



Written by [Rebecca Terrell](#) on January 24, 2023

Published in the February 13, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 03

Snatching Victory From the Jaws of Defeat: One Woman's Quest to Save Our Republic

If you passed Janice Daniels on the street in her hometown of Troy, Michigan, you would think she was just another average American, and she would likely agree. A real-estate agent by trade and a mother by calling, she is nonetheless a die-hard constitutionalist who was once thrust into the national spotlight because of her strict adherence to godly principles.

More than a decade ago, Daniels was mayor-elect of Troy when -MSNBC's Keith Olbermann labeled her the "Second-worst Person in the World" — second only to Adolf Hitler. He warned, "Her odds of completing two months in office are declining." The prediction was slightly off on timing, but evocatively prescient.

Daniels' term began in January of 2012. "That was a very interesting time in my life," she told *The New American*. "I had always been interested in political theory and issues, but I never wanted to be in office."



Patriotic vigilance: Janice Daniels won the November 2011 election for mayor of Troy, Michigan. For her defense of traditional marriage and the rule of law, opponents ousted her in a recall election the following November. (Courtesy of Janice Daniels)

However, three years earlier her radical mayor and leftist city council were trying to pass a tax increase using what she described as scare tactics. "They were going to shut down our library, fire police officers, close the nature center and historical museum, and we were supposedly going to lose our bond rating."

Thanks to one conservative on the council, local grassroots activists knew the true (stable) financial situation. Daniels accompanied a group of them to a city council meeting to provide moral support, and unexpectedly ended up speaking during open forum. She called out council members for their deceptive tactics.

Locals admired her courage and determination, and they asked her to be one of their regular spokesmen at city council meetings. She accepted.



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Officials eventually passed the tax increase after three ballot attempts, but Daniels' reputation as a government watchdog made her the clear choice to run against the leftist mayor in the next election. A hard-fought campaign landed her the win, to the shock and chagrin of opponents.

"One woman was heard saying, 'We will get rid of her as soon as we can,' at my swearing-in ceremony," Daniels recalls. "They already hated me because I had been effective as a speaker against the tax increase."

Indeed, they had launched their assault even before inauguration day, digging up fodder on her Facebook page for a smear campaign. "Unfortunately, four months before I decided to run for mayor, the New York legislature had just legalized same-sex marriage. I was up late and feeling snarky, so I posted a message that said, 'I guess I have to throw away my I Love New York carrying bag now that queers can get married there.'"

Media pounced, and the story made national headlines. Riding the wave of celebrity, teens at Troy High School who had formed a Gay-Straight Alliance requested a meeting, during which they pressed Daniels to speak at one of their upcoming events. Her response was gracious but steadfast: "If I do, I'm not sure that any of you will be satisfied.... I will bring in psychiatrists who will tell you that the homosexual lifestyle is dangerous."

That comment added fuel to the fiery public campaign to demand her resignation, which quickly morphed into a "Recall Mayor Daniels" petition drive. "They wanted me to change my mind. They wanted me to march in their parade, and I would not bend because I can't. I love God, and I love the Bible. I love the family that God has created: man, woman, child."

But her moral stand against sodomy was not the only issue stirring the liberal hornet's nest. "I wanted to reconfigure things so that the people tell the government what to do, instead of the other way around. The hierarchy is supposed to be God, then man, then government. Everything I did was with an eye for liberty."

So naturally she opposed accepting a multimillion-dollar federal grant to build a transit center in Troy, a city which she says has an infrastructure incapable of supporting such a project. Nor did she think it needed a fast train to Chicago.

Moreover, at least a year before her election, the city became embroiled in a lawsuit about ownership of the land intended for the transit center. Against her wishes as mayor and professional counsel as a real-estate agent, Troy proceeded to build the \$7 million center, and then lost the lawsuit, adding an additional \$4 million to the cost of the boondoggle.

Today it is located behind a shopping center, with no direct access to the stores and hidden from public view, says Daniels. "It looks like a prison — stark and gray," besides being poorly built. "I visited the center one cold afternoon recently and saw that the lobby was being used as a hangout for homeless people. A friend of mine told me I should get a bumper sticker that says, 'I told you so.'"

