

What's News

A Newsletter from the Conservatives on Main Street, Winnebago GOP

December 2023

738 North Main Street / 920-303-9270



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This edition's theme: States screwed up by liberal policies.

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Elections, and Having to Do With

The next elections in Winnebago County are:

- Local office primaries (as may be required) and Presidential preference primary, February 20, 2024.
- Local office general election, April 2, 2024.
 - Includes a binding referendum to outlaw “Zucker bucks;”
- Partisan primary election (excluding Presidential Primary)
- Partisan general election, November 5, 2024
 - Includes a binding referendum to limit Wisconsin voting to United States citizens of at least 18 years of age.

If you are interested in running for local political office, please contact campaign@winnebagogop.org call us at 920-303-9270 or stop in at 738 North Main Street for more information and to contribute to the conservative future of our country. Come talk it through with us.

Gov’t Goings-On (partial listing only)

Neenah School District

You can join the next NJSD meeting by phone: 312-626-6799 (Meeting ID: 870 2756 7480,

Or you can join by Zoom through this link:

<https://neenah-k12-wi.zoom.us/j/87027567480#success>

City of Oshkosh

The city budget for 2024 was approved at the November 14 city council meeting. The 2024 operating budget is \$174.3 million with \$119 million in capital improvements, and \$56.5 million in the general fund. The budget relies on \$2 million in state shared revenue to help with inflation and a drop in incoming revenue. More than 60% of the budget is to support public safety. The proposed increase in the budget is 3.37% over the 2023 budget. The tax levy is a 3.99% increase over the 2023 number. <https://oshkoshherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/November-22-2023-Oshkosh-Herald.pdf>

Oshkosh Area School District

- OASD rejected a Moms4Liberty complaint about pornographic / age-sensitive materials being freely available in its school libraries. A reply from West High School Principal Lewis Malczewsky said that all such material complies with the policy that the school system created in the past.

Editor’s Note: While the schools scream “book bans,” I wonder what is wrong with an age-restrictive rating system similar to American movie ratings: G, PG-13, R, NC-17, XXX? Read the response here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1umOW-ND4MZfgilyUTWGHcwwHx-GjZDhT/view>

Winnebago County That’s what I’m talkin’ about!

- **In 2020, the county board pushed hard to grant the County Health director full authority to shut down any business for any reason. The rationale at the time was COVID and a directive**

from the Evers administration, but no limits were to be put on the health department's authority. Conservatives showed up 500 strong at two consecutive board meetings to express disapproval of the overreach. Since that time, Winnebago County has voted in a conservative majority onto the county board. In November 2023, and to be in general compliance with state directives, the board passed a resolution requiring any such action to be approved by a 2/3 vote of the entire county board. Once a closure is in effect, it must be re-approved by 2/3 of the board every 7 days.

- The county board has passed the 2024 budget. Highlights are
 - Two requested staff positions in the health department have been eliminated to fund two additional detectives for the County Sheriff's Department.
 - A 39-cent equalized property **TAX CUT** will be in effect.
 - County debt is only 2.4% of the level allowed by state statute.
 - Even with increases in interest rates, county debt service tax levy decreased to 4%.

Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate

Our county Representatives: Nate Gustafson-R, Dave Murphy-R, Lori Palmeri-D, Mike Schraa-R, Lee Snodgrass-D

Our Senators: Rachael Cabral-Guevara-R, Dan Feyen-R. Find them here: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

- After two more crashes on Highway 21 within just miles and days of each other, Mike Schraa has renewed his push to move up the schedule for redesign of this road from Leonard Point Road and to the West. The current DOT schedule is to start in 2027. Rep. Schraa is pushing for a higher priority.
- Representative Gustafson has cosponsored a bill to protect Wisconsin children from pornography through on-line access. The bill would prohibit businesses from knowingly distributing such material to minors.
- The freedom of speech bill in support of Wisconsin University system students, authored by Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara, gained unanimous support in the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. Ironically, the bill is intended to protect students from attacks on their free speech from the university itself. This assembly committee is chaired by Dave Murphy. You can read more about the bill [here](#).
- Both houses of the legislature have passed legislation to present two binding referenda to the voters in 2024 elections. The referenda, if approved by voters, will make giant strides toward securing fair elections:
 - Voters must be at least 18 years old and a United States Citizen. (November 2024 election)
 - Neither money, equipment, nor staff can be accepted from outside parties by governmental agencies in order to conduct elections. (April 2024 election)

If passed by the electorate, these referenda cannot be vetoed by Tony Evers. We win one for the gipper.

United States Congress

Our Representatives: Mike Gallagher-R, 8th Congressional District; Glenn Grothman-R, 6th Congressional District

Our Senators: Tammy Baldwin-D; Ron Johnson-R

(Editor's Note: I signed up for Tammy's email updates for my private email address. She ignored me. Here I thought Senators represented their entire state.

- As you know, the House of Representatives has a new speaker, Mike Johnson from Louisiana. Although almost no one outside the state of Louisiana had ever heard of Mike before 10 minutes ago, it

took only MINUTES for Mainstream Media and the Democrats to inform us that he is a product of hell, has nothing but evil in his heart, and worse than anything, seems to practice Christianity. Oh my.

