



## REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Newsletter of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County—March 2019

### KCarl Smith's Valentine for America

I want to share a message of empowerment that we can use to save our beloved nation. I think you'd agree with me that there are some in this country who want to take our nation and transform it into a European Socialist Communist country. There are three challenges that I want to address that are facing the conservative movement and if conservatives can't find the answer to these three challenges we'll never win the White House again and we'll never preserve the blessings of our liberties for posterity:

1. We must find a way to defeat the vile attacks of the left wing. They call us racists because we're conservatives and they call us uncle toms. In doing that, they are discrediting us so that when we try to engage someone, we've already been discredited and our message falls on deaf ears. We have a messaging problem so we've got to find a way how to trump the "race card."
2. We must find a way how to inspire, not recruit, more blacks, Latinos, Asians, young people and women to join the ranks of the conservative movement.
3. We must find a way how to energize the conservative base.

[By the time you finish reading this] you will have the answer to all three challenges.

I read a gallop poll survey that said that 38 percent of Americans identify themselves as conservatives. Only 23 percent identify themselves as liberals. Most Americans agree with us and since it they do, why are we having such a difficult time bringing diversity into our [conservative] midst? The answer is propaganda.

I am the founder of the Frederick Douglass Republicans Movement [which is] based on the life and values of Frederick Douglass and when you hear what a Frederick Dou-

glass Republican is you're gonna' realize that you're already one, you just didn't know it.



Frederick Douglass

I grew up in a democratic Christian household. When I was born, I knew I was born black, [but] I thought I was born a Democrat. Had you asked me back then why I was a Democrat, I would've said because of my mother and father. Two things changed my life. The word of God changed my life, the words of Frederick Douglass changed my political thinking. If you read 2nd Corinthians 13 and 5, it says "*Examine yourself to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't go along taking things for granted,*" and one night it hit me and I started examining the way I was voting and discovered that I was voting the opposite of my worship. God diagnosed me as a political skitzophrenic. I would worship one way and vote another. [For example] I don't believe in same sex marriage. Now if a person wants to live that way they have the liberty to do that. I don't believe in it,

but I was voting for a party of candidates who do.

Somebody one time sent me a quote from Frederick Douglass and Douglass said "I'm a black, dyed in the wool Republican. I never intend to vote for any party except the party of freedom and progress." When I read that quote I [thought], Frederick Douglass was a "Tom"? And why did he say that freedom and progress was the Republican Party and he did not say it was the Democrat Party? So that started me on a quest to read everything I could about Frederick Douglass, including his three auto biographies.

So I started this movement. I am a conservative, but that's not how I describe myself politically. I'm a Frederick Douglass Republican. I believe in Douglass' four life empowering values.

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1. Respect for the U.S. Constitution.
2. Respect for life.
3. The belief in limited government.
4. The belief in personal responsibility.

So to become a Frederick Douglass Republican is based on your embracing those four life empowering values. About 60,000 people across the country have been trained in our Frederick Douglass engagement methodology. Of that 60,000, 59 percent are white, and a majority of them are Tea Party Activists. The Frederick Douglass methodology is not about how to share conservatism with black folks. This is not diversity training. This is liberty training Frederick Douglass Style. You have to be trained in something that works. I know a lot of black conservatives who don't know how to engage black folks.

So what the Frederick Douglass Republicans advocate is this:

1. We are anti-establishment Republican Party. The establishment Republican Party [today] does not resemble the Republican Party of Frederick Douglass at all. So with this movement, we are going to help the Republican Party to recapture its political distinction.
2. As Frederick Douglass Republicans we are not a recruiter for the Republican Party. I think the RNC is wrong. They're trying to recruit blacks. That's not what you want to do. You want to inspire them to vote their values and then figure out what party they want to be a part of.

See, Dr. Ben Carson and Herman Cain were born into poverty, but when you're born into slavery [like Douglass], you're born below poverty. He never wore a pair of shoes until he was eight or slept in a bed until age ten. Frederick Douglass was home-schooled and self-taught. He learned how to read and write while he was a slave for the first twenty years of his life. February was chosen for black history month, because Lincoln's and Douglass' birthdays are in that month. His mother lived on a plantation twelve miles away and after working a full day on the plantation, she walked the twelve miles to see him and then had to walk back. He only remembered seeing her four times when he was a child and she referred to him as her little valentine. Douglass never knew the real date of his birth, but because of his mother's nickname for him, he chose for his birthday, February 14, Valentine's Day.

Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery at the age of 20. What did he escape from? The slave master was providing him health care, clothing, shelter and food. Douglass was getting that free stuff. But while on the system he learned how to read and write. I guess you could say that Douglass was a 47 percenter.

Now I want to fast-forward a bit. Frederick Douglass was an advisor to five Republican presidents. Frederick

Douglass was a free-market entrepreneur. He was a lecturer on the anti-slavery circuit. He died in 1895 at the age of 77 and at the time of his death he had amassed \$300,000, which is \$10,000,000 today. Here was a man who was a below zero percenter, who ended up being a 47 percenter while on the plantation, [but] he died a one percenter. That's a story, that's a legacy worth elevating.

If we are serious about saving this country and preserving the blessings of liberty for posterity, we must make Frederick Douglass an integral part of our message.

[Now] I'm going to make a statement here, and don't leave when I say it. The political insight of Frederick Douglass is more important than the political insight of the Founding Fathers. Here's why I'm saying that. The Founding Fathers gave us two magnificent documents: the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Now some of the Founding Fathers owned slaves. When the Constitution was ratified that's not when the slaves were freed. The slaves were freed when they died. Therefore, their views of liberty were somewhat tainted. Frederick Douglass did not own any slaves. He was a slave, but in his writings and speeches he affirmed both the Founding Fathers and the Constitution, and that's what the left doesn't like. Douglass said the Constitution reads "We the people." It does not read "We the white people." If black folks are people, then they should be benefactors of this Constitution [and therefore] the problem is not with the Constitution, it's with the application of the Constitution. Thank God we have a literary legacy of the writings of Frederick Douglass to refute the lies and propaganda of the left.

You have to understand [why today] this diversity [movement] is such a challenge for conservatives. The words "conservative" and "Republican Party" have a negative connotation. They're synonymous with the word racist. If you call yourself a conservative, based on who you're engaging, [you're viewed as a] racist. We're losing the propaganda battle. In 1964 President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights legislation into law. Of the eighteen senators who voted against it, seventeen were segregationist Dixiecrats. The one Republican that voted against it was Senator Barry Goldwater from Arizona. Now [he] voted against it on constitutional grounds. Goldwater disagreed with the Civil Rights legislation of '64 based on Titles 2 and 7, which dealt with accommodation and employment. But he wasn't a racist. Goldwater inherited his father's retail



KCarl Smith

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business and his company was the first to hire black cashiers in Arizona, and he encouraged other business owners to do the same. Even though he was integrationist minded individual, he sided with the racist Democrats. To add insult to injury, at the 1964 Republican Party Convention he was nominated as the party’s candidate to run for president.

The Party of Lincoln, the party of emancipation, nominated a guy who voted against the Civil Rights Legislation and made him their nominee for president. When that happened, black folks felt politically homeless. The day Goldwater received the nomination, Dr. King issued a press release, and by then he was a household name. The first sentence of that press release reads, “It is both unfortunate and disastrous that the Republican Party has nominated Senator Barry Goldwater as its candidate for President of the United States. . . . While not himself a racist, Mr. Goldwater articulates a philosophy that gives aid and comfort to the racists. His philosophy will serve as an umbrella under which extremists will stand. In light of these facts, I have no alternative but to urge every negro and every white person of good will to vote against Mr. Goldwater.” So what Dr. King was saying was, that although he was not a racist, he wanted to be so constitutionally right on the bill, that he [wound up] being morally wrong. In 1960 Nixon won 32 percent of the black vote. In 1964 Goldwater got 6 percent and it’s been that way ever since. That is why the words “conservative” and “Republican have become culturally ingrained in the black community to mean racism. When that happened in 1964, the Democrat Party took complete control of the narrative, because we gave it up, and here’s what’s ironic about the whole thing. The party that gave us slavery, the KKK, Jim Crowe, and the party that didn’t give us any anti-lynching laws when white and black Republicans were being lynched—the Democrat Party, these same people overnight appeared to be innocent and took control of the narrative [and have controlled that narrative to this day]. They don’t deserve the narrative, so in order to maintain that control, the Democrat leadership, not the rank and file, they don’t know what’s going on, neither did I or my parents. The Democrat leadership, they deceive, they distort and they rewrite history. If you go to democrats.org on their home page the first words there are and I quote, “For more than two hundred years we have led the fight for civil Rights![!!] Thank God we have the literary legacy of the writings of Frederick Douglass to refute the lies and propaganda of the left.

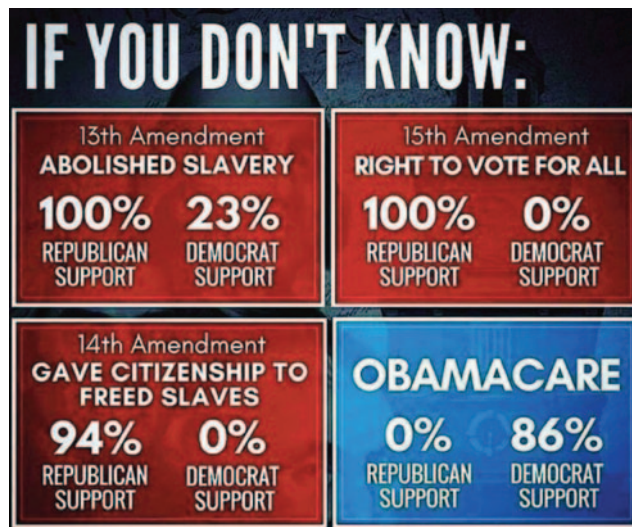
*This article was excerpted from a speech given by KCarl Smith to the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Tea Party in 2017.*

*(Editor’s note from previous newsletter: I’ve always revered Frederick Douglass, who is especially in need of increased celebration as one of the leading lights in the pantheon of American heroes. I’m not an expert on the man, but have read much about this legendary black leader, including his three autobiographies, and have always been in awe of his soaring prose that is the equal of Lincoln in eloquence and timeless meaning. As an example, consider what Douglass had to say about the Fugitive Slave Clause (Article IV, Section 2, Clause 3) of the United States Constitution. First the Clause in full:*

*No Person held to service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labor; but shall be delivered upon Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.*

*This clause has caused much angst among people who revere the Constitution of the United States, but no one has ever uncovered its true purpose and meaning more succinctly and efficiently than Frederic Douglass when he referred to it as “scaffolding to the magnificent structure [Constitution] to be removed as soon as the building was completed.” Douglass, like Lincoln, understood that “this clause did not speak to the issue of citizenship at all, but was a necessary accommodation to existing slavery interests in particular states, required for the sake of establishing the Constitution” at a time when the abolition movement was not nearly strong enough to take on pro-slavery forces. That had to wait until the Civil War many decades later.)*

—Tom Mullings





## 2020—Part II

*By Sid Dinerstein*  
*February 27, 2019*

“Single digits.” That’s my reflex response any time a prospective candidate tells me he (or she) is running as an Independent, or No Party Affiliation, or as a member of a new party that nobody ever heard of or ever will. And that was my instant response when Howard Schultz announced (hinted at) his desire to become the 46th President of the United States of America as an Independent. On the day of that announcement I decided that his quixotic approach to politics would be this month’s post. Therefore, the first thing I did was buy and read Howard’s new political coming out autobiography: “From the ground up.” Here is what I learned:

First off, if the name doesn’t ring a bell, Howard Schultz is the founder and fabulously successful entrepreneur behind Starbucks. And Starbucks is a massively successful international brand. Even those of us who aren’t coffee drinkers can appreciate the quality of the Starbucks brand. Second, the Howard Schultz story is a classic feel good American success story. Indeed, his story and mine are so similar it’s a little scary. We were both born in Brooklyn. (I’m about eight years older than Howard.) We’re Jewish. He’s an up-from-the-projects entrepreneur. I’m an up from the Crown Heights walkup entrepreneur. (He wound up with more zeroes for his net worth.) We both had “challenging” families. And we both had difficulties bonding with our fathers. One major difference: He was born, and remains, a Democrat. I was supposed to be a Democrat like my parents and three siblings but they clearly forgot to put the Kool-Aid in my bottle. By the time I was old enough to understand, I was never going to be a Democrat. Howard is still a Democrat but thinks his party has gone too far left. Go figure. More about Howard. He’s a good guy. He loves America and says it out loud. He’s proud of his own success. He loves his company, his product and his employees. He lacks malice and is full of compassion. He’s an American success story and we should all be proud of him and see him as a role model.

