

NEWSLETTER

Coming to You from the Left Side of the House and the Senate

BIDEN-HARRIS WIN



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2020-2021

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DCWC Newsletter

Following an election night of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear, Democrats across the nation faced continuing uncertainty, anxiety, and fear until the Saturday after Election Day 2020 when the election was called for President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris. When the count of mail-in ballots began to foreshadow the ultimate victory for the Biden-Harris ticket, huge sighs of relief moved in a wave across the country. Citizen-voters actually did dance in the streets of America in celebration of the defeat of Donald Trump and the victory of Joe Biden. As of November 21, Biden's tally stands at 51.1% of the vote, Trump's at 47.2% of the vote. (Biden: 79,693,166; Trump: 73,707,544)

The election is historic in a number of ways. Biden has amassed more votes than any other candidate in a presidential election. Voter turnout was far above what is typical, a low percentage we have come to accept. Many demographic groups that often do not cast ballots, did this year, notably Native Americans. A Native American woman may be the first of our indigenous people nominated to a cabinet position. Kamala Harris is the first woman to be elected to the second highest office in the nation, Vice-President.

That Trump refuses to concede is allowing him to keep himself in the spotlight and to take from us, all U.S. citizens, the space, the bandwidth, to truly process the results of one of the most historic elections in our nation's history.



A Message from Your President

Tom Butler, DCWC President



Greetings Fellow Democrats,

Well, November has been a very riveting month. It started off with Election Day, which turned into Election Month. Since Election Day there have been dozens of lawsuits filed by Republicans in several battleground states – none have had any consequence on the election. On election night the club held a watch party at the Dunes Manner Hotel. It was a great event in the large ballroom with everyone social distancing. Although the evening was anticlimactic, everyone seemed to enjoy getting together having a good time.

Our monthly meeting was held on the 19th due to Thanksgiving. The guest speaker was Mr. Philip Forster. He has been involved in Maryland politics for many years. He was the team leader for the Eastern Shore for the Biden Campaign and a delegate to the 2020 Democratic Convention. He told us interesting and enlightening anecdotes about the campaign and election. The discussion was informative and quite lively. We even had a special guest stop by (virtually speaking, of course). Former Maryland Senator Jim Mathias added significant color to the discussion with his commentary.

Also, during this meeting we held the election of Board of Directors were for next year. They are: President – Vicky Wallace, Vice-President – Don Grace, Secretary – Larry Batis, Treasurer – Jan Nissan-Hawkins, and At Large – Charles Tarr, Francis Fox, and Tom Weiland. Congratulations to all. Here's to a successful, productive, and great year.

There will be no general membership meeting of the DCWC in December. The next club meeting will be January 28th. It, too, will be a virtual meeting. Hopefully, in late winter or early spring, the club will go back to regular meeting. It will be up the board to make that determination considering conditions with the pandemic.

As I will no longer be club president, this will be my last message to you. It has been my privilege to be your president. Even with the difficult circumstances we have had this year, the club has grown in membership, increased our revenue, and had many noteworthy guest speakers on a variety of topics. Even though, since April, all meetings have been virtual, all our Zoom meetings have been will attended, averaging 25 to 30 club members each meeting. I have been very fortunate to have had a dedicated and supportive board this year.



Thank you to all. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Be Safe.

Tom

It's All Come Down to Georgia



Jon Ossoff



Reverend Raphael Warnock

Control of the United States Senate will be decided in the state of Georgia on January 5th. If both Democratic candidates win election to the Senate, there will be 50 Republican Senators and 50 Democratic Senators. Vice-President Harris will be the tie-breaking vote, thus giving control of the Senate to the Democrats.

Jon Ossoff is a media executive, an investigative journalist, and a small business owner. He earned a B.S. from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Master's of Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He served as a national security aide to Georgia Congressman Hank Johnson. He left that position to become CEO of TWI Media, a media production company that investigates corruption, organized crime, and war crimes for international news organizations. TWI Media has won awards for its documentary work covering issues such as sexual slavery of girls and women by ISIS.