- Frankly speaking, I do not think too much can change our conservative position within the federal government decision-making environment when the Democrats hold the Presidency, the Democrats control the Senate, and the career bureaucrats own every decision that Congress gave away over the past 70 years. After the expulsion of the liar from New York, Republicans (including the RINOS) only have a 3-seat majority in the assembly. We are not working from a position of power.
- Representative Grothman has introduced the Air America Act in support of confidential government employees flying for the CIA 1950 through 1976. As part of their cover, they were never listed as government employees at the time, so have never received federal retirement benefits. This bill would correct that oversight. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) has introduced a companion bill to this in the Senate. The inspiration for this piece of legislation came from [Neil Hansen](#), resident of Wisconsin's Sixth District, who was a pilot for Air America during the Vietnam War.

Why a Blind Eye to All Things Biden?



- “House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan [opened an investigation](#) this week into the intelligence community's obstruction of my and Senator Chuck Grassley's 2020 report on Hunter Biden that was labeled Russian "disinformation," Stated Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)
- “I also encourage everyone to read the [7-page letter](#) Senator Grassley released that details 40 human sources saying that there's potential criminal activity within the Biden family. Why is the FBI turning a [blind eye on all things Biden](#), but corruptly pursued Trump, even though they knew the Steele dossier was sourced from someone they were investigating as a Russian spy?”

Hey, it's **NOT** just a joke!



<https://nypost.com/2023/07/20/biden-bribe-file-released-burisma-chief-said-both-joe-and-hunter-involved/>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/03/30/hunter-biden-china-laptop/>
<https://nypost.com/article/hunter-biden-china-timeline-business-ties/>

How about another?



What he/she said HUH? (. . . you can't make this stuff up)

Time to treat *WOKE* as a *JOKE*:

This is great. A big thank you to Dan O'Donnell (WISN 1130 Milwaukee, 9-11 am M-F) for publicizing Robert Sterling's X post:



Robert Sterling @ robertMsterling

It's been amazing this week (following the October 7 HAMAS attacks on Israel) to watch the left invert every rhetorical device they've used since 2020, all to avoid having to criticize terrorists dedicated to Jewish genocide. It would be hilarious if it weren't so reprehensible.

- 2020: Silence is violence
2023: People can't be expected to comment on every situation. It's okay to keep silent, especially while events are still unfolding.
- 2020: If you're nitpicking small details instead of focusing on the big picture, you're doing so to avoid your complicity in atrocities.
2023: 40 babies weren't actually beheaded. 40 babies may have been killed, and some of them may have been beheaded, but that's not the same as 40 getting beheaded. Details matter.
- 2020: Universities must proactively take a stand and speak out in opposition to racism. "Academic freedom" is a false concept used to enforce oppression.
2023: Universities need to maintain neutrality and ensure that they do not make any statements that jeopardize the principle of academic freedom, which is a paramount virtue in the realm of scholarship.
- 2020: You must immediately and forcefully condemn an attack, even if investigations are ongoing.
2023: You can't expect us to release statements opposing an attack within four days, when the facts are still being discovered. Israel hasn't even allowed UN investigators at the scenes of these "alleged massacres."
- 2020: People are responsible for their words, even if they are just working-class teenagers in small towns. Freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom from consequences.
2023: Graduate students at the most prestigious university in the world are just kids and cannot be held accountable for statements they sign. This is cancel culture.
- 2020: Believe all women.
2023: Where is the physical evidence of these "alleged rapes"?
- 2020: It's not enough to be non-racist. If you are not actively anti-racist, it means that you are, in fact, racist.
2023: How dare you question whether I support terrorists just because I haven't actively spoken out against Hamas freedom fighters.
- 2020: We don't get to tell people in affected communities how to deal with their pain in the aftermath of violence.
2023: It is Israel's responsibility to ensure that violence doesn't escalate.
- 2020: Anything that disproportionately affects one group of people is oppression and must be condemned.
2023: Settlers—a term that includes all Israeli Jews—are not civilians and are therefore all valid targets for attacks.

- If “[Bidenomics](#)” has a clear meaning, it’s that the U.S. government should give orders to the private sector. Other names for this idea include “industrial policy” or “corporatism.”
[Bidenomics short-circuits electric car hopes | Washington Examiner](#)
- When Bill Clinton gave the country “safe, legal, and rare” in 1992, it was meant only to be a bit of political business, a workaround. But those five syllables didn’t just get him out of a problem. They translated into language the inchoate sentiments of millions of Americans so exactly that they had to hear it only once for it to become their firmly held position on abortion.

Now, after a quarter century of mighty service, of what President Barack Obama would have called “coalition building,” the phrase is being vigorously expunged from the pro-abortion-rights conversation, including from the plank of the Democratic Party (in 2012) and the official position of Planned Parenthood.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/12/the-brilliance-of-safe-legal-and-rare/603151/>

This issue’s *He / She Said* will focus on how the liberal / progressive agenda has affected a few blue states. If we sit home during elections complaining, this can happen to Wisconsin. As a harbinger, watch what happens in Wisconsin in the next few years after the election of Janet Protasiewicz to our Supreme Court, giving the liberals a 4-3 majority --- with an occasional assist from Brian Hagedorn, the guy we recommended and then elected a few years ago.