Howard Schultz will not be elected President in November, 2020. Why? Aside from his “Single Digit” destiny, he has a major political flaw: He refuses to learn the business. Like most politicians, he thinks announcing one’s candidacy makes you an instant politico, a true expert. Howard made this mistake before. (He’s very honest about that in his book.) He became a sports franchise owner (lead partner) without learning the sports franchise business. He bought the Seattle Supersonics, a National Basketball Association team. It was a financial mess when he bought it and he made it worse. He turned it into the Oklahoma City Thunder. He lost money, prestige and one of his city’s proudest crown jewels. Well, he knows very little about politics as well.

Remember the old (circa 1225) saying: “Neither time nor tide waits for no man?” We politicians have an updated ver-

sion: “Neither time nor tide nor office waits for no man.” Poor Howard. His time came and went and he never knew it. (it was just as true for Chris Christie in 2012 and Jeb Bush in 2008). Why do I say that? Because Howard Schultz’ brand is job and economic growth. He will talk about GDP growth, more jobs for minorities, more opportunity and less regulation—all the agenda items Hilary and Bernie forgot about in 2016. And what has happened to those agenda items since? They have all been solved. GDP growth at 4 percent. Check. Business freed from onerous regulations. Check. Black, Hispanic and women unemployment at all-time lows. Check, check and check. So that leaves only Trump bashing. And, frankly, that’s not who Howard is. He’s not Mr. Negativity. He already takes pot shots at President Trump from time to time. They’re feeble. He should leave the mud slinging to the pros: Bernie, Elizabeth, Kirsten, Cory, AOC, etc. You get the idea.

I know what you’re thinking. Why doesn’t he just become a Republican and join people who admire his skills and success, As we say in Brooklyn: FUHGEDDABOUT-IT! It doesn’t work that way. K kosher Kool-Aid is irreversible. But don’t feel bad for Howard. He’s still a good guy. He’s still a billionaire. And he’s no longer proud to be a Democrat. It’s a start. And while I doubt Howard will ever see this post I still have some advice I would like to share: Don’t do it. Don’t go from being the highly respected Mr. Coffee to the political laughingstock of Mr. Single Digits. And don’t make yourself a target for the whacko Left. They’ll chew you up and spit you out. They’ll go full tilt Trump on you. President Trump relishes the fight. You won’t. There are many mountains to climb in this world. Find yours.




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*Sid Dinerstein served as Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County from 2002 to 2012. A leader with a passion for Republican politics, Sid leads by example, motivating teams and uniting diverse groups to achieve a common goal. With a passion for promoting charter schools, Sid was honored by Inlet Grove Community Charter High School earlier this year as “Charter School Advocate.” He authored Adults Only: For Those Who Love Their Country More Than Their Party in 2007, a book that was a finalist for the 2009 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Sid has been married to Esther since 1967, and they have two daughters, two sons-in-law and two granddaughters.*

## The Party of Death

By George Blumel

That title is taken from a 2006 book by Ramesh Ponnuru sub-titled, “The Democrats, the Media, the Courts, and the Disregard for Human Life.” And it’s only gotten worse since then—and on many more levels.



Last month we saw 44 Democratic U.S. Senators vote against the **Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act 2019**. Only three Democrats voted for it along with Republicans, confirming the party’s pro-death obsession.

In Virginia, Delegate Kathy Tran introduced a bill that would allow abortion when a woman was in labor. Gov. Ralph Northam explained what would happen if a child was born after a failed abortion: “The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.”

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb) sponsor of the federal bill noted, “In just a few years pro-abortion zealots went from ‘safe, legal, and rare’ to keep the newborns comfortable while the doctor debates infanticide.” President Trump tweeted, “The Democrat position on abortion is now so extreme that they don’t mind executing babies AFTER birth.”

Then there was the shocking celebration in New York’s state legislature when that state approved the killing of unborn babies until the moment of birth. Democrat Gov. Andrew Cuomo had One World Trade Center lit up in pink as his way of celebrating the killing of more babies in the womb. The Vermont House gave women the right to have elective abortions up until birth. And so it goes in Democrat-controlled states.

The Democrats in Congress support Planned Parenthood, a nonprofit organization, the nation’s largest killer of babies in the womb—332,757 last year—with \$244.8 million in revenues over expenses. Last year, Congress gave PP over \$550 million from U.S. taxpayers. It is no surprise that part of that money is redirected by PP to individual Democrat political campaigns.

In 2019, at least 10 currently in Congress voted in lock-step with Planned Parenthood in favor of killing babies who have already been born. While the number of abortions and the amount of taxpayer dollars the abortion group received both increased, every other category of the group’s services decreased, including cancer screenings, prevention services, contraception and “Other Women’s Health Services.”

Further evidence of the Democrats’ callous disregard for life is their condoning of open borders which allows all kinds

of terrible people to enter our society, causing injuries and deaths of innocent citizens. In the January issue I wrote in this space of the young policeman who was killed by an illegal alien, leaving his wife and 4-month old baby behind. I gave other examples and could have given many, many more tragic stories of Americans losing their lives to the illegals that the Democrats’ open border policy has allowed—no, encouraged! **Here’s a heartbreaking list.**



Not only do the Democrats fight efforts to control illegal immigration but they grant illegals safe spaces—sanctuaries—where they prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (U.S. Department of Homeland Security) from deporting them.

The obvious motivation is to gain Democrat voters. The loss of innocent lives and great cost to taxpayers in the process is incidental to them.

Former U.S. Border Patrol chief during Barack Obama’s presidency, Mark Morgan, claims MS-13 gang members “laugh” at how easily they can cross illegally into the United States.



Morgan was on with Liz Wheeler on the OAN cable TV network the other night lamenting how Democrats are putting politics ahead of our security by their objection to completing the Southern Border Wall saying that 50-60% of the border is wide open. He cited opiate and other drug deaths, gang activities and human trafficking being allowed with open borders.

Another effort Democrats pursue is gun control in direct violation of the Second Amendment. None of the restrictions they put on gun owners have any effect on the bad guys who don’t have a problem getting guns of all sizes and types. Check out Chicago! Good guys obey the restrictions and are defenseless. How about their gun-free zones? How many lives are lost in school or church shootings classified as gun-free?

From killing the defenseless, permitting easy entry to violent criminals and attempting to leave Americans unarmed and defenseless, the Democrat Party has earned the nickname “Party of Death.”

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*George Blumel is a husband, father, grandfather; retired entrepreneur; blogger [www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com](http://www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com); political activist—for freedom with responsibility.*





On Tuesday the 2019 Legislative Session began with the State of the State from Governor DeSantis, who outlined a plan to improve water quality in Florida, keep businesses free of unnecessary regulation and provide further relief for Florida taxpayers. I look forward to working with our new Governor in delivering on these promises to the residents and businesses of our state.

My staff and I hard at work but I want you to know my door is always open to you should you come to Tallahassee during session. Call my office at (850) 717-5089, email me (Mike.Caruso@myfloridahouse.gov) or stop by the office, which is located in the Capitol in Suite 1301.

This was an exciting week in the Capitol. The first week of Session are also Palm Beach County Days. Several hundred leaders from Palm Beach County come to Tallahassee to advocate for issues of importance to our community, and appropriations that are critical to the needs of our county. On Wednesday I presented my Sober Homes bill to the Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee for its first hearing, and I was fortunate to have members of our Sober Homes Task Force and our community present to support

my bill. I'm pleased to say that it passed its first committee stop unanimously and I'm looking forward to it continuing through the process over the next 8 weeks of Session.

The Boca Chamber of Commerce joined Palm Beach County Days this year, and I truly enjoyed being able to share time with both groups. It's interesting to join them from a different perspective this year—last year I participated as a delegate. Being a Representative this year, I now know first hand how much the elected officials appreciate their constituents coming to advocate in Tallahassee. I know that it's not easy to get to Tallahassee from Palm Beach all the time—but it truly is worth it. Know that your time is valued and appreciated.

We had several visits from first responders this week as well. One important piece of legislation that I signed on to as a co-sponsor this week relates to firefighter cancer coverage, sponsored by fellow Palm Beach County Representative Matt Willhite, who is a Firefighter himself. Firefighters have been found to have a higher cancer rate from the chemicals they are exposed to on the job. We must support those who risk their lives to keep us safe. This week firefighters from Miami Dade visited and brought me a suit of a firefighter lost to cancer—this will stay in my office during session.

This week I also met with Blizzard, Rondo and Chief. The K-9s were here to support a bill by Rep. Josie Tomkow to increase the penalty for harming a K-9. These dogs do more than just sniff for bombs and drugs. They are on the front lines with their handlers, taking bullets and risking their lives. They are heroes, and deserve to be treated as such.

Later this week we will be on the Floor voting on the medical marijuana bill I asked you about a few weeks ago. I appreciate how many of you took the time to write and call. I don't yet know what the final version of the bill will look like that I will be voting on, but your input has really helped me. While the amendment to allow medical marijuana passed overwhelmingly a few years ago, it seems the support is mixed when it comes to smoking. I'm looking forward to seeing what the final bill is this week and will take your calls and emails into consideration when voting.

Remember, you can always keep up with committee meetings and session by watching [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov). It is my honor to serve you in the Florida House. Please call or email if ever my staff or I can assist, or if you want to share your thoughts on legislation.



## “The Backhoe Chronicles”

*By Peter Feaman  
Florida National Committeeman*

*Posted February 21, 2019*

### **Hypocrisy update . . .**

Jessie Smollett’s legal team asked that the “Empire” actor be given the “presumption of innocence” after he was charged with faking his own hate attack, but one columnist pointed out that the star had no problem rushing to judgment during the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

Following three weeks of mounting suspicions, Smollett, who is accused of filing a false police report, was charged Wednesday with felony disorderly conduct. He turned himself in at central booking early Thursday. If convicted, he is facing up to three years in prison and Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said during a fiery press conference that Smollett orchestrated a “phony attack” in order to take “advantage of the pain and anger of racism to promote his career” and hopefully get a pay raise.

Mediaite’s Julio Rosas penned an opinion piece today headlined, “Jussie Smollett Wants Presumption of Innocence . . . Though He Didn’t Give Brett Kavanaugh Benefit of the Doubt.”

Back during the confirmation hearings the actor tweeted that he believed Christine Blasey Ford, who famously accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault decades ago when they were in high school—the hypocrisy didn’t go unnoticed by the Mediaite columnist.

“Smollett . . . had a different approach during the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh when he was accused of serious sexual misconduct without hard evidence,” Rosas wrote.

Back on Sept. 28, Smollett tweeted, “Dear Survivors... I believe you. I support you. I love you. I am one of you,” with the hashtags #IBelieveDrChristineBlaseyFord #ISStillBelieveAnitaHill.

You just can’t believe their shamelessness. Let’s hope Smollett gets what he deserves so that these fake hate attacks finally stop.

*Posted March 7, 2019*

The Democrats have completely lost touch with most American people. Take a moment to absorb some of the

information below and if you know any moderate Democrats, it might be a good time to talk:

1.enate Democrats last week blocked a Republican bill that would have threatened prison time for doctors who don’t try saving the life of infants born alive during failed abortions, leading Republicans to wonder openly whether Democrats were embracing “infanticide” to appeal to left-wing voters.