Visit election.com to learn more and to make a donation to his campaign.

Reverend Raphael Warnock is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s church. When he was called to serve there as minister, he became the youngest pastor to serve in that position. Born in Savannah, Georgia, one of eleven children, he grew up in public housing. With the help of Pell Grants, he was able to afford a college education at Morehouse College. He went on to earn his Ph.D. and was ordained as a Baptist minister. His experience as the child of hard-working parents, his father a veteran and a preacher, he knows the struggles of too many American communities. His primary focus is on affordable healthcare for all Americans.

VISIT warnockforgeorgia.com to learn more

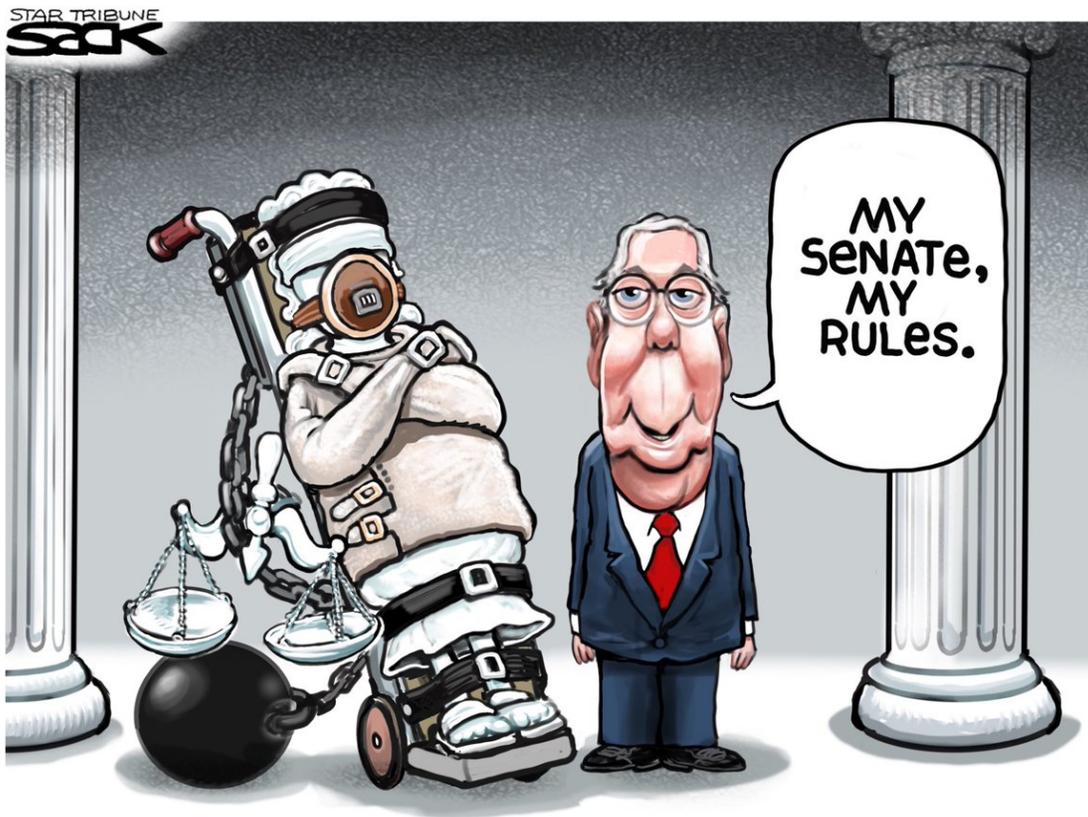
If Georgia's Not On Your Mind, It Should Be

Make a donation, no matter how big or how small, to the campaigns of Jon Ossoff and Reverend Warnock.

The run-off election is January 5th. Big money donors are already rushing to support the Republican incumbents and incumbents can be difficult to beat even when they have their seat through a political appointment, like Kelly Loeffler.

Jon Ossoff and Reverend Warnock need our help.