California

- The California State Assembly passed a bill Friday that would require judges in child custody cases to consider whether a parent has affirmed a child’s “gender transition” by making “gender affirmation” an equal part of a child’s “health, safety, and welfare” under state law.

Democratic lawmakers’ bill, AB 957, passed the Assembly by a vote of 57-16 [along party lines](#).

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, is expected to sign the bill into law. Under it, parents who refuse to participate in transgenderism by pretending that their child is a different gender could be guilty of failing to provide for the “health, safety, and welfare” of their child—therefore losing custody to another parent or the state.

[California Passes Bill That Would Require Parents to Affirm Kid's Gender \(dailysignal.com\)](#)

- Portions of a Southern California school district's parental notification policy will remain blocked, after a judge granted a preliminary injunction to the state of California to stop the measure the state says discriminates against LGBTQ students.

Chino Valley Unified School District passed the policy in July. Part of the policy requires its schools to notify parents if their child identifies as transgender. California Attorney General Rob Bonta immediately sued CVUSD over this policy, saying it unconstitutionally discriminates against LGBTQ students and violates their privacy rights.

San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Michael A. Sachs said parts of the policy were unconstitutional. While litigation is ongoing, he ruled the district cannot require staff to tell parents when a student asks to be identified or treated as a gender other than their biological sex. The ruling also blocks parents from being notified if a student wants to access sex-segregated facilities or participate in athletic teams.

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/school-district-vows-continue-fight-ca-judge-blocks-parental-notification-policy-battle-not-over>

Editor's Note: The judge did not address the rights of the parents in the matter.

- One California physician said he had "mixed feelings" after the state quietly overturned a COVID-19 misinformation bill that several legal groups argued violated the First Amendment.

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom, D-Calif., quietly repealed AB 2098, which had been in effect for under a year, after the law faced legal challenges. The bill authorized the state's medical board to revoke the licenses of any medical professional if they "disseminate misinformation or disinformation related to COVID-19, including false or misleading information regarding the nature and risks of the virus, its prevention and treatment; and the development, safety, and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine."

Dr. Mark McDonald, a Los Angeles-based Child Psychiatrist, along with Primary Care Physician Dr. Jeff Barke, challenged the bill with the Liberty Justice Center "LJC," shortly after Newsom signed it into law. The LJC argued AB 2098 effectively chilled the speech of doctors and discouraged discourse on a scientific and medical issue.

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/california-md-shares-why-worried-newsom-quietly-repeals-covid-gag-order-needs-legal-precedent>

Editor's Note: At least they got it right the second time around.

- This might be the most San Francisco story I've ever heard in my entire life. A convicted child molester set up a tent across from a SF school offering "free fentanyl for new users" He has been doing this for 2 years. SFPD Captain Chris Canning: "I was told he is in compliance with all the components of what his sex registration are."

[Convicted child molester sets up tent across from San Fran elementary, offers "free fentanyl for new users." Police say they can't remove him.](#)

Tony Thurmond, the state superintendent of public instruction, arrived at the school board meeting for Chino Valley Unified School District in Southern California to oppose a measure that would require schools to inform parents if children tell school staff they are transgender.

"He continues to push things that pervert children, and he continues to push out parents and bring in policies that create division between families," she said.

The school board approved the new policy by a 4-1 vote.

Shaw, the president of the school board, blasted Thurmond and called him "a danger to our students," according to KTVU.

[California school board boots state official from meeting and bans secret gender transitions | Washington Examiner](#)

Illinois

- Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson announced last week that his administration is exploring a city-owned grocery store as a means of promoting "equitable" access to food, though the plan has drawn criticism from skeptics of a government owned and operated store.

Chicago would become the first major U.S. city to implement a municipally owned grocery store to address food inequity if the proposal advances, the mayor's office said in a release. Johnson's office said Wednesday that it's working with the Economic Security Project, a non-profit group, on a feasibility study that "will help inform the Johnson administration's emerging food retail strategy, which will receive input from experts, community leaders, and Chicago's Food Equity Council."

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/chicago-mayor-considers-creating-city-owned-grocery-store-walmart-whole-foods-close-stores-city>

Editor's Note: Can anybody see anything going wrong with this program? Why are real stores unwilling to operate – or stay – in the area anyway? I am sure the city can set low enough prices because they can divert real tax money to the effort.

- Shocking videos show a group of young men in Chicago kicking and attempting to punch out the windows of a white Tesla during a frenzied street takeover, and a retired police chief says these incidents are increasingly common in the crime-ridden city.

"It represents lawlessness, and these street takeovers are happening almost every weekend," said Tom Weitzel, a retired police chief in Riverside, Illinois, a suburb of the Windy City. "I'm sure the driver was fearful of being injured or carjacked." Two videos capture the Oct. 13 mayhem on E. Lower Wacker Drive. In the first clip, which was posted to X, a mob can be seen jumping and sitting on the hood of a car as other vehicles blare their horns.