All prominent Democratic 2020 presidential hopefuls in the Senate voted down the measure, including Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Kamala Harris of California, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

2. The outrageous and radical “New Green Deal.” The Green New Deal nonbinding congressional resolution unveiled by Democrat lawmakers last week calls for economically destructive and environmentally toxic extremist policies that would be an utter disaster for our country and the American people.

The radical and impractical plan will suck trillions of dollars out of our economy, raise costs of much of what we buy, wipe out millions of jobs and plunge our country into a recession or perhaps even a depression. It would be a self-inflicted wound causing enormous harm to us all.

3. Democrat leaders embrace socialism and nobody inside the party challenges them. Socialism is immoral and has never worked in any country. America’s free market economic system has provided more prosperity, more opportunity and more wealth to more different types of people than any country in the history of Earth. Why on earth would Democrats reject this out of hand?

4. The Democrats elect an openly anti-semitic Jew hating Congresswoman—Omar—and yet they will not condemn her.

Good grief!

Friends don’t let friends stay Democrat.

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*Peter Feaman is Florida’s National Committeeman, representing the State of Florida on the Republican National Committee. His “Backhoe Chronicles,” a commentary on draining the swamp, appears on Facebook.*

## Health Care as a Right: An Elusive Goal Unless You Participate

*By William J. Skinner*

In the 2018 elections, the Democrat Party gained 40 new seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, crediting many of these victories to the health care issue. The Republicans failed for two years—2016 and 2017—to completely repeal Obamacare and adopt any alternative health program. Republicans were not coordinated on a uniform health care message during the campaign. Now the left wing of the Democrat Party is pushing “Medicare for All” as a solution to get votes for their candidates in 2020. Never mind that one credible study says “Medicare for All” will cost more than \$32 trillion over 10 years, prohibit private health insurance for all, and raise taxes for everyone who now pays taxes.

Never mind that budgeters and economists do not know how this \$32 trillion is affordable either. Like the current Green New Deal program sponsored by the New York bartender in the House and most leading Democrat candidates for president, they think money grows on printing presses in the District of Columbia, and that we must think of the program as an “investment.”

The backdrop to the coming elections is that the world is in turmoil. At home, the United States is in turmoil as well. But America has a president who is trying mightily to right the ship of state and get everything in order. But adequate money is always a problem. The federal debt will soon cost \$1 trillion a year in interest payments, the annual deficit is approaching \$1 trillion, the debt limit will have to soon be raised in a few weeks, and we are all now paying taxes under a new law that will be shaking out its need for corrections.

A few months ago, I brought to your attention the Heartland Institute’s *The Patriot’s Handbook*, 4th Edition, in this newsletter. Have you ordered it and read the 33 pages and 10 principles of policy on health care recommended there? To aid in this discussion I list the 10 principles here:

### 10 Principles of Health Care Policy

1. Repeal and replace Obamacare.
2. Reform Medicaid and Medicare.
3. Repeal existing regulations.
4. Expand health savings accounts.
5. Expand high-risk pools.
6. Encourage price transparency.
7. Expand the use of direct primary care programs.
8. Expand access to prescription drugs.
9. Remove regulatory barriers to medical innovation.
10. Reduce malpractice litigation expenses.

If you will participate with me, determine in your mind the number of these areas covered by what the politicians argued for or against in 2016–2017 and what they are doing

now as they begin to stake out their positions for the 2020 election. Notice that the current conversations do not explain all 10 of these components, so the candidates are leaving out a lot of information that would be important in understanding what they want to have happen.



Are you willing to have your representative vote for or against a plan they cannot explain because they do not know what is in it? Remember what Rep. Nancy Pelosi said in 2009 when not a single Republican vote was cast for Obamacare: “We have to pass the bill to be able to see what is in it!” or words close to these. That kind of legislative procedure is precisely what got us into the mess we are in. Remember the controversy created by the MIT professor who said the bill only passed because the American public did not know what was in the bill?

Do we really want to do this again? Look at the mess that Congress and the presidents have created with immigration laws and policies for the past 30 years or so that have created the current crisis on the southern border with Mexico. Do we want to keep passing laws that are confusing, incomplete, and impossible to enforce without years of litigation?

Let us all take a deep breath and decide that what we really need are super-majorities of very smart members of the House and Senate to study recommendations like those in *The Patriot’s Handbook*, those ideas by other think tanks, the health professions, the insurance industry, and others to come up with innovative ways to get all citizens involved in improving health care.

Until you participate in this process, the process will not be able to satisfy all of our needs. Your participation is needed now to elect super-majorities in the House and Senate and to hold their feet to the fire long enough to create a foolproof health plan. Ideas like those recommended by the authors of *Overcharged*, reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter, must be considered carefully. Until you know what Silver and Hyman have said, how are you going to take part?

What I am trying hard is to convince you that you need to develop a position on health care that you can articulate, so that you can let your representatives in state and federal legislatures really represent your positions. Otherwise, they pass half-baked laws that need repair almost immediately after they are signed.

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Remember, none of our newly-elected representatives receives a free brain implant before they learn the legislative process. They have to use what they got at birth, and this original equipment will only be able to help them understand you if they have used their time wisely and for good purposes and learned a few things from you before they are elected.

To help health care issues turn out in acceptable ways, Republicans can help each other learn about the issues. The GOP can get its Republican organizations (clubs and its REC issue committee meetings) to hold programs on health care, and create study commissions to write reports on controversial or questionable issues raised by many sources like the two books I mention in this article.

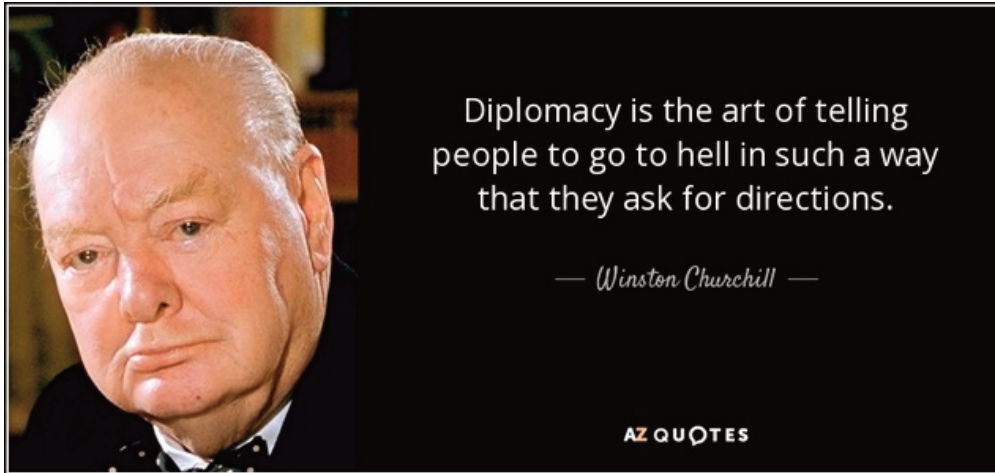
There is no right to sit on the sidelines and refuse to know what is going on unless you are unable to participate

because of health reasons. We all need to insist that our representatives do a good job and become knowledgeable on the issues they vote on. Think about that. Then tell me where I am wrong.

After writing this article I discovered a story about what Sen. Rick Scott is doing on health care in his new job at: [http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/sen-rick-scott-washington-seems-have-given-reforming-healthcare-i-dont-accept?utm\\_source=March+6+2019&utm\\_campaign=Morning+Lead+1%2F30%2F19&utm\\_medium=email](http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/sen-rick-scott-washington-seems-have-given-reforming-healthcare-i-dont-accept?utm_source=March+6+2019&utm_campaign=Morning+Lead+1%2F30%2F19&utm_medium=email). Read this to find out what he says.

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*Skinner is a retired pharmacist and attorney who practiced law in Washington, D.C. before retiring to Florida in 2003. He is a blogger who can be read at <http://bill-skinner.blogspot.com>.*



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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY**

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**Mission Statement**

The Republican Party of Palm Beach County is committed to promoting Republican ideals and principles; recruiting and electing qualified candidates for public office; developing a grassroots organization that will motivate the electorate to vote; and raising the funds necessary to complete these objectives.

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## My Trip to Israel with the ZOA

*By Eve Bazer*

I just returned from my third Mission to Israel with the Zionist Organization of America and I'm pleased to announce our media and the Left have it wrong. Israel is strong, tourism is at an all time high with Christians and Jews visiting in record numbers, the economy is surging, and Israel's alliances with countries around the world are increasing. The streets of Jerusalem are filled with Orthodox Jews, secular Jews, Ethiopian Jews, Christians, Arabs, Asians and more. Of course, this isn't news to members of the ZOA, the oldest pro-Israel organization in America that is for a one state "solution," urged President Trump to move the Embassy to Jerusalem, and understands that Israel can handle its problems without threats and "peace plans" from other countries.

ZOA, for those not familiar with the organization, is dedicated to educating the public, elected officials, media, and college/high school students about the truth of the ongoing and relentless Arab/Islamic war against Israel. ZOA is also committed to promoting strong U.S.-Israel relations. ZOA works to protect Jewish college and high school students from intimidation, harassment and discrimination, and in fighting anti-Semitism in general.

On this Mission we were very fortunate to have Morton Klein, the president of ZOA for the past 25 years, join us for four days. He is one of the strongest advocates for Israel and in fighting anti-Semitism. While we were in Israel AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee came out with its statement that the Netanyahu government's announcement that the Otzama Yehudit Party would join his coalition in the upcoming election was "reprehensible." The president of the Union for Reform Judaism compared this coalition to the KKK being accepted as a partner to a powerful group in the United States. The Jewish Democratic Council of America called Otzama Yehudit a racist party. Mr. Klein has been fighting anti-Semitism and the BDS movement for years and believes statements like these give strength to the groups supporting BDS and fighting against Israel. The Israeli Left has coalesced with Israeli-Arab parties that openly oppose the existence of the Jewish state, yet these American Jewish groups are silent on this. The Otzama Yehudit party was originally founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane. Over the years the party has pushed for a strong Israel and one state. They are not opposed to Palestinians living in Israel if they are not determined to destroy Israel. This shouldn't offend anyone interested in Israel's security and future.

One of the many highlights of the Mission was a visit to the new American Embassy in the undivided capital of Jerusalem. Seeing the emblem at the entrance with the names Donald J. Trump, Michael R. Pence and David M. Friedman embossed was seeing a dream come to life. It would have taken at least two years and a billion dollars if we waited to acquire land and construct a new building, but thanks to the brilliance of President Trump the embassy was

incorporated into the existing consulate and it was open for business in months, not years. Our group was honored to meet with Ambassador David Friedman for close to half an hour. President Trump selected the right man for this important position with our closest ally. His love for Israel combined with his confidence for the future allowed us to share his enthusiasm. Most ZOA participants expressed concern about the soon-to-be-released peace plan from the Trump administration. Ambassador Friedman can't discuss any of the details, but he did say he wasn't disappointed, so he feels we won't be. I, and others, are still not optimistic since past peace plans have only brought more violence to Israel, but the ambassador has the details and his confidence gave us hope. It is highly unlikely the Palestinians will accept any peace plan, so the details may be irrelevant.

While we were in Israel the Trump administration announced the closing of the American Consulate in Jerusalem and will merge it with the American Embassy. The Palestinians were upset, as usual, since that consulate only dealt with Palestinian issues so they didn't have to be in the same building with Israelis. Consulate staff reported directly to the State Department in Washington, not to the closest Embassy, which is the usual reporting structure. Although there will be a department dedicated to the Palestinians in the Embassy, they are not pleased to be incorporated into the American Embassy.