Visit electjon.com and warnockforgeorgia.com.



Can President Donald Trump Pardon Himself?

By Steve Cohen

The Power to Pardon in the Constitution

Presidents are granted the authority to issue pardons in Article II, Section 2, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution. The clause reads:

“The President . . . shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States except in Cases of Impeachment.”

Take note of two key phrases in that clause. The first key phrase limits the use of pardons “for offenses against the United States.” The second key phrase states that a president can’t issue a pardon “in cases of impeachment.”

Those two caveats in the Constitution place some limitations on the president’s power to pardon. The bottom line is that if a president commits a “high crime or misdemeanor” and is impeached, he can’t pardon himself. He also cannot pardon himself in private civil or criminal cases. His authority extends only to federal charges.

Take note of the word “grant.” Typically, the word means one person gives something to another. Under that meaning, a president can give someone else a pardon, but not himself.

Two Views on Self-Pardoning

Yes, the President Can Pardon Himself

Some scholars argue that the president can pardon himself in some circumstances because, and this is a key point, the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit it. That is considered by some to be the strongest argument that a president has the authority to pardon himself.

In 1974, as President Richard M. Nixon was facing certain impeachment, he explored the idea of issuing a pardon to himself and then resigning. Nixon’s lawyers prepared a memo stating such a move would be legal. The president decided against a pardon, which would have been politically disastrous, but resigned anyway.

He was later pardoned by President Gerald Ford. “Although I respected the tenet that no man should be above the law, public policy demanded that I put Nixon and Watergate behind us as quickly as possible,” Ford said.

In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a president can issue a pardon even before charges have been filed. The high court stated that pardon power (*continued on page 6.*)

Can President Trump Pardon Himself? *(Continued from page 5.)*

“extends to every offense known to the law, and may be exercised at any time after its commission, either before legal proceedings are taken or during their pendency, or after conviction and judgment.”

No, the President Can't Pardon Himself

Most scholars argue, however, that presidents cannot pardon themselves. More to the point, even if they were, such a move would be incredibly risky and likely to ignite a constitutional crisis in the United States.

Jonathan Turley, a professor of public interest law at George Washington University, wrote in the *Washington Post*: “Such an act would make the White House look like the Badda-Bing Club. After a self-pardon, Trump could wipe out the Islamic State, trigger an economic golden age, and solve global warming with a carbon-catching border wall, and no one would notice. He would simply go down in history as the man who not only pardoned his family members but himself.”

Michigan State University law professor Brian C. Kalt, writing in his 1997 paper “Pardon Me: The Constitutional Case Against Presidential Self-Pardons,” stated that a presidential self-pardon would not hold up in any court.

“An attempted self-pardon would likely undermine the public’s confidence in the presidency and the Constitution. A potential meltdown of such magnitude would be no time to begin legalistic discussion; the political facts of the moment would distort our considered legal judgment. Looking at the question from a cooler vantage point, the intent of the Framers, the words and themes of the Constitution they created, and the wisdom of the judges that have interpreted it all point to the same conclusion: Presidents can not pardon themselves.”

The courts would likely follow the principle stated by James Madison in the Federalist Papers. “No man,” Madison wrote, “is allowed to be a judge in his own cause, because his interest would certainly bias his judgment, and, not improbably, *(Continued on page 7.)*

Can President Trump Pardon Himself? *(Continued from page 6.)*

corrupt his integrity.”

The Constitution places few restrictions on who presidents can pardon, including their relatives and spouses.

Historically, the courts have interpreted the Constitution as giving the president virtually unlimited power to issue pardons to individuals and groups. However, presidents can only grant pardons for violations of federal laws. In addition, a presidential pardon only provides immunity from federal prosecution. It does not provide protection from civil lawsuits.

Senator Mitch McConnell states that President Trump is well within his rights to contest the Presidential election on unsubstantiated rumors of fraud. So that means to me that the New York District Attorney's office will be well within its rights in seeking jail time for Trump, when he is a private citizen, for well substantiated facts about his lawless acts. Right? I mean, "No US citizen is above the law, Mitch." Right?

