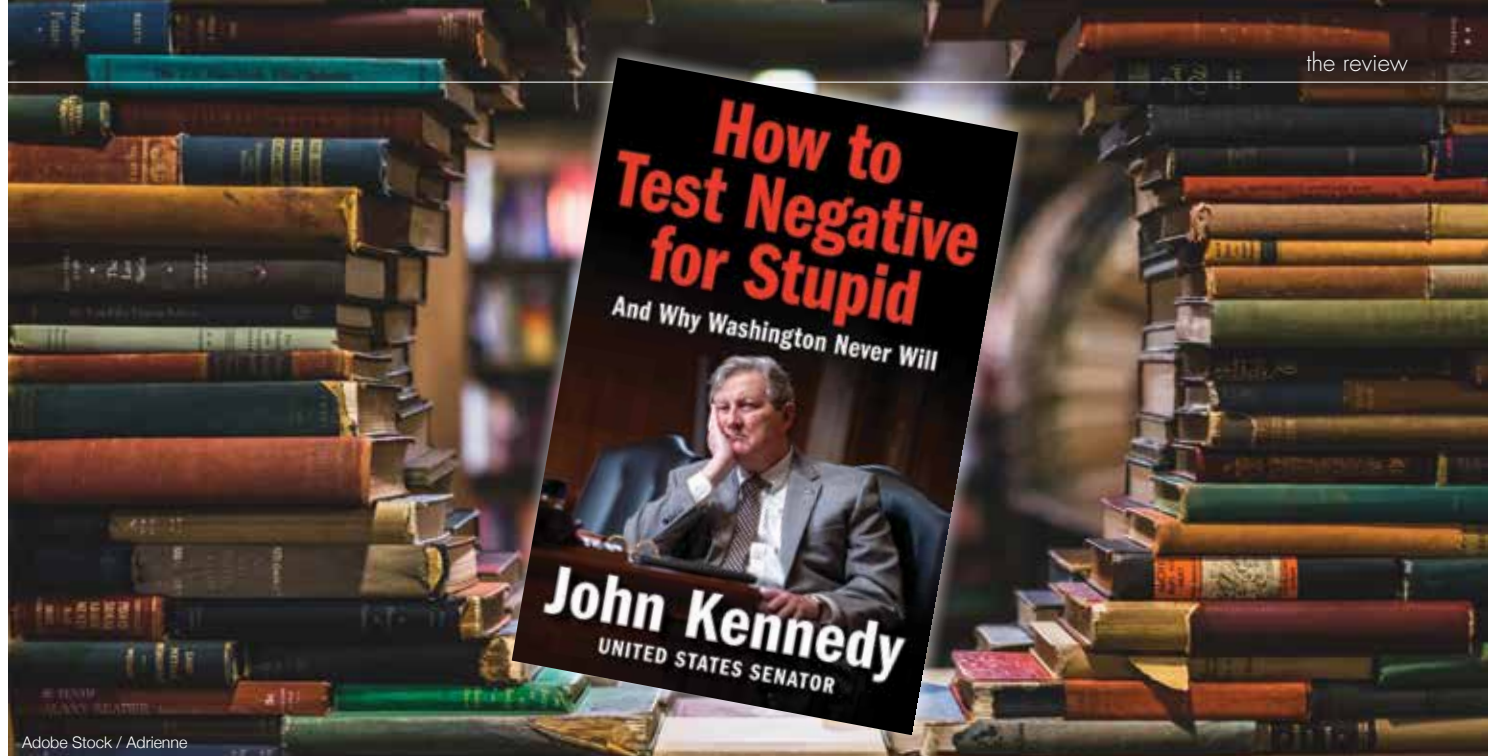
So, in conclusion, what can we say to all those people insisting we become more like the Old World? Our real challenge is to make sure we never, ever do. ■



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Cracker-barrel Common Sense

by William P. Hoar

How to Test Negative for Stupid: And Why Washington Never Will, by John Kennedy, New York: Broadside Books, 2025, 224 pages, hardcover.

If you are told a book is about politics, you might respond that you don't need stale baloney disguised as food for thought; when hearing that a volume is an autobiography, most readers don't anticipate learning a lot that is bad about the writer except his memory.

Thus, when it turns out that the specific book in question does indeed have an autobiographical, political bent, it is understandable that it might not arouse a great deal of enthusiasm.

Think twice about that: This account is like a very entertaining trip that you want to share. It is fun. And, amid the enjoyment of *How to Test Negative for Stupid: And Why Washington Never Will*, the merriment has a critical side, often punctured by the author's sharp tongue.