Most organized trips to Israel include visits to the usual tourist spots. A ZOA Mission instead gets access to IDF bases where most civilians and visitors can't go and probably don't know about. We had the honor of having two generals show us two very special military bases. The first one had constructed a typical Palestinian city where the soldiers are trained for when they must enter cities to stop or apprehend terrorists. They also constructed a tunnel replicating those created by Hamas and Hezbollah that go from Lebanon and Gaza into civilian neighborhoods and kibbutzim in Israel. Here IDF soldiers are taught how to fight terrorists in these close spaces and how to close them down. Our group could enter the tunnel to experience how difficult it is for the soldiers to negotiate the space. Many in our group expressed concern that the IDF has too many constraints that don't allow them to eliminate the enemy, jeopardizing their safety. The general assured us that a soldier may do whatever is necessary to protect his life, the life of other soldiers, and civilians. Yet this burly general who has been in six wars for Israel shared some personal stories that showed he is a Sabra, hard on the outside but soft on the inside. When those not experienced in war question the IDF's rules of engagement, he shares a personal story. He still remembers the first woman he killed. Although an enemy and dangerous, he said he often recalls that day with

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remorse. All soldiers, he said, remember those they kill, and even if justified it never leaves one's consciousness. During his presentation he showed us a picture of his family before the Holocaust that included his grandparents, mother, aunts and uncles. His mother and one aunt survived, and only because Mengele thought they were twins who he could use for his brutal, sadistic experiments. He described their fight to survive and the result was that they produced many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Now we fight for their safety.

The second base we visited trained border police and anti-terrorism units. Here, too, mock streets in Jerusalem and in Arab areas were constructed, as were areas rich in vegetation. The general in charge of these specially trained police for all of Israel joined us to explain their responsibilities allowed us to watch trainees perform some exercises. All their faces were covered to protect their identities. Although they were using blanks in their guns the demonstrations were very real. To recognize potential terror threats or to apprehend terrorists in crowded streets filled with civilians is a difficult undertaking. Watching a very real recreation we found it even more astonishing that Israelis rarely harm civilians during these necessary but dangerous confrontations.

Each year we visit with a very special group of brave men and women from YATAR CTU. These are volunteers who assist the border police in apprehending terrorists on the Gaza border and near the Temple Mount. They are also expanding to the Lebanon border. These young men and women have jobs and families, yet each night they put on their uniforms, get in their specially constructed ATVs and head for the border for 4-6 hours. Our media won't report this, but terrorists are either stopped or apprehended daily. The number of successful terrorist attacks would be much, much higher if not for these well trained volunteers. Each member of YATAR knows that if they don't do this valuable work their families are potential terror targets. Please visit YATAR's website, [yatarctu.org](http://yatarctu.org), to find out more about their work and please consider making a donation. They need funds for more ATVs, protective vests and neck collars, that protect them from stabbings by terrorists.

Because of ZOA's influence, we are visited by members of Knesset and we meet with mayors of communities in Judea and Samaria. For those who have never visited the beautiful cities in Judea and Samaria you have not seen the real Israel. From Efrat, which has over 150 factories that employ Israelis and Palestinians working side-by-side, to Ariel with its incredible university complex and soon to be completed medical school, to Shiloh, where the Bible comes to life, it is jaw-dropping to see what the Israelis have done to the once barren desert. As we drive to these cities, we pass Palestinian cities where the myths the media tell us about the poor, struggling Palestinians are exposed. There are large homes and mansions in many of these cities and we watch new Mercedes, Range Rovers and other high-end vehicles with Palestinian license plates entering and leav-

ing, with no roadblocks or checkpoints to pass through. But at the entrance to Palestinian cities you will see large red signs that read in Hebrew, English and Arabic: "This Road Leads to Area 'A' Under the Palestinian Authority. The Entrance for Israeli Citizens Is Forbidden, Dangerous to Your Lives and Is Against the Israeli Law." No such sign is at the entrance to an Israeli city warning Palestinians of the consequences if they enter.

Caroline Glick met with us to share her thoughts about events in Israel and the United States. She's now running for Knesset, even though that was never in her plans, but as she said, "If I have a soapbox, I have to use it." Glick reminded us of all the politicians in both political parties pushed for the two-state solution, claiming it would protect Israel. As we know from Israel's experiences in Lebanon and Gaza, a Palestinian state would only be another terror state trying to destroy Israel. As she said, "Whenever we've done something Israelis don't like, Israelis have died." She talked mostly about Judea and Samaria. Area C, which is under Israeli military control, has about 500k Israelis and 100k Palestinians. This area must be made part of Israel and not treated as isolated communities. She feels the Palestinians should have an autonomous role over areas A and B, but they should not be a designated state. For Israel to remain strong, regardless of the political party in control in the United States, she must cooperate on shared interests with Arab countries, as the Netanyahu government has been doing successfully. History has proven that the only solution is one state, the strong State of Israel.

The ZOA Mission always includes a visit with the Lone Soldiers. These are young men and women, mostly from America but from all over the world, who volunteer to join the IDF. Many must learn Hebrew and they all must go through the rigorous training to become a member of this elite military. Since most don't have family or friends in Israel, the Lone Soldier organization gives them a place to get together with other lone soldiers, have a meal, get needed necessities such as socks and personal products or get help finding places to have Shabbos dinner. I've talked with many of these young heroes from all over the United States. They come from different economic groups, different religious backgrounds. Their one commonality is their love of Israel. One soldier who spoke to us was a Palestinian, from a refugee camp. He was taught to hate Jews and Israel, but when he needed a job he went to work for a restaurant in Tel Aviv, working with Jewish Israelis. One day, while at a bus stop, a Hasidic Jew approached him and asked if he would like to wrap tefillin. The young man explained he wasn't Jewish. They had a conversation that changed his life. The kind words of this religious Jew made this young man curious. He started talking to people, learning about Israel. He found the Jews welcoming. When people where he lived discovered his changing views about Israel and the Jewish people, he and his family started getting threatening emails, Facebook posts and more. He soon

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## Abraham Lincoln/Donald J. Trump Both Faced a Civil War!

*By Arthur DeRuve, Col. (Ret.), USAR*

Last month we celebrated the birthday of one of the greatest presidents in American history, *Abraham Lincoln*. That is, many of us did. Unfortunately, the fascist political left wants the elders of our society to forget the greatness of this man, and the young to never learn the truth about him. Sounds like its position on our current, and likewise great president, *Donald J. Trump*, doesn't it? So it is. Why? Let's examine the possibilities.

To recognize the greatness of Abraham Lincoln one has to recognize the fact that he was a Republican; which is all the fascist left needs to promote hate for him as they do today for Trump. One must also recognize the fact that he was the prime mover in destroying the evil of slavery in this country as accepted, promoted and defended by the Democrat Party, many members of which were leaders in the KU KLUX KLAN!!

Via the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, he put an end to legal racism in this country to the detriment of the Democrat Party. While today, this sick left-wing party tries to bring charges of racism against Trump despite the great things he has done for the progeny of those who once lived in slavery—*more jobs, less unemployment, higher wages, improved standard of living, etc.* The Democrats, in his time, mocked Lincoln's appearance, referring to him as a gangly, ignorant ape. Today they refer to Trump as an overweight hulk and buffoon. Fortunately, DJT, like Old Abe, carries on in the great traditions of our party, flicking off the depraved Democrats for the incompetent fools they are.

Let's now look at some of the specific pontifications of our 16th president, and how they are reflected in the specific actions taken by our 45th POTUS! Lincoln said: "You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich." "You cannot help man permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves." "You cannot further brotherhood of man by encouraging hatred." "You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong." "You can-

not build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence."

Trump, respecting the dignity of all, within the scope of Lincoln's principles, has returned pride and accomplishments to those who for decades have suffered under the heel of the Democrat masters. Look at the conditions under which the Blacks and Hispanics have been suppressed for decades in DEMOCRAT strongholds like Chicago, Detroit, New Orleans, Washington, St. Louis, Baltimore, Ferguson, to name a few. He has done this by: Reducing Black unemployment to a record low; reducing Hispanic unemployment to a record low; reducing overall unemployment to 3.7 percent; growing our GDP to the 4 percent range (after an incompetent Obama said 2.5 percent would henceforth be the norm); growing our manufacturing jobs by 0.5 million (after an ignorant Obama lost 1.5 million, saying manufacturing in the U.S. is gone forever); reducing the economic strangling business regulations by 22 for every new one introduced; reducing the number of those on food stamps by over a million.

Yes, the 16th and 45th Presidents of the United States have much in common: love of our country, love of our Founding Fathers, love of our Constitution, and love of the American people (of all persuasions). Each has expressed his position in summary statements such as Lincoln's (not original) "United We Stand" and Trump's (most original) "Make America Great Again." And so, our great country, because of these two great men, does stand united and great again! The Democrat Party continues to encourage civil war against President Trump and all Republicans; let me assure you that it will lose this civil war as they did in 1865!




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*Israel—continued from previous page*

realized it was his people, not the Israelis, who were keeping his people from progressing. This brave young man had to find a new life and new friends in Israel. He is now a proud and committed Israeli ready to defend his country.

I would like to tell everyone about a new museum everyone should visit in Jerusalem, Friends of Zion. Anyone who has visited Yad Vashem knows about the Righteous Among the Nations, the tribute to non-Jews who helped save Jews during the Holocaust. There are many who helped Jews during this horrific period, but throughout history there have been non-Jews who supported and aided the Jewish people

and supported the creation of the State of Israel. This museum provides a history not known by many and should be experienced by Jews and Christians. If you aren't planning to visit Israel go to their website, [www.fozmuseum.com](http://www.fozmuseum.com). It's not as dramatic as being there but perhaps it will be another incentive for you to visit Eretz Yisroel.

There was so much more we experienced on the ZOA Mission, but I hope the highlights will encourage you to visit the ZOA website, [ZOA.org](http://ZOA.org), to learn more about this important organization. Perhaps some of you may decide to join me on the 2020 Mission!

**Talking Points:****Manafort Gets 47 Months and the Left Goes Bonkers***None of his crimes are related to Trump or any Russian collusion***By Larry P. Horist**

**F**or the media jury in the court-of-public opinion, Paul Manafort should be given life in prison for his crimes. They want 25 years—the maximum requested by the federal prosecutors in the Virginia Federal District Court. They would have preferred to have Manafort hanged, drawn and quartered, but that punishment lost popularity in the Middle Ages and our Constitution forbids “cruel and unusual” punishment.

If you consider only the crimes for which Manafort was convicted—8 of the 18 charges leveled by the federal prosecutors—he might have even gotten a lesser sentence. The federal guideline of 19 to 25 years is to give the court what might be thought of an appropriate sentence. The problem with that is that it is almost impossible to find anyone who has been convicted of similar crimes getting anything near the recommendation of the prosecutors.

Judge T.S. Ellis, who sentenced Manafort, noted that similar cases generally result in a couple of years or less—and some resulted in no jail time at all—just probation. In addition to the 47 months, Manafort will have to pay millions of dollars in restitution and serve another three years of probation. That means his actual sentence is closer to seven years.

The extra 20-plus years proposed by the prosecutors might be seen as a Trump penalty—nothing more than punishment for his association with President Trump.

Of course, none of Manafort’s crimes had anything to do with the presidential campaign or the over-hyped Russian collusion theory so dearly embraced by Democrats and the left-wing media. Judge Ellis made that clear at several points in the proceedings.

In the early days of the trial, he admonished prosecution lawyers for trying to tie the case to the investigation being conducted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller. There was no legal linkage and Ellis was not about to allow the government lawyers to create one arbitrarily. Every time government lawyers mention Robert Mueller—or even the title Special Council—Ellis slapped them down.