GERANIUM SALE

Sponsored by the DCWC of Ocean Pines, Maryland



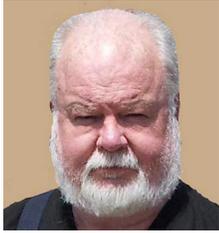
Pre-Order with Pick-up Monday, May 8th, 2021

\$6 per pot. Choose red, white, bright pink, cherry, rose, salmon, lavender, blue, or watermelon.

Send your order to Harriet Batis at 38032 Bayview Circle West, Selbyville, DE 19975

Deadline for orders is May 1, 2021.

Checks should be made payable to DCWC. Thank you!



VERIFIABLE

A monthly contribution by Joe Beggs

MANSLAUGHTER

Picture an Army Base in the Philippines, present time . . .

Some rebellious local militias near the base have shown hostile movement over the last weeks, and they are now threatening to invade. The Base Commander tells his superiors, "No problem, this is the fault of Duterte, we have it under control." Privately, the Commander has shown concern, but has done nothing.

The militias attack and breach the outer perimeter in three places. The duty lieutenant tells the Commander, "We need the key to the armory! The militias are heavily armed!" The commander answers, "These militias are no threat to our base. We are the U.S. Army. They cannot defeat us!" During this attack, the Commander is interviewed in a recorded phone call with *Stars and Stripes*. He tells the reporter, "This attack is going to overrun the base. These are the strongest militias we have encountered." He then gets on the base PA and tells his soldiers, "Don't worry about wearing body armor! These militias are not a threat. We are winning the battle!"

Two hours later, the Militias have occupied all of the base except for the Command Compound, and in the process the Commander, his wife, his Chief of Staff, and several staff officers have been wounded. Headquarters calls with their concerns, and the Commander tells them, "We have this under control! Our soldiers are strong, they don't need weapons or body armor!"

What would happen to this Base Commander after a performance like this? You can bet that he would be courtmartialed, stripped of rank, and federal charges would be filed. Through stupidity, cowardice, and incompetence, the Commander was directly responsible for the deaths of the soldiers in his Command, so he would not be treated kindly by his peers.

Donald Trump was aware of the Coronavirus in January of this year, and was immediately aware of its danger to the citizens of America. He said, in public, that this would "go away." At the same time, he was on phone calls with a famous reporter, recorded **and on record**, in which he spoke of the danger of this new virus.

When the virus spiked in April, his advisers from the CDC begged him to begin coordinating help for the Country. He said publicly that the virus would go away "like a miracle." The death toll doubled, from 30,000 to 60,000 between April 16th and April 30th. During this time, *(Continued on page 10.)*

MANSLAUGHTER By Joe Beggs, *(Continued from page 9.)*

Trump blamed the World Health Organization (WHO), and cut off U.S. funding to that organization. Meanwhile, the Trump administration did nothing substantial. American states, hospitals, and citizens were left to fend for themselves.

With Donald Trump essentially characterizing the pandemic as a "Democratic Party hoax," the death total rose to 200,000 by the end of September. Still, our "President" insisted, on record and in public, that we had "turned the corner" on the virus.

We are now experiencing a full-bore pandemic in this country, expanding out of control, ruining our lives and our economy. THIS DID NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN!

Through incompetence, cowardice, self-interest, and corruption, Donald Trump and the Republican Party have caused, yes I say CAUSED, the needless deaths and crippling illness of hundreds of thousands of citizens they were responsible for.

Their behavior and complicity amounts to the commission of a felony.

In January, it seems appropriate for a commission to be appointed by the President to investigate these egregious crimes.

Adam Schiff for Attorney General!!!