"There are maybe 10 to 12 police officers visible in that video, and there is no way they can handle more than 100 kids," Weitzel told Fox News Digital. "Chicago is severely understaffed."

The Chicago Police Department told Fox News Digital in a statement no injuries were reported, and no one has been arrested. Three detectives are investigating the incident.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/stunning-video-shows-chicago-mob-attack-tesla-amid-lawless-street-takeover>

Editor's Note: See next. Illinois has now passed state-wide no cash bail legislation.

- Starting on Sept. 18, judges will no longer be allowed to require people accused of crimes to put up money to leave jail while they await their trials. Instead, a judge will only be able to hold someone pretrial if they believe the person is likely to try and flee or pose a public safety risk.

It's a huge change that will reshape courtrooms, jails, and policing. On the cusp of this massive reform, here are five things to know:

1. Most experts expect the jail population to significantly decrease across the state. That's because the law sets a higher bar for who can be held in jail while they are awaiting trial and judges won't be able to keep someone just because they can't afford bail.
2. Those hearings will require more time from defense attorneys, prosecutors and judges. Many experts also predict that without the cudgel of pretrial detention, fewer defendants will strike plea deals, which will mean more resource-intensive criminal trials.
3. Under the law, police won't usually arrest people for low-level misdemeanors like trespassing. Instead, they will give the person a ticket, and that person will get a date to appear in court in the future.
4. Judges will still be exercising discretion in determining who meets the standards for being a risk to public safety. Those choices could be challenged, leading to court battles.
5. Even those opposed to cash bail acknowledge there will be some instances of people released pretrial going on to commit other crimes.

<https://www.nprillinois.org/illinois/2023-09-11/what-to-expect-now-that-cash-bail-in-illinois-is-ending>

- Meanwhile, in Chicago, the Windy City is projecting that the migrant crisis will cost taxpayers over \$300 million between January and December 2023. Mayor Brandon Johnson, who campaigned on strengthening protections for those in the county illegally, said that the burden for paying for it should not be on residents.

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/liberal-city-mayors-feel-heat-sanctuary-city-policies-bring-heavy-costs>

Editor's note: The residents who should not be paying for it support mayors and others who insist that Chicago should be a sanctuary city, inviting immigrants in, and not cooperating with ICE to get rid of the bad apples. Mayor Johnson campaigned on improved benefits for illegals.

New York

- Liberal cities, including sanctuary cities that limit federal immigration enforcement, are dealing with massive costs from the flood of migrants hitting their cities from the southern border, and they are hoping the federal government will shoulder the burden.

The hardest-hit city has been New York City, which has seen more than 140,000 migrants come through its system. The Big Apple offers a robust social service network and a "right to shelter." New York City Mayor Eric Adams has warned that the crisis could "destroy" the city and the impact of the crisis was on display last month when the city announced that there will be deep cuts this fiscal year, due to the city having spent \$1.45 billion in FY 23.

But those costs are set to escalate significantly, according to the administration, with nearly \$11 billion expected to be spent in the next two fiscal years.

"Migrant costs are going up, tax revenue growth is slowing, and COVID stimulus funding is drying up," he said, announcing the numbers.

Adams renewed calls for federal help . . .

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/liberal-city-mayors-feel-heat-sanctuary-city-policies-bring-heavy-costs>

- On Saturday, city officials announced that the New York Police Department's budget would be cut, with that money re-allocated to solving the migrant crisis...

It appears New York might be destroyed but by Mayor Adams, not these aliens. The Democrat is issuing budget cuts to the NYPD and plans to redirect that money to fund the migrant crisis. Instead of requiring these illegal entrants to return to their countries of origin, Adams will deplete the police force of resources.

All to reward people who should not be in NYC in the first place.

New York has already suffered a crime epidemic, thanks to pro-criminal policies. The former mayor slashed the NYPD's budget by a staggering \$1 billion. Democrat DAs and the governor have eliminated cashed (sic) bail, putting criminals back on the streets.

Many residents have fled New York in recent years, prompting fears of declining tax revenue. Meanwhile, Mayor Adams allows more and more migrants to enter the city. Not once has he pressured Joe Biden or his administration to start enforcing immigration law by deporting migrants. ['Black Trump' Mayor Makes His Biggest Mistake Yet - This Could Bring His Broken City to Its Knees \(pjnewsletter.com\)](#)

Editor's note: Adams obviously has an assist from Biden border policy to be in this pickle.

- **NEW YORK CITY** — Frank Tammaro, a 94-year-old Army veteran, loved the senior center he'd called home for five years until he was told to find somewhere new to live.

"I felt horrible," Tammaro told Fox News. "It's no joke getting thrown out of a house."

Months later, after two moves and an injury that put him in the hospital, the senior was living with his daughter when he learned migrants were moving into his old residence, free of charge. A lifelong New Yorker, Tammaro says he grew up in the "slums" of the Lower East Side during the '30s and '40s.

"I do get upset when I see them handing out all this money and all these things, and I'm paying taxes and getting kicked out," he said. "I've never got anything from the city. Or the state."

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/crisis-new-york-94-year-old-vet-struggles-move-nursing-home-evicts-replaced-migrants>

- Rep. [Nicole Malliotakis](#) (R-NY) joined local officials to sound the alarm on a New York City contract stipulation she said could lead to the voter registration of thousands of non-citizens.