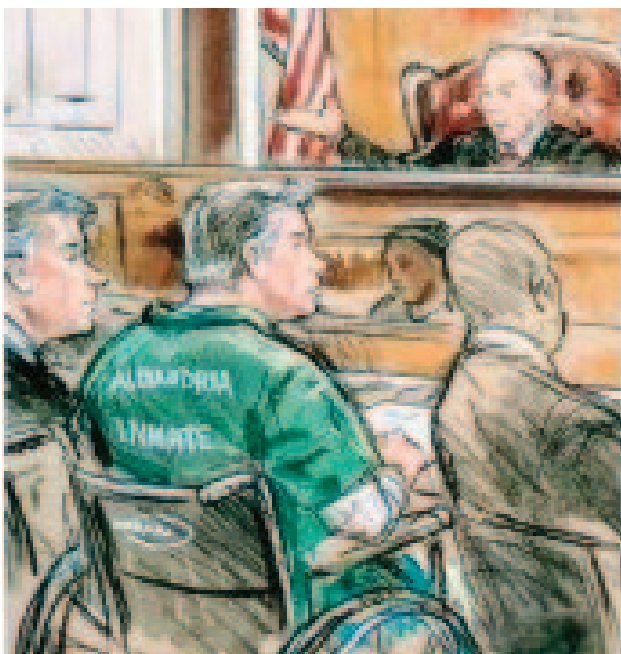
Too often we see courts—federal and otherwise—bending to politics as the underpinning in their dishing out so-called justice. It was shamefully evident in all those Dixie courts during the 175 years of slavery and segregation.

Before sentencing, Ellis gave a significant hint of his decision. He flat-out called the federal guideline excessive. He applied the normal considerations—first-time conviction, age and health of the defendant and the quality of his life apart from the crimes.

Judge Ellis should be credited for blocking out political considerations and pressures and deciding the sentencing on the basic standards of justice. He shunned the notion of imposing an unusually cruel sentence based on the political fervor of the times in favor of one that is more traditional in our court system. Of course, this did not please the rabble on the left who were clamoring for a judicial lynching.

Manafort will face yet another sentencing in the District of Columbia this month for a different assortment of crimes. Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who will preside in that case is more likely to be influenced by the political swirl surrounding Manafort. In that case, he faces a maximum of 10 years. Judge Jackson has the option of making her sentence concurrent with the Ellis sentence or tack it on as an additional time—essentially giving Manafort up to 14 years behind bars. If not a life sentence for the 70-year-old Manafort, it would be pretty close—especially in view of his deteriorating health.

Yes, Manafort was guilty of serious crimes. They were mostly crimes of personal greed—both in acquiring money illegally and concealing his bounty from the legal process.

*Talking Points—continued on next page*

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He deserves to go to jail. Thanks to Judge Ellis, this is a case where the punishment fits the crime. We will soon see how it plays out in Manafort's final sentencing.

So, there 'tis.

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**Larry Horist** writes Tuesday and Friday commentaries for the *Punching Bag Post* . . . [punchingbagpost.com](http://punchingbagpost.com). This article was posted on March 12, 2019, by Larry Horist, Feature Commentator. **Larry Horist** is a conservative activist with an extensive

background in public policy and political issues. Clients of his consulting firm have included such conservative icons as Steve Forbes and Milton Friedman, and he has served as a consultant to the White House under Presidents Nixon and Reagan. He has testified as an expert witness before numerous legislative bodies, including the U.S. Congress and lectured at Harvard University, Northwestern University, Florida Atlantic University, Knox College and Hope College. An award-winning debater, his insightful and sometimes controversial commentaries appear frequently on the editorial pages of newspapers across the nation. He can be reached at [lph@thomasandjoyce.com](mailto:lph@thomasandjoyce.com).



Try to understand the weight of this image. This Patriot lost both arms. The feeling of a handshake is now lost to him.

President Trump realized this, and so touched his face, so he can feel the human connection. This is what I see when I think of Trump's motives.

He gave up a billionaire lifestyle to now be insulted, dragged through the mud, and lied about, on a daily basis.

All to save this country and people he loves.

Please CONSIDER PASSING this on.

Thank You!

A Wounded Patriot and an Empathetic President



# So You Want Medicare for All???? The Venezuelan Socialized Medicine Experience

By Steve Leonard

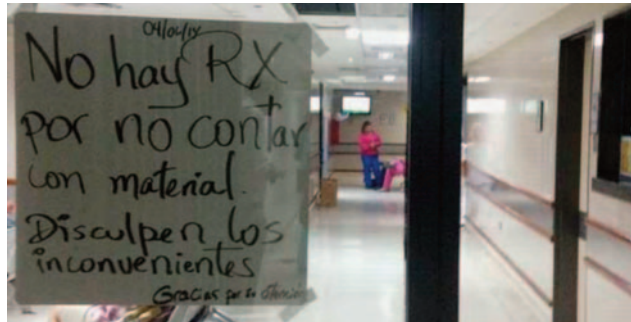


One of the most striking realities in today's Venezuela is the unbelievable lack of medical services, supplies and facilities to treat patients. Yes there are hospitals but they have, in essence, quit functioning.



### Central University Hospital Caracas, Venezuela

The sign reads "No water!" The other one reads "Bathrooms only for patients." Central University Hospital is considered a top hospital in Caracas but cannot provide even basic services due to lack of supplies—both medical and sanitary. Infections due to improperly cleaned operating rooms are rising dramatically.



The sign reads "No X-rays due to lack of materials." 57% of hospitals cannot treat emergencies due to a lack of medicines, supplies and equipment. 90% of hospitals do not have functioning X-rays or film. 62% of hospitals report violent acts against medical personnel when the patients cannot be attended or cured. The 40 public hospitals in Venezuela report that 70% of the time they do not have water, 67% of the time they lack electricity, etc. 79% of over 100 hospitals, (private and public) do not have surgical supplies.



This sign reads "If you are going to use the bathroom, please bring your own water."



This gentleman is 55 years old. The hospitals cannot provide even a minimum of calories to their patients on a daily basis. This man has to depend on family or friends to bring him food. Unfortunately, it does not appear that he has much family or even fewer friends.



This is (was) an operating room at the Domingo Luciani Hospital in Caracas.



This is a wash up station.

Venezuela-continued on next page

Venezuela—continued from previous page



Surgical procedure without anesthesia—there is none available. Solution—a stick wrapped in a cloth—bite hard!



Hospital room. Notice the leg in traction, being held there by string and water bottles.



This was an operating room. This image on the wall was placed there by Chavista social workers. It tells its own story: "Made in Socialism."



Newborns—no incubators working? Let's get creative.



If you think their public hospitals are bad . . . This is a psychiatric hospital.

The treatment for the mentally disturbed and seniors has deteriorated even worse than for the general population.

The situation in Venezuela continues to deteriorate the longer the Maduro regime stays in power. Our President and others are doing their best to support a regime change. It cannot come soon enough. After 20 years of socialist rule, the Maduro regime has run out of the wealth and money generated by and provided by the capitalist economy of the previous 50 years.



The news article reads, "Each week in Venezuela—194 babies and 14 women giving birth die."

Many babies are brought to hospitals weighing less than 1.5 kilos and in precarious conditions due to lack of food. One 29-year-old mother brought in her 5-month-old baby, which weighed less than a kilo. She herself only weighed 38 kilos.

During the month of Jan 2019, at the Luis Razetti Hospital, Anzoategui state, 62 babies died, compared to 254 baby deaths for the whole of 2018 at the same hospital.

*Steve Leonard is a lawyer who has lived in Venezuela for more than 60 years and worked throughout South and Central America. He is another refugee from the realities of communism, currently living in Palm Beach County.*



## Black History Month

By CS Bennett

Black History Month has passed and much has been said about the plight of Black Americans in the United States and the angst and impertinence aimed at this group since their arrival in the Americas. When you add the unforgivable role slavery played in this community's past, there is reason to understand why Blacks view their ancestors as having been unfairly, and unjustly, mistreated and abused at the hands of White Segregationists.

There is little arguing that the Black community has always been viewed as a commodity by a certain sector of American society, and because of that they have been treated as such. And what is a commodity but something that is regarded as a useful or valuable thing, such as a hammer and wood, diamonds and silk, a cow and a jackass, or even a specified group of people—in this case the Black community.

They have been lied to and the truth denied to them. Their numerous contributions, proud heritage, and glorious past have all been whitewashed over. And when it comes to their liberators from slavery, it would nice during Black History Month if someone would acknowledge the political party that took the lead in not only shaping, but protecting and preserving, the Black community's civil rights. This was a struggle fought and won long ago in a costly battle known as the Civil War.

That any celebration of Black History in America still remains void of the very people, and the heroic political party, that played prominent roles in securing liberty, citizenship, and voting rights for Blacks in America, is a travesty. They were courageous people, both Black and White, who gave their lives for the cause of freedom and they are not even given an honorable mention. No doubt, these omissions are a carefully orchestrated strategy meant to keep Blacks forever blind in darkness, and powerless in the light of truth.

For one political party, Blacks represent a major voting bloc, but few Blacks know that the party they are beholden to is the same political party that instituted slavery and had as its militant wing, the KKK. This is the same party whose failed policies kept them in abject poverty to this day. This is the sad party that supports killing the unborn, catering to the whims of the gay and lesbian voting bloc, removing your constitutional right, and your ability, to protect yourself, and allowing illegals to come to this country illegally.

They are unaware that less than 5 percent of whites in the South owned slaves and that there were wealthy and influential Blacks who owned slaves, especially in the New Orleans area. Few know that the majority of Blacks during Reconstruction, a time after slaves were freed, were proud Republicans. And when it comes to women's voting rights, although Woodrow Wilson (D) signed the bill that gave



women the right to vote, he was staunchly against it. It was the Republicans who championed that bill, yet, Democrats take credit for its passing because the president at the time was a Democrat.

So, why did Blacks go over to the Democrat Party? The answer lies in the following: the famous *Smith vs. Allright* legal case; Senator Barry Goldwater's sound legal reason for opposing the Civil Rights Bill of 1964, though his position was viewed as morally unsound; Franklin D Roosevelt's (D) *New Deal*; Harry Truman's (D) *Fair Deal*; and LBJ's (D) *Great Society*—all failed welfare state programs. Once they gained dominion over the Black vote, they removed the Bible from our schools, put abortion centers in the Black community, and made it difficult for the Black father to remain in the home with his family.

Sadly, Republican leadership did nothing to stop the bleed. A few Black leaders have spoken out against Blacks getting too cozy with their former slave masters. This included Black Republican abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who warned Blacks in the South about migrating North *en masse*; Hiram Revels, the first Black to serve in Congress; George Henry White, the last Black to serve in Congress in the 1800s; and the late Black Muslim, and Black Nationalist, Malcolm X, who berated the Democrat Party in a speech he gave.

Democrat policies have never been about prosperity, or lifting Blacks, and other poor communities, out of their misery, nor liberating them from their violence-infested neighborhoods and dire economic situations. Their focus has been about controlling and manipulating the Black vote. Unknown, the majority of America's crime-ridden and low-income cities have been run by Democrats and their failed progressive policies. But there is more to their madness and grab for power.

Our government-run educational system has failed our children and has kept the truth about our proud past hidden from them. Capitalism is demonized, too. Our news media outlets, to include influential entertainment and sports

*Black History Month—continued on next page*



*Black History Month—continued from previous page*

celebrities, are all rolling in the dough, but trashing the very system that made them affluent, rich, and powerful—and that is capitalism. If they were honest, they would be touting and promoting capitalism throughout America's poor and impoverished communities.

Again, I shake my head in disgust at how the Republican Party, and those who gave their lives for the Black cause, are not mentioned during Black History Month, which has been largely promoted and orchestrated by progressives and socialists on the left. Also cleverly left out is the nefarious role the Democrat Party played in their support of Jim Crow Laws, poll taxes, literacy tests, voter intimidation, and outright police brutality against the Black community.

The Republican Party has a rich and glorious proud past, one that should be trumpeted loudly throughout the impoverished neighborhoods in America. Unfortunately, some on our side see no need to discuss our history or our historical connection to the Black community. To them, it is a waste of time and is archaic. Attitudes like this, I believe, are what allowed the Democrats to define the Republican Party, on whole, as bigots and racists.