John Kennedy, a Republican, has served as a U.S. senator from Louisiana since 2017. He graduated from Vanderbilt University, the University of Virginia School of Law, and Oxford University (Magdalen College). He has worked at a law firm in New Orleans,

taught at law school, and worked in state government. Before being elected to the U.S. Senate, Kennedy was for years the Louisiana state treasurer. If you have viewed him serving on committees on Capitol Hill (often facing targets before panels), you recognize that he admires candor and — even though aware that this angers some — “I think I make the right people mad.”

The book's title and the reasons for the author's viewpoints evoke an observation by Napoleon: “In politics, stupidity is not a handicap.”

Simple Doesn't Mean Simple-minded

Akin to Kennedy's demeanor in Congress, his written pages — with an informal, down-home, friendly tone — seem to turn themselves. He has a conversational, colloquial style that evokes how Southerners legendarily would sit around cracker barrels swapping tales and, yes, talking about politics.

When he eventually got to D.C., he found himself in a place where you're not supposed “to say the quiet part out loud,” and where he was told by Senate colleagues that the newcomer should not “rock the boat.” Yet, as Kennedy acknowledges, that isn't his way, and he paid no heed to that advice, because “only dead fish go with the flow.”

His delivery works. A recent piece in *The Wall Street Journal* (titled “Dad Books Are a Dying Breed”) pointed to the growing disappearance of (among others) nonfiction and political books. A notable exception to that tenet was pointed specifically at Kennedy's book, which spent many, many weeks as a national bestseller after it was published. According to the publisher, it sold more than 100,000 copies across various formats during its first week on sale in the United States. It seems fit that — as the writer reveals in the epilogue — the book was drafted literally as he sat not at a desk, but at his dining-room table in Louisiana.

He does not mention if there is a cracker barrel nearby. What he does recount is how the kids visiting his Senate office in D.C. are very fond of (and stick their heads into the mouth of) a stuffed alligator named “Alphonse.” That, too, has a tale. Said gator, we're told, survived being cut open by Capitol Police upon delivery, when the authorities apparently suspected that Alphonse had a bomb within his belly.

Early Years

There's a bit of inside baseball in this chronicle about what goes on in the Senate, but that's not what you are likely to recall. After all, Kennedy divulges that

the pertinent rules read “like they were put together by a heroin addict with a socket wrench.” If you disregard how much time and effort it took Kennedy get his seat in the Senate, and the fact that he seems to have a good deal of rapport with most of his colleagues, you must give him credit for admitting that “Congress as an institution is about as popular as chlamydia.”

One suspects that current Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) might not be one of Kennedy’s closest buddies. While this book doesn’t generally identify elected officials completely, Kennedy does point fingers at a few congressional folks by name. Chuck, we learn, is not particularly exciting in person. Yet, when Schumer “cuts loose,” he “is like a five-year-old in Batman costume on a sugar high,” if you can turn a blind eye to the fact that he usually reads from a script.

There’s less about major Senate battles than you might expect. That said, the anecdotal narrative makes up for that by recounting the author’s life before Washington in an engaging fashion. There is a figurative pat on the back for his family, including his brothers. (“Four Kennedy brothers have a total of nine undergraduate and graduate degrees among them.”)

Here’s a bit from the spiritual side. Growing up in a small town (with one stop sign), the Kennedy family attended a Presbyterian church that his parents had helped start. With his typical up-front manner, he writes, “I learned all the hymns and I came to know the Bible front to back. Despite spending so much time in church, where I was taught to turn the other cheek, one of the lessons I learned growing up was that you can’t always do that.”

Apparently deploying an ersatz “proverb” of his own, Kennedy puts it candidly: “If you turn the other cheek to the wrong person, you just get it in the neck.”

The chapters about his early years, then his time at several colleges, are entertaining. Before college — and some of us can identify with aspects of this — we see the future senator and his fellow cool letterman-jacket-wearing buddies gathering at Zachary’s Tastee Freez, to “spit, cuss, talk, brag, and tell each other lies.”

After a successful year at Louisiana

Tech, Kennedy transferred to Vanderbilt in Nashville. There’s a bit about that, but the author says he will spare us most of the “tier-one dumb things” he did there. At the University of Virginia School of Law, he finished close to the top of his class and earned “a position as a judicial law clerk for a federal judge in Louisiana.” He was not through with academia, subsequently heading to Oxford (which he reputedly liked much more than law school, despite its heavy academic load). There seemed to be some aspects that Kennedy found difficult to stomach, though: The dining hall at Oxford’s Magdalen College was “architecturally majestic, but the food tastes like fiberboard marinated in fishbowl water.”

Eventually he got a job at a law firm in New Orleans; that was interrupted when he picked up a position with Governor Buddy Roemer. The chapter (“My First Job in Government”) involves his time running around the Louisiana Capitol (called a “cross between the game room in a mental hospital and a prison riot”). Yet, apparently, that was what he found appealing. Go figure. (Elsewhere, per Kennedy: “If you trust government, you obviously failed history class.”)