She can joke about it now. But at the time it was very serious, and her enemies used it against her. In a position paper she wrote on the topic while still in office, Daniels expressed no confidence in the city manager and referred to the Troy City Charter as a "whimsical document," subject to the vagaries of whoever happens to be in charge at any given time. (Incidentally, that was her reason for refusing to swear support of it at her inauguration, instead swearing an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution and



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the Michigan State Constitution.)

Predictably, media framed her as a homophobic embarrassment who had attacked city management, held the charter in contempt, and tried to stonewall federal grant money. She was called a moron, a troublemaker, and was even accused of stealing recall campaign signs. “If I didn’t know me, and I only read what the media said about me for a solid year, I wouldn’t have liked me either,” stated Daniels.

Her rivals won the recall election 12 months after her original campaign victory. The matter should have been settled in a special election, but Daniels noticed that the city attorney stalled just long enough to place the issue on the November ballot, which included Obama’s second presidential run. “There was also a school tax increase on that ballot, and they knew liberal voters would show up. They would have a better chance at defeating me,” she said. A mere 52 percent majority ousted her from office.

It’s important to note that none of the recall arguments against her dealt with illegal or corrupt behavior. In fact, if she had broken the law, she could have been removed from office without a recall election. As Michigan radio commentator Charles Brown pointed out at the time, there was no analogous action against the mayors of San Francisco (Ed Lee), Chicago (Rahm Emanuel), or Boston (Tom Menino) for illicitly threatening to block Chick-fil-A franchise openings after company president Dan Cathy expressed his support of traditional marriage on a nationally syndicated radio program. The leftist agenda was duplicitous and bald-faced.

Following her unjust defeat, Daniels says, “I was devastated. I was so unhappy.” She had “truly loved being the mayor of Troy,” finding the role “interesting, fulfilling, and challenging.” She considered herself an ambassador for the city and regularly walked residential streets, knocking on doors to get input from private citizens. A camera crew from the *Detroit Free Press* accompanied her on one such outing, planning a story promoting her excellence in public service. That was before her Facebook comment hit headlines. Afterwards, the “feel-good story” never made it to print, and a year of character assassination and abuse began.

After her recall, she felt paranoid to be in public, wondering what people around her were thinking. “For two years I hibernated. And then I said to myself, ‘If you don’t get back out there and use your God-given talents to fight the big-government push, they’ve really won.’ And here I am today, stronger than ever because I have knowledge of what it’s like on the inside.”



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Transit boondoggle: Once leftist opponents succeeded in ousting Troy, Michigan, Mayor Janice Daniels, the city accepted a federal grant to build this transit center, which she opposed. It has since cost the city millions. (Courtesy of Janice Daniels)

Now she immerses herself in work as a member of The John Birch Society (JBS), because in her opinion it is the only national organization that shares her unwavering dedication to godly, constitutional government. The statewide grassroots group Michigan Conservative Union (MCU) likewise espouses that platform, led by JBS member Linda Wildern. The two ladies travel the state warning fellow citizens about the dangers of an Article V Convention, whereby enemies of the U.S. Constitution propose to replace it with godless, tyrannical government.

“These men and women shouldn’t be able to change the Constitution, as if existing law doesn’t mean anything,” notes Daniels. By following the Constitution as it was originally written “we would have a much better government and the individual liberty that God wants us to have. That’s exactly what the Constitution is written to do: rein in the government!”

The anti-Article V Convention issue is one of several legislative agenda items that Daniels has established for MCU, taking most of her cues from “the JBS template.” These include defense of the Second Amendment, support of an “education exodus” from public schools, reining in the federal government to its proper constitutional bounds, and judicial accountability. Mike Lindell’s Frank Speech website features some of the compelling videos that Daniels and her associate Jody White have recorded about these issues.