The congresswoman said a page in the contract required the group to distribute voter registration information to people it was in regular contact with, and she said those people included illegal immigrants.

"The City is requiring migrant shelter contractors to distribute voter registration cards, assist migrants in registering to vote, and promote campaign material within the shelters themselves," Malliotakis said in a press release.

Editor's Note: Did you ever have any doubts this is where it is heading?

- NEW YORK CITY – Francesca Barreiro loved being able to send her kids to the same Head Start program she attended as a young child. But then a city-approved center for addicts to do drugs opened across the street.

"They're allowing people to just get high and encouraging it," she told Fox News. "And it's not really helping them. They need help."

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/crisis-new-york-mother-recoils-safe-injection-site-set-school-babies>

- ROCHESTER, N.Y. (WROC) — A decision in a lawsuit over New York's COVID-19 quarantine regulations has been overturned.

After [oral arguments](#) ended last September, the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division ruled that the state's Commissioner of Health is allowed to issue quarantine orders to control the disease.

According to the document, the plaintiffs "lacked standing" in their complaint that the quarantine regulations overstepped the separation of powers.

This decision comes after a lawsuit was filed against Governor Kathy Hochul and the NYS Department of Health. The plaintiffs, including Senator George Borello, argued that the regulation impedes individual liberty and oversteps the separation of powers.

The plaintiffs won the lawsuit against the Hochul administration, but NYS Attorney General Letitia James [appealed to overturn the verdict](#) on behalf of Hochul and the Department of Health.

Borello released a statement saying that he and the other plaintiffs in the lawsuit plan to appeal this decision.

[Hochul administration wins appeal in lawsuit over quarantine orders \(msn.com\)](#)

Editor's Note: see the [Winnebago County Board's action regarding similar policy](#).

- From Letitia James' 2018 campaign to become New York Attorney General:

"I will never be afraid to challenge this illegitimate President."

He should be charged with obstruction of justice.

I believe the President of the United States can be indicted for criminal offenses.

I will be shining a bright light into every corner of his real estate dealings. EVERY dealing. I will be demanding truthfulness at every turn.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2023/10/03/letitia-james-prosecute-trump-2018-comments-running-office-cnntm-vpx.cnn>

Editor's Note: Sounds like selective PERSECUTION to me . . .

- The New York judge presiding over the civil fraud trial of former President Donald Trump was blasted on social media on Monday after cameras caught him smiling for the cameras as the trial got underway.

Conservatives on social media immediately reacted with outrage on Monday when New York City Judge Arthur Engoron was briefly shown in the courtroom smiling and taking off his glasses to seemingly pose for cameras that were filming inside the courtroom.

"This New York City judge is a partisan Democrat clown," Article III Project founder and president Mike Davis posted on X, formerly Twitter. "Disgraceful."



<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-judge-faces-online-backlash-smiling-posing-cameras-courtroom-democrat-clown>

- Law professor Jonathan Turley criticized New York Attorney General Letitia James for seeking to fine former President Donald Trump hundreds of millions of dollars for allegedly inflating the value of his real estate portfolio.

Turley pointed out that no one lost money and banks did not complain, yet James is pursuing a “nuclear option” against Trump.

He also highlighted the discrepancy between testimony about Trump’s value as a client and what James is seeking.

“You’ve got this New York law that allows James to proceed against Trump even though no one lost any money, even though banks didn’t complain, and on that basis, she’s asking for a nuclear option,” Turley said.

“She is basically trying to end the role of the corporation of New York, taking away certificates and imposing a quarter of a billion dollars in damages for money that was not lost.”

[Legal Expert Shreds Letitia James’ Case After Game-Changing Testimony - State of the Union \(stateofunion.org\)](https://www.stateofunion.org/legal-expert-shreds-letitia-james-case-after-game-changing-testimony)

Oregon

- High schoolers in Oregon won't need to demonstrate basic competency in reading, writing or math to graduate for at least five more years because, according to education officials, such requirements are unnecessary and disproportionately harm students of color.

"At some point ... our diploma is going to end up looking a lot more like a participation prize than an actual certificate that shows that someone actually is prepared to go pursue their best future," former Oregon gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazan told Fox News.

The essential skills requirement has been on pause since the coronavirus pandemic, and last week the Oregon State Board of Education voted unanimously to continue suspending the graduation requirement through the 2027-2028 school year.

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/blue-state-suspends-basic-skills-graduation-requirement-again-citing-harm-students-color>

- An Oregon-based parental rights group said it was "not surprising" that the Oregon State Board of Education decided to remove the requirement to show proof of mastery in reading, writing, and math through a standardized test to graduate from high school.

"It's not surprising that they've continued to push off the implementation of new graduation requirements," Oregon Moms Union President MacKensey Pulliam told Fox News Digital on Tuesday.

"They always say that the agenda has something to do with underserved communities and marginalized students and how the test does them a disservice."