This zippy read supplies more than a nibble about the state of Louisiana. What other governmental/humorous books about the Bayou State jump out at you? For this reviewer, top contenders include Robert Penn Warren’s *All the King’s Men* (loosely inspired by Governor and Senator Huey P. Long) and the hilarious novel by John Kennedy Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*. Put this one in their company. It won’t be featured in long lectures of leaden literature, but perceptive consumers will gobble it up.

Advice, Consent, Talk Smack

Over time, there were some personal political campaigns, and the importance of raising money is driven home. In the author’s unsuccessful attempt to become state attorney general, a charming would-be contributor (who is named) is asked by Kennedy for the maximum amount allowed legally. The response: “Kennedy, I will not send you money to run for office. I will, however, send you five thousand dollars to see a psychiatrist.”

By then, the author had become enamored with politics. After serving for almost four years as the secretary of the Department of Finance, Kennedy ran (successfully) for Louisiana’s state treasurer, a position he held between 2000 and 2017.

There’s also a revealing chapter centered on Kennedy’s experience as a volunteer public school teacher, which certainly opened his eyes. (He has pushed both the Louisiana Legislature and the U.S. Congress to require members to substitute at least once a year in public school — moves that failed, but which he still promotes.) The job, as the writer stresses, is a difficult one. “Even the most experienced teachers,” he says, “finish the day feeling like the double in a John Wick movie.”

There is, as you have probably guessed, no shortage of similes and metaphors — usually leaving readers as happy as a puppy dog with two tails.

Not surprisingly, the author does not demand more “multicultural specialists” in schools. He does want a goodly amount of reading, math, science, and history. And homework. You will not be astonished at this: If the kid doesn’t pass, he doesn’t get promoted. In Kennedy-world, such schools would be assisted by principals who “should be a cross between Socrates and Dirty Harry.”

Pages fly by. There is a tangent about a character called (by some) Senator Meatball and (by many others) Senator Jimmy Piersall, after the Major League Baseball player.

Our turn; our tangent: As good as the book is, it could use some fact-checking (which now seems to be a lost art in most publishing houses). A throwaway Kennedy line identifies Piersall as a guy “who liked to run the bases backward.” He’s not the first to say something like that. But Piersall (who did have mental issues that probably would today be identified as bipolar) only once “ran the bases backward,” just as he had promised he would do if he ever hit his 100th major-league home run. He did that while playing for the last-place New York Mets in 1963 — trotting backward (but not, as some suggest, running the bases out of order).

As it happens, Piersall was a superb



John Kennedy

AP Images / Amy Harris / Invision

defensive player in the majors between 1950 and 1967. He was also one of my favorites when he played for the Boston Red Sox, usually as a center fielder. When I was a youngster, we usually sat in Fenway Park's nearby bleachers. The fans in the cheap seats (costing 50 cents, as I recall, before a huge hike to 75 cents) loved to interact with #37. In my mind's eye, I see him laughing with us (and at himself) about his well-publicized aberrant problems (described in a book and an off-base movie called *Fear Strikes Out*). Between innings, he often threw baseballs to delighted young fans — decades before that practice became popularized.

In itself, the flawed allusion is not a big deal. However, there are a few more minor-league misplays in the otherwise delightful book, such as when the senator dramatically corrects — *incorrectly* — a witness about the specific percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It's not the book's cited wrong decimal point that really counts. Yet, it would be an improvement if such slips were fixed in another edition; yep, that's a tip for Broadside Books.

Be that as it may, there are many more positive examples that reinforce Kennedy's reputation for being the most quotable senator in the country. Here's one that took place when FBI Director Kash Patel was looking into the Russian collusion hoax that was deployed against

President Donald Trump and questioned by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee: Some Democrats sneered at Patel as a "conspiracy theorist." The Louisiana senator, not siding with those colluding and after examining the facts, commented to the witness: "Sounds to me like we need to get some new conspiracy theories because all the old ones turned out to be true."

Speed Round

The lawmaker's dealings with various Senate colleagues and with both Democratic and Republican administrations are highlighted. And, as you might imagine, they are also contrasted. In several spots, the senator cites his independent stances. And that is not in dispute.

Still, when he talks about the "weenie-wokers" in and about a certain administration, you can bet that it is Joe Biden's people being verbally spanked. When discussing border protection differences between Biden and Trump officials, the senator recounts his own visit to our southern border, pointing out that when Biden was in the White House, "we were letting in illegal immigrants at a clip of nine thousand people per day. That's not a border — that's a welcome mat with no vetting."

As the book approaches its end, one gets the feeling that the senator had a lot of notes left that he still wanted to share. They appear in a chapter dubbed

"Speed Round." Immigration is one topic addressed. Here are others: The Media, Crime, China, and Transgender Americans and Women's Sports.

In a section on "Race," he bemoans how everything these days seems to be "racist." At some point, writes the Louisianan, we stopped "using our past as a compass and started using it as a battleground."