Patriots, let's expose these people for who they really are, for a change. If we want to win the battle for this republic and defeat the evil forces that want to bring Sharia Law, socialism, and eventually communism, in to replace our republic and free-market system, then let us unite and fight back like our Founding Fathers did when King George III decided to impose his will on us. They did not compromise with the King. They set out with the intent to defeat him. With God's help, they found a way to do just that.

If we do nothing, we fail, and we become what the other side in power dictates. They will remind us, at every opportunity, that we are powerless to oppose them. They will pass law, after law, mandating that we comply with their agenda and policies. Fail to comply and we face a hefty fine, or even jail time. That is the way the left operates. I don't think their failed policies will be anything we will look forward to . . . at least, not this patriot! Not by a long shot!

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*Curtis S. Bennett is an author, a national conservative talk radio co-host, and a columnist. He is a decorated Gulf War veteran and served as Vice Chairman of the Putnam County Republican Executive Committee.*



Palm Beach County Republican Party Vice Chair Tami Donally makes friends with the local fauna on a recent visit to Israel.

## Democrats are Tricking Seniors into Forfeiting Medicare

*By Alan J. Huber, CFP  
Director, Freedom From ObamaCare*

Medicare and Social Security were always known as the third rail of American politics. This means a politician is immediately fried if they touch it.

Democrat seniors are saying that “Medicare For All” will work, and 2020 presidential candidates are stepping over themselves to embrace “Medicare For All.” Here is the part that everyone is forgetting: “Medicare is not socialized healthcare. It is a paid for insurance contract with the government acting as the health insurer.”

For 40 years the average senior has been paying NOT ONLY their monthly health insurance premium, but ALSO their Medicare insurance premium. Then, when they turn 65 their healthcare will be covered and they will pay only a small monthly payment.

Let's repeat: You have pre-paid for your senior health care when you were working. This was in addition to your regular health insurance payments. Seniors in the socialized countries have NOT made these ADVANCE payments.

It can be argued that it not an insurance contract, because you were forced to contract with the government and they can change the rules. However, seniors retain the moral and political clout of contributing money their whole life, AND expecting something in return.

We can understand why politicians want to open Medicare. It allows them to control it and change it, which brings in more political payoffs from lobbyists. But why are the seniors willing to give up their rights to affordable healthcare for as long as they live?

Logically, there is NO REASON. Emotionally? They hate Trump and the Republicans, and this hatred is compounded by the daily assaults by the media, hoping that this

issue will garner enough support to defeat Trump and the GOP in 2020.

If you ask, they tell you, “It works in Finland and Sweden and England and France.”

Ask if they're willing to have their Social Security and pension checks reduced by 20 percent the way those countries reduce pension checks. They always run away.

Insurance for a 64-year-old costs approximately \$1,500 per month. When they turn 65 and go on Medicare their premium is reduced to \$135 per month. Embracing “Medicare For All” would mean that seniors could again be looking at \$1,500+ per month health insurance payments, when they are no longer working and barely making ends meet in retirement.

Folks, these are the facts. Use them and 2020 will be a very good year.

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*Alan J. Huber is a Certified Financial Planner TM and Director of Freedom From Obamacare. During the 2018 midterms, Freedom From ObamaCare was the only group discussing the improvements the Trump administration made to health care choices, which was not publicized by the media. They are expert in non- Obamacare insurance plans and always willing to help Republican officials.*

*Call 855-561-0500 or [Alan@FreedomFromObamaCare.com](mailto:Alan@FreedomFromObamaCare.com)  
[facebook.com/groups/FreedomFromObamaCare](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreedomFromObamaCare)*

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**Club News**

**Republican Club of the Palm Beaches Welcomed “Landslide” Mike Caruso**

*Posted by Fred Scheibl  
March 4, 2019*

Our February Republican Club of the Palm Beaches luncheon featured FH89 Representative Mike Caruso. With the nickname “Landslide” in Tallahassee, given his 37 vote winning margin, Mike relayed some of the arduous steps involved in moving through the circus that was Susan Bucher’s election operation.

Although he admits he very much enjoys the work of the capital, he may have thought twice about running if he knew what was in store for him. The coastal district, held for the last eight years by Bill Hager, was described to him as an easy Republican win when he decided to run. “Easy” is relative, of course, as the district is actually only R+1.6, practically even.

The campaign was dirty, with opponents stealing signs, lots of nasty lies spread in mailers, etc., but the worst was to occur after election day.

FH89 was one of the four races that were close enough to trigger a recount, and Mike witnessed first-hand all the corrupt practices that were on display at the Supervisor of Elections. Many of us who were involved in the process were aware that there was no transparency, and that communications from Susan Bucher’s office were few, misleading, and probably not true.

What you may not have known about, though, was the gobs of ballots that were being “found” after the counting



was supposed to be done—over 4000 in the case of FH89. Mike’s opponent Jim Bonfiglio was heard to say at one point during the recount “don’t worry, we will have the votes.” Bucher was never able to actually say how many votes had actually been cast in any of the races, yet she seemed to always know the margins.

Lots of dirty tricks were occurring. SOE employees were observed in a back room hurriedly filling out new ballots—supposedly transcribing “unreadable” ones, but who could tell—no one was allowed in there and the canvassing board was not present in violation of law. When this activity was challenged, the supervisor’s response was to move filing cabinets around to block the view of the activity from the “public.” When the canvassing board was present and involved in “determining the intent of the voter,” Mike was keeping count of how many votes were being assigned to him and his opponent. At the end of the day, though, when the tallies were supposedly “rolled up,” his count never changed. This occurred multiple times.

The most arrogant action by Bucher, though, was about toilets. With hundreds of volunteers from both parties descending on the Riviera Beach counting facility, there was only one bathroom, and she refused to remedy the situation as she really didn’t want to make it pleasant for those looking over her shoulder. Mike requested from the Republicans in Tallahassee assistance in obtaining porta-johns and toilet paper, and when they came through, Bucher refused to place them on “her” property and said she would have them towed if placed on the street.

Fortunately, when the race was finally certified, Mike was ahead by the same 37 votes he had been from the start, and his opponent conceded. Although the entire experience was an unpleasant one, he has taken his place in the Legislature, and through the actions of Governor DeSantis, we have a new Supervisor of Elections.



Tracy Caruso watching the opening legislative session on March 5 in Tallahassee from the balcony. Photo by Ryan Michael Reiter.



## Letters

### To the Editor:

Tom, Another good job of putting out the Newsletter. I send it around and got deserved praise for your work in putting it all together.

Here is a note from Bob McClure, president of the James Madison Institute yesterday.

Several of my friends and I put your name in for the annual Jean Pipes Award last night as we appreciate all of your time and effort—and the results! You deserve the recognition—along with the big bucks.

—Geo. Blumel

[www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com](http://www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com)

From: Bob McClure <[bob@jamesmadison.org](mailto:bob@jamesmadison.org)>

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 8:14 AM

To: George Blumel

Subject: Re: JMI in Sep GOP Newsletter / Nat'l Term Limits Day in Feb 27

What a great newsletter! And your article is excellent! Thanks for the JMI shoutout!

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### Insight into 2020 Campaign

This past Saturday, in their addresses to friendly audiences, President Trump and his probable opponent in his run for re-election in 2020 (if Hillary keeps her dirty mitts off the primaries), Bernie Sanders, both gave us some insight as to the nature of these two guys and their respective future goals for this nation. Trump spoke in D.C. to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) and Bernie, in Brooklyn at Brooklyn College to a bunch of Far Left homies, many of whom brought sandwiches stuffed in paper bags by their moms who shook them awake early in the AM so as to get them ready to attend the speech. Sanders, in wooing his listeners, tearfully recalled his parents' early years of poverty, living in a 3½-room apartment and him going to freebie Brooklyn College (BC). Strange that he didn't disclose that after only one year at the tuition-free BC, he transferred to the upscale, private University of Chicago that now charges \$76,000 per year. What precious belongings did his folks hock to give Bernie the apparently useless education he required to get his first paying job at the age of 40? And by the way, as a young adult, he was kicked out of an Israeli, socialist kibbutz for his refusal to work. Bernie again promised these future deadbeats everything you can think of . . . on the cuff. Free schooling, medical, housing, a minimum wage, and heralded a day when all worries would be taken care of by the Citizen State. Just sit back, vote for me and relax. All will be well. Pie in the Socialist Sky.

The difference between these two guys is clear and distinct. For starters, Trump declared he would sign an executive order requiring American universities to maintain "free speech" on campuses and threatened that schools not complying could lose federal research funds. Bernie, on the other hand, has never spoken out on the radicalized Brooklyn Col-

lege history of shutting down free speech for Jewish kids who support Israel. Back in February of 2013, Michael Ziegler, Ari Ziegler and Melanie Goldberg were all expelled from an event held at BC. Not one word from Bedford-Avenue-Bernie on Israel. He brazenly and wholeheartedly endorses the BDS, Jew/Israel-hating movement that would strangle and destroy the Jewish State. Bernie also hammered away at the 1 percent, the wealthy, who he claims rule this country, and promised to change all that, basically sounding like Robin Hood . . . "free everything for everybody." He neglected to apologize during his rousing, socialist talks for his three homes, the latest one being an \$800,000 lakefront vacation "cottage," and for zooming around the roads of Vermont in his reported \$160,000 Audi R-8 sports car.

Trump, on the other hand, offers no apologies for the billionaire lifestyle he leads. He worked as a construction worker for his dad, who was a local NYC home builder. His successful efforts, in a little over two years in the White House, to create over 3,000,000 jobs, reduce taxes, lure American businesses back to our shores, and raise the GDP to over 3 percent is what this country needs, rather than socialist nonsense that promises to make our nation a carbon copy of Venezuela and Cuba. We don't give one darn what a candidate for any office says. We focus on what he/she does. And the comparisons between Bernie and Donald lead us to believe our lives have been bettered by one and threatened by the other. Guess which one we must support for President in 2020?

—Alan Bergstein

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### Government-Caused Winter Chills Upstate New York

Regarding your editorial "Cuomo's Cold Weather Tax" (Feb. 6): Under Gov. Andrew Cuomo and in large part under his father as well, upstate New York has become a place of economic darkness. There is no calculating the extent of economic harm this team did to New York state's economic vitality. Almost every one of the state's upstate counties has lost population.

Gov. Cuomo's fracking ban, bullying of utilities, his "make believe" gun-safety edict which immediately drove Remington Arms, then in its third century as a major employer in upstate New York, to Alabama, showcase his political narcissism and need for approval from the elites.

During former Gov. Mario Cuomo's three terms in office, despite his charm and eloquence, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, as well as businesses large and small, fled for sunnier, more taxpayer-friendly climes. I'm happy to be one of them.

—Phil Pepe  
Delray Beach

*Editor's Note: This letter was published in the February 20 Wall Street Journal. Phil is a member of the Boca Raton Regional Republican Club.*

**Book Review**

***Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children.* By Samuel Blumenfeld and Alex Newman. Washington, DC: WND Books, 2014. Hardcover, 352 pp. ISBN #978-1-938067-12-9.**

The Federalist papers are a collection of articles written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay in the late 1780s, the purpose of which was to convince the American people that the proposed Constitution of the United States was well worth supporting. I read them years ago and, having done so, I applaud Samuel Blumenfeld and Alex Newman, authors of *Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children*, for choosing the following quote by Alexander Hamilton in Federalist No. 28, 1787 as the opening lines in the frontice page of their fine book. It is a fitting way to start:

*If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self-defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government.*

And self-defense is called for, given the truly criminal nature of what progressive utopians are doing to children today in America's public schools. The authors' contention is that these left-wingers have developed a new and unique method for conquering our nation by "dumbing down its people."