<https://www.foxnews.com/media/oregon-moms-union-slams-removal-standardized-test-high-school-graduation-requirement-not-surprising>

- Measure 110, passed by the Oregon state Legislature in 2020, decriminalized several [hard drugs](#). It also set up a fund with taxes from cannabis sales, to invest in "recovery." What Oregon residents got was a whole lot of drugs with no recovery in sight.

The penalties for hard drug use are now so light as to be nearly worthless. For instance, citizens caught with under a gram of heroin are subject to a ticket and a maximum fine of \$100. That's barely more than the cost of a parking ticket these days.

It's maybe even worse than the situation in San Francisco, where a visit last week by a communist dictator prompted the city to clean up a bit and roll out the red carpet.

This is only a temporary fix, though. In the end, the problem for San Francisco and Portland isn't drugs. Not really. The problem is ideology. (emphasis mine)

[Oregon Decriminalized Hard Drugs. You Won't Believe What Happened Next. \(dailysignal.com\)](#)

- Officials intend to ban polluting delivery vehicles within a newly-created zone in downtown Portland, [KGW8 reports](#).

The project has been made possible by a \$2 million federal grant supported by the Biden administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, [KGW8 says](#).

The new rule applies to a 16-block area that includes the Portland Building, the Federal Building, and the County Courthouse. Within this zone, gas- and diesel-powered vehicles will not be allowed to make deliveries or pickups of any kind.

The program will take effect in early 2024, [KGW8 reports](#). Once it does, any vehicles that violate the “zero-emission delivery zone” will receive parking citations.

[Portland made a 'delivery zone' where EVs are the only option \(thecooldown.com\)](#)

Editor’s Note: Translation: higher delivery costs, ergo higher prices

And now, A Word from Our Sponsors

Check out the conservative political swag available at Winnebago GOP Headquarters.

Shirts, yard signs, buttons, stickers, and flags – good old conversation is free!

All proceeds from merchandise sales go to support our volunteer efforts in Winnebago County



QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The task of the Bolsheviks is to overthrow the Imperialist Government. [. . . But] We are in the minority. In these circumstances there can be no talk of violence on our side. They have the guns and therefore we are for peace and for reformation through the ballot. When we have the guns then it will be through the bullet.”

Vladimir Lenin,
Quoted in Rules for Radicals
By Saul Alinsky

For more quotes from Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, go to
https://www.azquotes.com/author/8716-Vladimir_Lenin?p=2



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870 – 1924)

And another, from a well-known disciple of Saul Alinsky

“And sadly, so many of those extremists, those MAGA extremists, take their marching orders from Donald Trump who has no credibility left by any measure. And when do they break with him? You know, because at some point, you know, maybe there needs to be a formal deprogramming of the cult members, but something needs to happen,”

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2023/10/06/hillary-clinton-maga-cult-extremists-donald-trump-house-republicans-amanpour-cnntm-vpx.cnn>

For more quotes from Hillary Clinton, check any mainstream media newspaper while you are wrapping your fish with it.



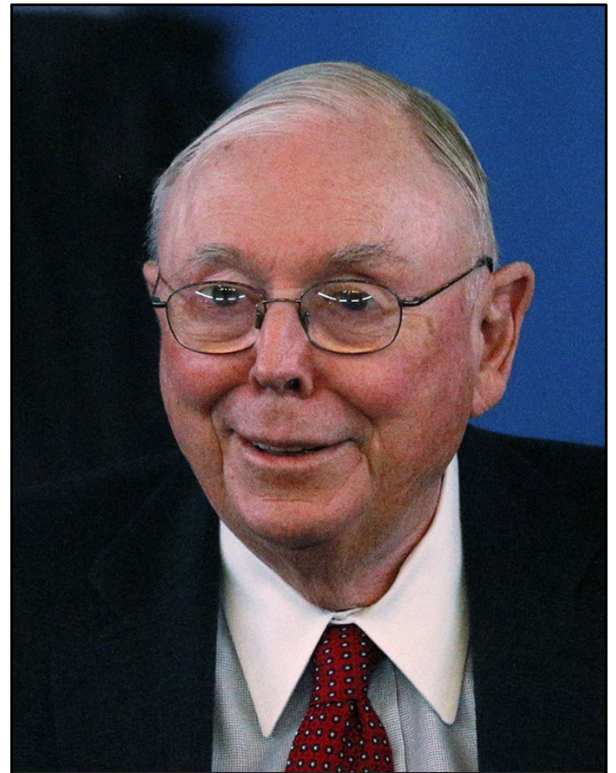
Hillary Clinton (1947 -)

In memoriam:

“What makes capitalism work is the fact that if you’re an able-bodied young person, if you refuse to work, you suffer a fair amount of agony, and because of that agony, the whole economic system works ... You take away that hardship and say, ‘You can stay home and get more than if you come in to work,’ that’s quite disruptive to an economic system like ours. The next time we do this, I don’t think we ought to be so liberal.”

For more quotes from Charlie Munger go to [44 memorable Charlie Munger quotes about life and markets \(yahoo.com\)](#)

To see Mr. Munger’s Obituary go to [44 memorable Charlie Munger quotes about life and markets \(yahoo.com\)](#)



Charlie Munger, 1924 -2023
Vice Chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Corp

--New Feature--

From time to time in my casual reading, statements in books published years ago strike me as special and applicable to our situation today. This may or may not become a permanent feature of this newsletter.