We have gone, in Kennedy's words, "from learning about history to lashing out at it. Some people now think the answer to our problems is tearing down every statue of anyone who said or did something we no longer agree with. By that logic, there won't be any statues left."

Even supporting school choice is supposed to be "racist." Yet, as Kennedy says, far too many "inner-city schools are failure factories."

On related matters, the senator sounds kindred with the incisive analyses of the brilliant scholar, economist, and author Thomas Sowell. That professor has long stressed (see, for one example, *The Quest for Cosmic Justice*, 1999) how during the era of slavery, and for generations thereafter, most black children were raised in two-parent families. Even when blacks were a generation out of slavery, the rate of "black marriage in the black population of the United States was slightly *higher* than that of the white population," Sowell wrote.

Kennedy's book similarly points to how, in the 1960s, two-thirds of black children lived with their mother and father. Today, it is down to one-third. "And it's not just a black problem. Half of all American children are born to single mothers.... That's not about race. That's about culture, and the collapse of family formation. That's about what happens when we reward brokenness and punish responsibility," he added.

Yes, Kennedy believes in "equality." He also insists: "You don't fix past discrimination with present discrimination." Doing that, in the author's often blunt, yet penetrating, reasoning, is "just doubling down on stupid."

Kennedy does a lot, but he doesn't do stupid very well. In conclusion, here is what he leaves us with: Let's go fix something. ■

Are We Losing Our National Identity?

by Rebecca Terrell

This July 4, the United States commemorated its semiquincentennial. We marked our nation's 250th birthday in Washington, D.C., with the largest fireworks display in history, and buried a congressionally mandated time capsule at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, to be opened on the nation's quincentennial in 2276.

It is indeed an achievement for any country to have survived the past 250 years amid the constant flux of nation-state formation and destruction, imperial expansion since the Napoleonic era, world war devastation, and the spread of communism across the globe. However, the United States now faces unprecedented challenges brought on not just by declining birth rates or open borders. Our own U.S. Supreme Court — nine justices appointed for life with zero accountability to the American people — has redefined what it means to be American.

The June 30 SCOTUS decision in *Trump v. Barbara* defines citizenship loosely. In a 6-3 ruling, the justices rejected President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to limit birthright citizenship. The Court chose to ignore the purpose of the 14th Amendment, which was to give legal status to freed slaves. It deliberately brushed aside Michigan Republican Senator Jacob Howard, the author of the amendment, who said during congressional debate in 1866 that it wasn't to be applied to the children of foreigners: "This will not, of course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens, who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers accredited to the Government of the United States."

SCOTUS has instead entrenched a shift from America as a historic nation, rooted in blood, soil, shared heritage, language, and culture, to an economic zone based on competing ideas. Citizenship becomes detached from a distinct people and tied instead to mere presence on the soil (with or without actual ideological subscription). It incentivizes birth tourism, strains resources, and dilutes the cultural cohesion essential for self-government. Emphasizing a pluralistic society erases a shared heritage and fractures our Founders' vision.

True patriots want cohesion; look at the local and grassroots events that marked this year's Independence Day celebrations. They honored a shared cultural memory, Revo-



lutionary heritage, and traditional patriotism. "America 250" isn't possible against a multicultural backdrop splintered by protests, competing backgrounds, and politicized programming.

We cannot, however, blame everything on the SCOTUS decision. Hedonism is the underlying infection. British historian Sir John Glubb's 1976 essay "The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival" offers a sobering historical parallel. Glubb examined empires

across 3,000 years and identified a recurring approximately 250-year cycle of rise and decline, spanning roughly 10 generations: pioneers/outburst, conquest, commerce, affluence, intellect, and decadence. Decadence features defensiveness, pessimism, materialism, frivolity, and a heavy influx of foreigners who do not fully assimilate.

Benjamin Franklin tersely issued a warning against decadence when asked, at the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" He answered, "A republic, if you can keep it." If there is any doubt that he was warning at least in part against moral decline, consider what he wrote earlier the same year in a letter to the Abbés Chalut and Arnaud: "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

One of the framers of the U.S. Constitution and our nation's second president, John Adams, confirmed Franklin's sentiments in a 1798 letter to officers of the Massachusetts militia: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other."

Are these descriptives of the average American today? Will the countrymen who open our time capsule in 2276 have any likeness whatsoever to us or to our Founding Fathers? These are sobering questions as we reach Glubb's 250-year mark, for the historic pattern he discovered warns that internal moral and cultural erosion, often masked by wealth and intellectualism, precedes collapse more certainly than even external conquest.

Whether America succumbs or renews itself depends on recommitting to the limited-government republic, cultural continuity, and sovereignty the Founders envisioned, and especially to the Christian principles of self-control and self-sacrifice that made our nation great. ■

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