Historically, progressive utopians "have killed more human beings in the last one hundred years than any other ideologues in history." They've done this in "National Socialist Germany's war of extermination against the Jews, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic's war against anti-communists, communist Cambodia's slaughter of the educated middle class, and communist China's cultural war." But in the U.S., as I said above, the socialist utopians have developed a new and unique method for conquering America. This began in the late 1890s and the architect of the generational-long plan was Socialist John Dewey. He wrote an article back then entitled "The Primary Education Fetich," and in it he outlined his plan for turning America "into a collectivist utopia by taking over the public schools and destroying the literacy of millions of Americans."

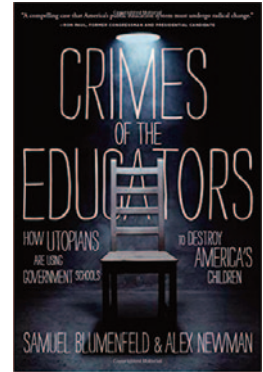
How did Dewey plan on doing this? Simply by "changing the way children are taught to read" in public schools. His idea was to replace the old "phonics method of instruction" with "a look-say, sight, or whole word method that forces children to read English as if it were Chinese. This method is widely in use today's public schools, which is

why there are so many failing public schools that can not teach children the basics."

The noble purpose of this book is to reveal what is being done to America's school kids. Incredibly, but not surprisingly, today's public schools no longer embrace "the values of the founding fathers," but instead are instilling in our youth "the values of nineteenth-century European social utopians that completely contradict our own concepts of individual freedom." Right under our noses, these left-wing utopians are polluting our kids minds with new values that are more in keeping with their own ideas of "social justice."

*Crimes of the Educators* is a real eye-opener and it should be widely read by all who are interested in finding out the genesis of what is being taught in the nation's public schools these days. Do so and you'll begin to understand how that school system produces people like 29-year-old Alexandria Occasio Cortes, a woman with a degree in economics from Boston College who advocates this kind of utopian socialism. Do so and you'll also begin to understand why the socialist-minded mainstream media was so eager to anoint her AOC and elevate her stature in the public's minds to that of other famous Americans like FDR, LBJ and JFK.

—Tom Mullings



## Book Review

***OVERCHARGED: Why Americans Pay Too Much for Health Care*, by Charles Silver and David A. Hyman, Cato Institute, 2018, ISBN 978-1-944424-76-3, 555 pp including index. Available at the Store on Cato.org.**

Even before the book begins, you read 18 recommendations from well-recognized experts in health care, economics, professors, and assorted advocates giving high praise and congratulations right inside the cover. The book is in two parts containing 22 chapters, then there are three more bell ringers calling attention with short statements: former U.S. Senator Thomas Daschle, former U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, and former President Bill Clinton. Part 1 is titled “Misdiagnosis: The Problem Obamacare Should Have Fixed.” Part 2 is titled “Mistreatment: Why Obamacare Failed and What Will Succeed.”

The book is well documented with 107 pages of chapter end notes and it has a 10-page index. It is needed by those charged with trying to improve the health care system. As I started to read the book, I kept track of news articles about health care costs in the *Palm Beach Post* and *Wall Street Journal* and other sources. There were more than a dozen articles, many about the Trump effort to reduce drug prices for Americans.

Charles Silver is a lawyer and adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute and holds an endowed chair to teach civil procedure at the University of Texas Law School, where he teaches about civil litigation, health care policy, legal ethics, and insurance. David Hyman is a lawyer and physician and adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute and a professor at Georgetown University Law Center. He has taught or still teaches health care regulation, civil procedure, insurance, medical malpractice, law and economics, professional responsibility, consumer protection, and tax policy.

The Introduction lays out where we are with Obamacare in 2017 and then describes five reasons health care is dysfunctional and costs more than it should. #1 Political Control of Health Care Policy; #2 Third-Party Payment; #3 The Prices Are Too Damn High!; #4 Health Care Quality in Lake Wobegon; and #5 Opaque Prices. This is followed with four lessons learned from recent legislative actions in health care. No. 1—The Health Care System is Full of Good People, but Good People Can’t Save a Bad System; No. 2—If the Bottom Leads, the Top Will Follow; No. 3—To Beat ’Em, Leave ’Em; and No. 4—Better Health Care (and Better Health) Through Self-Pay.

The authors have repeated themselves several times on certain subjects starting with their own brief summary of the contents of the first 14 chapters in the introduction to Part 1, which I will quote verbatim here:

The United States is “the most expensive place in the world to get sick.” Why? One big reason is that the providers rou-

tinely game the payment system. Drug companies are experts at this. Chapter 1 describes how they first gain strangleholds on supply. Chapter 2 then describes how they then charge whatever they want, knowing the payment system imposes no restraint on prices. Chapter 3 shows that shady conduct occurs at every point in the drug distribution system and often involves the willing participation of pharmacists and physicians who profit by exploiting existing payment arrangements. It is easy to see why spending on prescription drugs, new and old, had gone through the roof.

Doctors game the payment system too. As Chapters 4 and 5 show, they deliver an ocean of services that patients don’t need, such as excessive numbers of stents and cesarean deliveries. Chapter 6 describes how doctors regularly perform treatments that haven’t been proven to work, many of which are found to be ineffective or harmful when they are finally studied with care.

Chapter 7 explain how public officials get in on the action. In return for sizable contributions from health care providers and their lobbyists, they let the flow of cash into the health care sector continue and look for ways to increase it. When the campaign contributions are large enough, elected officials even go to bat for corrupt providers who face fraud investigations.

Some hospitals and doctors aren’t satisfied with excess payments for garden-variety overuse and unnecessary care, and they turn to a life of crime—or at least abuse. Chapter 8 explains how hospitals “upcode” treatments, invent secondary conditions that patients don’t have, and concoct phony bills. Chapter 9 shows how hospitals also conspire with doctors to maximize their revenues by capturing differences in payments based on the site of service, tacking on absurd charges, and gouging patients who are uninsured or treated by out-of-network physicians at their facilities. Chapter 10 describes how hospices, nursing homes, and home health care services play similar games and frequently charge for services that were never delivered.

Chapter 11 shows how some doctors operate pill mills that supply the street with dangerous drugs—likely contributing to the rising death toll from overuse of prescription narcotics. Ambulance companies and durable medical equipment suppliers cheat the system regularly too, as do domestic and criminal gangs. As Chapter 12 explains, there are far too many malefactors for the police to catch. For every one police put away, two more pop



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up. That is why the same types of fraud succeed again and again and again.

Chapter 13 explains that the quality of health care is often dangerously low because the payment system pays providers regardless of how well or poorly their patients fare. In fact, it often doles out more money to providers when patients experience complications than when they get well. Chapter 14 explains how incumbent health care providers have stifled competition so successfully that the government has to pay them extra to improve. In other industries, competition forces existing business to bear costs of improving their products.

Although there have been repeated attempts to address these problems, all have failed because they have not changed the core incentives driving the system. We address that problem in Part 2 [footnotes omitted] (pp. 23–24).

A similar summary for Part 2 would take four and a half pages to reproduce here, so we will make a few selected comments about the book instead of providing that source about Part 2—*Mistreatment: Why Obamacare Failed and What Will Succeed*—with emphasis on the latter.

This book is so detailed in explaining the various analyses and suggestions that you have to read it to see the scope of their review. That will probably be a problem as not too many people who get health insurance from their employer—about 140 million, give or take—so they will be satisfied to leave this alone and never read the book. Those who really need to read the book, like legislators and staff researchers, think tank writers, consultants, and policy wonks will need to dedicate some time after reading the book to research court interpretations of issues that require changing, and then find ways to fit the necessary coalitions of organizations to support the effort it will take to understand the problems and organize efforts to make changes in the systems causing the high costs of health care. This task is monumental, looking back at the recent failures since Hillary Clinton’s attempt to change things, Romney’s Massachusetts health care plan, and the attempt by a few states to develop a Medicare for All program that all failed because of projected costs.

But the difficulties of understanding what to do is evident from the 2018 elections when the Democrats promised health care programs and the Republicans did not. The Dems got 40 new seats in the House and gained the driver’s seat there.

These authors say third-party payers don’t care about you, that physician’s fees and other health care costs have risen with every plan attempting to control costs, and the evil genius of insurance makes health care cheap at the point of sale. Without copayment, cheap costs at the point of sale,

will induce demand. Obamacare lite will remain on the books for longer than Republicans like to believe. We are told that other countries provide insurance and ask why can’t we?

They say health care needs to operate more like retail with advertising and periodic sales. Hospitals “jack up” prices, because they can. Loss leaders would get people in the door. Providers would bundle services for a price. Use of assistants and other support personnel will help physicians compete. Pay your doctor the way you pay your gym, they suggest. Let Costco run the Mayo Clinic.

Go to other places for medical care—prices are much less. Look at India’s Narayana Hrudayalaya (NH) coronary artery bypass surgery center where \$1600 will get your operation for less than the Cleveland Clinic where the charge is \$100,000. Leave Manhattan and go to Buffalo for care, it costs less.

Switch from third-party pay for prescription drugs to first-party pay. This will reduce prices and assure competition. Use whistleblower lawsuits to uncover illegal payment schemes.

Make catastrophic insurance coverage the norm. “[E]ventually, we predict, the retail health care sector will integrate vertically, and companies like CVS Health and Costco will start running hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. Then price, quality, and access to medical services of all types will vastly improve” (p. 278).

The Conclusion is only 5 pages—saying 1) “the evil-genius of third-party payment is that it encourages consumption and drives up costs by making medical services cheap for patients at the point of sale”; 2) officials and health care providers who benefit from these third-party systems argue health care is too complicated and too complex for patients to manage on their own; 3) “advocates of tax breaks . . . are making” medical care more expensive; 4) root causes of \$1 trillion in fraud per year need to be cleaned up; 6) many participating providers will not like the changes and we should stop listening to them and their lobbyists; 7) markets can help meet our needs for health care; 8) the changes will not be easy; 9) “The first Rule of Holes is that, when you find yourself in one, stop digging.”

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*Reviewed by William J. Skinner, a retired pharmacist and attorney, who represented the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Washington, D.C. and served that client as the Co-chairman of the Coalition for Health Funding (a large group of health professions organizations and disease associations) for several years to help the Congress and Administrations develop the health care budgets during the 1970s. Since retiring in 2003, Skinner has participated as an elected member of the Palm Beach County Republican Executive Committee.*

## Editor's Postscript

### Why We Need to Stay in Syria After Caliphate Eliminated

*By Tom Mullings*

More than a few conservatives see no reason for the United States to remain in Syria after the final eradication of the Caliphate which is eminent, but I beg to differ. Even President Trump, who favored a complete withdrawal from the country, has had second thoughts after being warned by military advisors that the move was ill-advised and dangerous and is now in favor of leaving a residual force on the ground. I concur and here's why:

For one thing, how many times do we have to go through this kind of thing before Americans start to realize that our unbridled eagerness to exit conflicts we've committed to can and does have negative consequences. Take the Vietnam War, for example. The war lasted many years and went through many phases, but by the end we were winning. By then Henry Kissinger was negotiating an end to our involvement in Paris, France at President Richard Nixon's behest. The Paris Peace talks were concluded with an agreement between the United States and North Vietnam in 1973 to end the war (the Paris Peace Accord) that the Nixon Administration advertised as "Peace with Honor," but we wound up with neither.

"Vietnamization," our strategy in the war was designed to slowly withdraw American combat troops and replace them with South Vietnamese Army troops (ARVN) and the policy was working. By 1972, most American combat troops had been removed and when North Vietnam launched a surprise offensive, they were successfully fought to a standstill by ARVN troops on the ground with American airpower providing support. But in their headlong haste to exit the war, in 1975 when North Vietnam launched another offensive in the South, in direct violation of the Paris Peace Accords, Democrats in Congress cut off all funding for the war, denying then President Ford the option of once again blunting the North's offensive with American airpower as was done in '72, thus completely destroying the morale of the ARVN and insuring the collapse of South Vietnam. As a combat soldier in the war myself, I'm not ashamed to say I cried when Saigon fell in 1975 with the words of past President Lyndon Johnson—"We will not abandon our friends in South Vietnam" ringing in my ears. Think of all the blood (some of it my own) and treasure that we sacrificed, and for what in the end—to leave allies in the lurch and run with our tail between our legs? As an American, the shame of it all has never left me. Today I console myself about Vietnam with a bigger picture, geopolitical perspective, secure in the knowledge that it was a battle in the Cold War and although we lost the battle, thanks to Democrats eager for an exit from the war regardless of the

cost, it was, as Ronald Reagan once said, "a noble cause," and ultimately we won the war.