RESTORE

**HEAL THE UNITED STATES FROM ONE
OF THE WORST FOUR YEARS OF OUR
HISTORY. USE NORMS AND SCIENCE TO
PLOT A COURSE THAT GIVES
CONFIDENCE AND HOPE. STOP THE
DISRUPTION OF NORMAL DISCOURSE
AMONG AMERICANS.**

Fellow Democrats, We Have Work To Do

Maryland's 24 Districts and How They Voted by Percentage

FOR BIDEN

Anne Arundel	56%
Baltimore City	88%
Baltimore County	63%
Charles County	70%
Frederick County	54%
Howard County	71%
Kent County	50%
Montgomery	79%
Prince George's	90%
Talbot County	50%

Both Frederick and Talbot flipped
From voting Republican to voting
Democratic for President this year.

FOR TRUMP

Allegany County	69%
Calvert County	52%
Caroline County	65%
Carroll County	61%
Cecil County	62%
Dorchester County	55%
Garrett County	77%
Harford County	55%
Queen Anne's	62%
St. Mary's County	56%
Somerset County	57%
Washington County	60%
Wicomico County	50%
Worcester County	59%

TOTALS FOR MARYLAND 2020

Biden 65.7%

1,970,394

Trump 32.5%

973,012



It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

It should have been a kazillion to one. I'd have given Trump a million, but 73 million? *No. No. No!* Okay, okay, I know Biden won and decisively. He's on his way to 80 million popular votes to Trump's 73+ million - a margin that is nothing to sneeze at, which a lot of people even without allergies are doing right now. But nonetheless, Biden beat Trump by millions of votes and Biden-Harris way surpassed the 270 votes needed to win in the Electoral College. But, holy geez, how can so many American people rabidly support a human being like Trump?!

I will never understand and will probably not outlive Trumpism, or something else of its ilk. I am 74 with an earned Masters and 47 years of teaching experience from elementary to university and I have had my jaw drop so many times, my hinges are coming loose. There are educated people who believe the Democratic Party is a satanic cult of pedophiles who eat babies and have their headquarters in the non-existent basement of a pizza parlor in Washington, D.C. (Now that I have mentioned D.C., it is, for me, the outstanding example of an America I can embrace - 92.6% for Biden, 5.2% for Trump in the capitol city)

Holy toledo, how can anyone not see that Trump is astoundingly unfit for that office? He is so egregiously unsuited and he makes no bones about it! He doesn't hide who he is and what he is. He is in our faces all of the time, a thoroughly immoral, petulant and petty, vindictive and spiteful, maliciously mendacious grifter of the highest order, and 73 million Americans want him to remain President of the United States!? NO, NO, NO! He doesn't even want to do the job, He would rather play golf, a game at which he also reportedly cheats. God, at golf!

But 73+ million Americans said "yes." And to whom? To Trump, the vampire President who sucks the blood from the veins of democracy and leaves it hanging by a thread. The very same people who scream about their freedom to carry a bazooka into a *Wendy's* while they order a burger, who refuse to wear a mask to prevent the spread of a deadly virus because they see it as an assault on their freedom, who decry the ban on gatherings of more than 6 or 10 or 50 people in a church because it destroys their right to practice their religion VOTE FOR A MAN WHO PREFERS AUTOCRACY TO DEMOCRACY and they do not see the irony. It makes me want to scream! They think he cares about them. *Hahabababa!*

And I, as a liberal, am chastised, along with other liberals, for too often making Trump supporters feel stupid. Well, what can I say? Stupid is as stupid votes? They voted for a man whom they see as just like them. And perhaps, they are right, for while he is calculating, without principles or scruples, he is also consummately ignorant, and one could argue, stupid. Windmills do not cause cancer, the Chinese did not create global warming to make America less competitive, and drinking bleach will not save you from Covid-19. Oh, but maybe it will, if you drink enough of it.

Mini-Calendar

Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Inauguration Day

Thursday, January 28
 DCWC General Meeting 7 pm
 Via ZOOM

Thursday, February 25
 DCWC General Meeting 7 pm

STUPIDEST TWEET OF THE YEAR



@realDonaldTrump

I WON THE ELECTION!

November 15, 2020