From The Literature

Quotes from literature and books that reflect on our current world.

Three and a half days after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Robert Swan Mueller III, newly appointed director of the FBI, was summoned to the presidential retreat in the wooded Catoctin Mountains of Maryland. Mueller had held the job for a little fore than a week.

He was at Camp David that Saturday morning to give President Bush the FBI’s report on the attacks. The investigation – code named “PENTTBOM – would become the largest one ever conducted by the Bureau. IN just three and a half days it had already identified the nineteen hijackers as well as their roles, nationalities, travel documents, and histories. Their Al-Qaeda connections and links to bin Laden were in the Bureau’s crosshairs. Mueller, as he later acknowledged, was confident in the report. The Bureau had done what it does best – investigate.

President George W. Bush, in a leather bomber jacket, was sitting at the head of a big square conference table in the rustic oak cabin. National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice was sitting at the president's right. Other key administration figures, all ruggedly dressed, were scattered around the room. Robert Mueller, in his starched white button-down shirt, confidently briefed the president and his team on the Bureau's accomplishments.

Expecting praise or thanks, Mueller was taken aback when the president coldly commented, "I don't care about that. I just want to know how you're going to prevent this from happening again." Later that morning, CIA Director George Tenet presented a proposed plan of action. At the conclusion of Tenet's presentation, Bush exclaimed, "That's great!" and turned toward Mueller saying, "That's what I want to hear." Mueller was humiliated.

So, for reasons that seemed justified at the time, Mueller set out to make the FBI and "intelligence-drien" organization. Unintended consequences followed. The organization I had served for the proceeding thirty-three years would undergo a cultural change during the Mueller / Comey hears, culminating in the ugly disaster of the Russian collusion investigation, code-named, "Crossfire Hurricane."

Prologue, The Fall of the FBI, by Thomas Baker, Bombardier Books, 2022.

Good news, Bad news

First the good news: The emu, native to Australia, is alive and well above and beyond the LIMU Emu that stars in so many Liberty Mutual insurance commercials.

Now the bad news: Emus handed the Australian armed forces its only known defeat in the history of that great nation.

Australia is known for its unique wildlife, not all of which is friendly. In 1932, the country received a harsh reminder of that when a drought caused some 20,000 emus to move inland in search of water during their breeding season, disrupting farmers' crops in the process. The ostrich-like birds had already had their classification downgraded from "native species" to "vermin" despite being endemic to Australia and appearing on its coat of arms alongside the kangaroo, and this mass migration made them public enemy No. 1. The government sent in World War I veterans to assist the beleaguered farmers, and though they were outfitted with machine guns, they soon found themselves overwhelmed by their flightless foes. Emus are fairly imposing, to be fair — among all bird species, only ostriches and cassowaries are larger.

The machine-gunners' dreams of point-blank fire into serried masses of Emus were soon dissipated," observed D.L. Serventy, an Australian ornithologist. "The Emu command had evidently ordered guerrilla tactics, and its unwieldy army soon split up into innumerable small units that made use of the military equipment uneconomic. A crestfallen field force therefore withdrew from the combat area after about a month." In other words, the emus emerged victorious in what's now known as the Great Emu War. The birds were simply too much trouble to get rid of, and though they suffered heavy casualties, they still thrive Down Under. <https://historyfacts.com/world-history/fact/in-1932-australia-declared-a-war-against-emus-and-lost/>

Letters to the Editor

Thoughts? Opinions? Complaints? Compliments?
communications@winnebagogop.org

OPEN BOOK POP QUIZ:

Email your answers to Communications@winnebagoqop.org. 80% correct qualifies you to win \$10 worth of merchandise of your choice from Winnebago GOP Headquarters. Answers may or may not be found in the current newsletter. May award a prize to more than one winner. Judgment of the editor is final.

Who are:

1a. Rivian

1b. Solyndra

1c. In what state were / are their headquarters?

1d. Hint: History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.

2a. Jamaal Bowman

2b. Pamela Hemphill

2c. Hint: Comparative purposes only

3. Mykola Zlochevsky.

4. John Podesta's current position please

Before you go a few thoughts

I have a cousin who has sent about a 12-page Christmas newsletter out every year for a couple decades. He is a very smart, liberal guy. This year's newsletter just arrived. Here is the first paragraph:

"2023 was another year of chaos around the globe, with the middle east powder keg ready to the explode and the U.S. teetering on whether to ditch democracy for an authoritarian regime (we'll find out in 2024)."

From there on it is pretty newsy, although I must admit I quit reading it about 10-15 years ago because of the blatant political lectures that it generally contains. Contrary to the last 10 years or so, this year I magnanimously opened the envelope in the spirit of the season, and because I am TRYING to mellow out as I age. Reading my cousin's newsletter is akin to a conservative drawing the short straw and sitting next to the lecturing liberal that always violates the cardinal rule of family gatherings, that being, "keep your politics to yourself for just a couple hours." That rule seems to be just for us on the conservative side, punishable by eye-rolling around the table and the stink-eye emanating from the conservative's spouse. (Karlin's Law #11: If you want to make your spouse miserable, fight with your in-laws).