Now fast-forward to the Administration of Barak Obama. He too was eager to oversee an exit of American troops from a war, this time the Iraq War. By the time the "anointed one" had taken office, former President George W. Bush's prosecution of the war had all but eradicated al Qaeda in Iraq and only about 100 of the terrorists still remained in the country. But when surviving Jihadists who'd been chased out of Iraq, got wind of Obama's much advertised, hasty withdrawal from the war, against universal advice from American military leaders not to do so, they came riding back into the country in their pick-up trucks on a single axis and proceeded to set up the Caliphate in both Syria and Iraq. Now after years of effort, under the Administration of Donald Trump we've all but eliminated that Caliphate, whose territory has shrunk to about one square mile as of this writing, and once again we're being bombarded with calls for a complete withdrawal without much thought as to what that means.

Keep in mind, those tens of thousands of jihadists, who are about to lose the last remnants of their Caliphate, are not gone. They're still there. For an in-depth look of what's at stake for the United States in Syria, I turn to General Jack Keane, a retired four-star Army general, Chairman for the Institute for the Study of War and, for my money at least, one of the best strategic thinkers in the country. Much of what follows comes from his analysis of the situation in Syria:

As we downsize our footprint in Syria, allies are joining us. The British and French are on the ground with us right now and have unofficially committed to keep forces there. We've reached out for additional forces from Belgium, Norway and Germany to help flesh out the allied coalition that will remain in country, and Belgium will probably respond with troops. The other two countries probably will not, and no wonder. The leaders in these countries are so feckless that it is uncertain as to whether or not they would defend their own people if needed, which is pathetic. These countries are breeding grounds for ISIS and there are entire neighborhoods that the police are afraid to enter, so it is no surprise that they refused to stand up in Syria.



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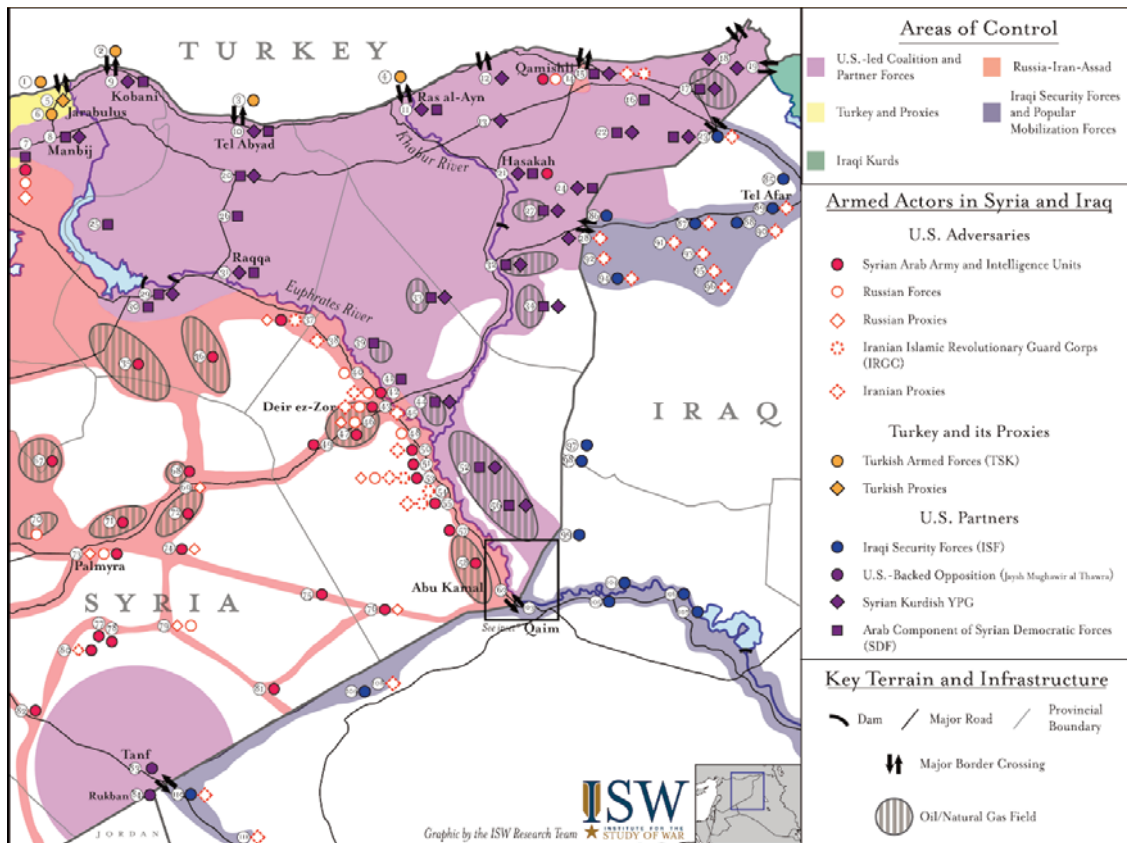
Take a look at the map of Syria accompanying this article. The purple areas are territory that we and our coalition partners control. There are 60,000 Democratic Forces on the ground there, opposed by 20,000 ISIS fighters, most of whom are now in hiding. That purple half circle at the bottom of the map is where our base is located. In the north-easter part of the purple, there will be a safe zone between Turkey and Syria and we and our partners will maintain that safe zone. The idea also is to keep pressure on ISIS and not allow them to retake territory, as they did in Iraq under Obama.

And in that half circle in the south, our base will serve to block the land bridge that Iran wants to establish so it can encroach upon Israel. That alone won't stop Iran's aggression and expansion. We need to keep maximum sanction pressure on and keep in mind one other critical point. That purple area in the northeast contains 70 percent of Syria's oilfields and if we pulled out completely, Iran would get all those oil fields and the revenue from that oil would enable

them to fund the wars in Syria and Yemen. Keep in mind also that the U.S. will not have to fight on the ground in Syria. The 60,000 Democratic Forces will handle that task. For the most part our mission will be to maintain air superiority and direct coalition strike-fighters to support those Democratic Forces.

In the past our eagerness to leave conflicts we've committed to have done damage to our vital national strategic interests. In Syria today, where the United States is engaged in an effort to block Russian/Iranian attempts to dominate the region, it behooves all Americans to keep abreast of developments in that troubled area of the world in order to avoid repeating those same uninformed mistakes again.

*Tom Mullings is a decorated Army infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, who served as a scout dog handler with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was one of the three original incorporators of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and is a long-time Republican Executive Committeeman from precinct 5154 in Palm Beach County.*







# Republican Executive Committee Membership Application

The Republican Executive Committee (also known as the REC) is the governing body of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. The REC elects the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Party. Members of the REC also approve the Party's constitution; Rules, Policies & Procedures; and budget.

Members of the Republican Executive Committee represent registered Republicans who live in their precinct and serve as the Party's liaison to the Republicans within that precinct. REC members are expected to maintain contact with Republicans living in their precinct and to keep them informed as to what is going on in the Republican Party. This can be done through E-mail or other means like regular mail, phone calls and/or walking your precinct. The REC is the basis for our grassroots efforts and we rely on REC Members to organize and develop their precincts, recruit new volunteers, recruit candidates to fill vacancies on the REC, find sign locations for Republican candidates, register new Republican voters and work to get out the Republican vote in their precincts during elections. The role of committeeman or committeewoman is essential to Republican Party's and our candidates' success in Palm Beach County.

### REC Committeeman & Committeewoman Duties and Responsibilities

1. Expected to donate financially to the Republican Party of Palm Beach County
2. Attend REC Meetings
3. Organize your precinct and carry out the policies and programs of the Party within your precinct. Active participation in the various programs of the Party is expected.
4. Serve on a Party Committee.
5. Develop a presence in the broader community by joining a Republican Club; serving on a local board or committee; or monitoring local media for relevant material.

**ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE REC MUST BE A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN IN PALM BEACH COUNTY. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REC APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT ALONG WITH A PHOTO COPY OF THE FRONT OF YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD. ANY APPLICATION RECEIVED WITHOUT A COPY OF THE APPLICANT'S VOTER REGISTRATION CARD WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. YOU WILL ALSO NEED THE SIGNATURES BELOW OF TWO CURRENT REC MEMBERS. THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS IS 11:00 AM, 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE REC MEETING.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Check here if you DO NOT want your email reported to the Supervisor of Elections thus making it a matter of public record under Florida law. \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Precinct #: \_\_\_\_\_

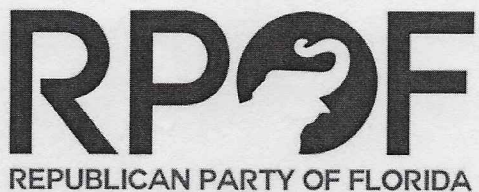
I am applying for the position of: Committeeman \_\_\_\_\_ Committeewoman \_\_\_\_\_

### Two Current REC Members' Sponsor Signatures:

1). \_\_\_\_\_ REC Precinct # \_\_\_\_\_ 2). \_\_\_\_\_ REC Precinct # \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your REC Application to the Republican Party of Palm Beach County Headquarters,  
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 500, West Palm Beach 33401 Phone (561) 686-1616





## Republican Party of Florida Party Loyalty Oath

I, \_\_\_\_\_, swear and/or affirm that during my term of  
**(Name of Member – Please write clearly)**

office I will not actively, publicly, or financially support the election of any candidate seeking election against:

- (1) The Republican Party's nominee in a partisan unitary, general, or special election that includes a Republican nominee; or
- (2) A registered Republican in a non-partisan election except that this provision does not apply to judicial races under Chapter 105, Florida Statutes.

I further swear or affirm that, in a contested Republican primary election, I will not support the nomination of one Republican candidate over another in my capacity as a Republican County Executive Committee member unless the Party has voted to endorse under RPOF Rule 8. This provision does not preclude me from supporting in any manner my personal Republican candidate of choice in a contested Republican primary election, provided I do not express such support with public reference to my title or office within the Republican Party of Florida.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
County/Precinct #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Office: \_\_\_\_\_

**(State Committeeman, State Committeewoman; Precinct Committeeman, Precinct Committeewoman;  
Alt. Precinct Committeeman, Alt. Precinct Committeewoman)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address, as it appears on voter registration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

**CANDIDATE OATH -  
PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND  
COMMITTEEWOMEN**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

**OATH OF CANDIDATE** (Section 99.021, Florida Statutes)

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
 (PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT \* -- NAME MAY NOT BE CHANGED AFTER THE END OF QUALIFYING)

am a candidate for the office of Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Committeeman \_\_\_\_\_ Committeewoman \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct Number \_\_\_\_\_.

I am a qualified elector of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Florida; I am qualified under the Constitution and the Laws of Florida to hold the office to which I desire to be nominated or elected; and I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida.

Candidate's Florida Voter Registration Number (located on your voter information card): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please print name phonetically on the line below as you wish it to be pronounced on the audio ballot for persons with disabilities (see instructions on page 2 of this form): \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF PARTY** (Section 99.021, Florida Statutes)

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party; I have not been a registered member of any other political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which I seek to qualify; and I have paid the assessment levied against me, if any, as a candidate for said office by the executive committee of the political party, of which I am a member.

**X**

( )

Signature of Candidate

Telephone Number

Email Address

Address

City

State

ZIP Code

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

**COUNTY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Personally Known: \_\_\_\_\_ or

Produced Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Identification Produced: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Notary Public**

Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public