Election integrity is an ongoing issue as well, crucial because of the threat that stolen elections pose to the Constitution. A couple of years ago Daniels was one of three co-founders of Michigan’s Election Integrity Fund and Force, which they established to find out the truth of what happened in the 2020 election.

“We discovered that our qualified voter files were being manipulated at the secretary of state level,”



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she relates. "Several of us went to Republican State Senator Ed McBroom's office. He's the guy that chaired the committee that wrote the report that really crippled our ability to get a forensic audit."

Published in June 2021, the Oversight Committee's *Report on the November 2020 Election in Michigan* asserted that the election was "accurately represented by the certified and audited results." In his press release announcing the findings, Senator McBroom added, "If genuine issues arise from continued investigation, I will not hesitate to ask the committee to consider recommending an audit or amending this report in the future."

It was an empty promise, for when Daniels and her fellow investigators presented him with proof of their claims, "he sat there and stared at us," she remembers. "He did not want to hear it." Nor did he follow up.

Daniels also met with the chair of the Elections and Ethics Committee in the Michigan State House, Republican Ann Bollin. She showed Bollin the same evidence and asked, "Are you going to help me do anything? Are you going to get us a House hearing so that people can understand what's happening?"

"No, I'm not looking back," came Bollin's canned response. "I'm looking forward."

Daniels finds it interesting that McBroom and Bollin both solidly won their midterm reelections in a state where media gloat that the anticipated red wave gave way to a blue tsunami. "They don't want to find election fraud, maybe because they benefit from it," posits Daniels. "When you're not willing to have an investigation, is it any wonder that people suspect you're benefiting from it?"

She sees election fraud handing her state over to globalists who seek to undermine the Constitution and replace it with tyrannical world government. "The globalists have had their eye on Michigan for a very long time," she warns. "I have long been saying we are a target, and we're seeing that come to fruition now. Our governor is a hard-core leftist, as are the attorney general and secretary of state. We now have a majority Democrat legislature, and the judiciary is majority Democrat."

That sea of blue has sent up a red flag that Daniels says "scares the heck out of me": Detroit's new Global Centre for Urban Transformation, established by Klaus Schwab's World Economic Forum (WEF). As the site of the organization's international headquarters, Detroit is intended to provide "a model for more inclusive and sustainable urban development," according to WEF's website.

Detroit — where population has been in steep decline for more than 60 years, the poverty rate is greater than 33 percent, urban blight disfigures the metropolitan area, record crime rates make it one of the most dangerous cities in the world, and economic decline ushered in the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, according to World Population Review.

Many credit 60 years of Democratic leadership for Detroit's disastrous résumé, but it is also probably what makes the city so attractive to WEF. After all, "urban transformation" and "sustainable development" are code words for depopulation, poverty, and government seizure of private property on the pretext of saving Mother Earth from man-made climate change.

Such globalist plans are clearly delineated in Agenda 2030, a document adopted unanimously in 2015 by UN member states and promoted by WEF. It contains 17 "sustainable development" goals that embody a "universal ... supremely ambitious and transformational vision" of "unprecedented scope and significance."

The scheme involves dictatorial control over every aspect of life, or, as WEF promises in its video 8



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Predictions for the World in 2030: "You'll own nothing. And you'll be happy."

Like any freedom-loving American, Daniels sees that as the description of a hellish dystopia, diametrically opposed to the nation she loves, which acknowledges God-given rights protected from government intrusion by the U.S. Constitution.

"If we educate enough of the American people about the strength of God, of the Constitution, of the foundations of this country, we will have a renaissance," she says. Hers is the same vision of Robert Welch and the reason he founded The John Birch Society more than 60 years ago.

It is Birch members such as Daniels who carry the torch he first lit, so her current work is even more important to the preservation of Americans' liberties than was her brief mayoral career. Even so, how blessed the country would be if more elected officials espoused her dedication to virtue and just law.

Since we need more like her, would she perhaps ever think about running again?

"The only way I would ever run for public office again would be if the constitutionally protected 'free press' were compelled to be a 'fair press,'" Daniels quips. "I don't see that happening any time soon, so the short answer is No."



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