Of course, liberals often don't want to, and therefore don't, follow any societal norms or rules as opposed to conservatives, who tend to obey the law, respect others, and defend the grand daddy of all rules, the US Constitution. For liberals it is more like, "I want to prove my bones and tell the room how wrong they are because I am right, and they are evil." Left unsaid is the undertone of, ". . . . and we are going to GET YOU if you don't learn what is right." I offer up Hillary's recent comment about reeducating the MAGA crowd as evidence of this trial balloon, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/markjoyella/2023/10/06/hillary-clinton-suggests-formal-deprogramming-for-maga-extremists-who-still-support-trump/?sh=1fef8be173b8>

One of the last newsletters I read from my cousin included a grand story about his family's AMTRAK trip to some place or another I don't recall where. This is the kind of thing that belongs in a holiday newsletter --- except it included several lectures on the importance of subsidizing more passenger rail services in the United States because it is the right thing to do, and then everyone could enjoy a great trip like he had but at a lower cost. This, of course, is right down the middle of the fairway for a liberal. For the record, between its creation in 1972 and 1997, Amtrak received over \$13 billion in direct operational subsidies.

<https://www.cato.org/commentary/amtrak-subsidies-no-way-run-railroad>. In Biden's 2021 infrastructure bill Amtrak was granted \$66 Billion. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/02/us/politics/amtrak-trains-infrastructure.html>. Beyond that, in another bill in fall of 2022 a special Federal subsidy for Amtrak was granted to the tune of \$4.3 billion. <https://railroads.dot.gov/about-fra/communications/newsroom/press-releases/usdot-biden-administration-deliver-43-billion-0>. Sorry, I got bored looking for the amount of subsidies between 1997 and 2021.

"Free" stuff is very cool. I would note that this guy was a VP at a major US retail drugstore chain. I find it curious that with that business background he does not make the connection between subsidies and supply, demand, and plain old making a go of it. It drives home the point that these attitudes can be anywhere and everywhere.

Let's get back to the opening statement of my cousin's latest newsletter. It seems to me that my cousin exhibited poor timing, or it was an editing error on the part of his wife. He should have been talking about 2020 instead of 2024. How else can one account for:

- The leader of the major opposition political party facing jail time heading into an election year with the timing of all trials seemingly coordinated by the Department of Justice to assure an election situation totally favorable to the party in power. Discussion of any substantiality of the 91 charges up and down the East coast is available elsewhere. I call this the Alexei Navalny strategy. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/navalny-russia-maximum-security-prison-1.6489669>
- The "good leaving alone" the press and January 6th committee have given Trump's recommendations on January 3 and his offer of the National Guard to Pelosi and her Chief of Security. Remember it is the Speaker of the House that is responsible for security at the capitol, and the decision to accept help was her decision and her decision alone. <https://americanmilitarynews.com/2022/08/gen-kellogg-trump-did-request-natl-guard-troops-on-jan-6th-asks-congress-to-release-his-testimony/>
- The recent revelation that the FBI is now tracing everyone that ever shared or retweeted a Trump Twitter post since last January. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/courts/did-jack-smiths-search-warrant-sweep-twitter-data-from-millions-americans>
- The FBI was an active participant in the now-exposed hoax that was the Russia collusion investigation that successfully weakened a duly elected President. <https://nypost.com/2022/06/11/the-fbi-knew-russiagate-was-a-lie-but-hid-that-truth/>. The FACT that the esteemed Robert S. Mueller spent \$40 million while failing to "find" any evidence of Russia collusion has had zero effect on the liberal confidence that Trump was guilty. (Two questions: First, why didn't they fabricate more facts in order to prove the guy's guilt? It did not bother them for the previous several years. And second, why didn't Adam Schiff supply Mueller with the evidence he had in hand PROVING the Russian Collusion? <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/adam-schiff-trump-russia-collusion-circumstantial-evidence> (said tongue in cheek).

And on and on.

I bring this up to point out the separate universes in which liberals and conservatives live. They read their stuff and we read ours. In this newsletter, I conscientiously try to seek out the media of the "other side" and

third parties for confirmation of what happened. I try to avoid citing Fox News when possible, not because it is tainted, but to give YOU, the READER, other sources to quote in your conversations with those that are not true believers in the conservative position. There is no fruitful communication possible in this situation between about 40% on the right and 40% on the left. My request to you: use your knowledge and powers of persuasion on that 20% in the middle that hopefully will respond to thoughtful arguments and unemotional, documented facts --- as we conservatives see them.

In closing, Donald Trump is our Alexei Navalny, and The New York Times is our PRAVDA, and 40%+ of the country likes it that way.

Feel free to share this with your friends and neighbors if you think it will encourage them to think, act and vote more conservatively than they might otherwise.

Letters to the editor of **What's News** are accepted but may or may not be published. Send your thoughts to communications@winnebagogop.org Include your name and email address, and whether you wish to remain anonymous if your letter is selected for publication.

This newsletter is shared for the purpose of informing conservatives anywhere and everywhere on the political spectrum of a little bit of the good, the bad, and the ugly in our country and world today.

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