

# The Liberty Bell

Election Edition!

Election Edition!

★ ★ ★ ★ We Are the Grassroots Covering Montana and Surrounding Areas ★ ★ ★ ★

**Page 11B** **VOTE NO!**  
  
**ON ALL BALLOT INITIATIVES**

**Stop Voting By Mail!**  
  
**Page 7B**

**BIDEN/HARRIS Orchestrate Highstakes Human Hide & Seek**  
  
**Page 2A**

**Page 1B**  
**Elections in Montana Certified Despite Large Discrepancies**

**Apply for USDA 1% Mortgages**  
**Page 4A**

**The Greatest Conservation Con**  
**Page 12A**  
**in US History!**

**LAND GRAB!** **Page 7A**  
**It's not about conservation. It's about control.**

**The Attack on Farmers & Ranchers No One is Talking About**  
**Page 11A**

**The Corporate Transparency Act's Implications for Small Family Farmers and Businesses**  
**Page 6A**



## Ballot Shredding: Unraveling Bullock's Involvement Warrants Scrutiny

### Election Night Ballot Shredding: What was Comm. Bill Bullock's Role?

Election day in Montana is a state holiday for all government employees. Except for emergency services and election staff, all other officials and employees are given the day off. That means courts are closed, the Department of Motor Vehicles etc.

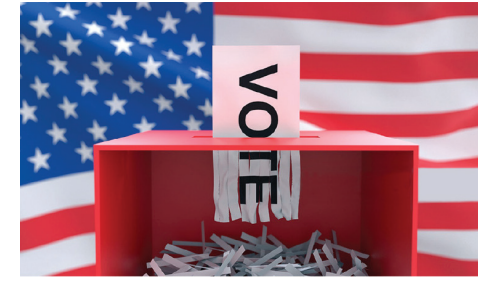
identified himself as a head election judge. To ensure transparency and accountability, community members reached out to the election office, seeking a comprehensive list of all authorized judges and poll watchers who had permission to be inside the building or manage ballots that evening. Bullock was not on any judge or election worker list.

must go through training the year of the election, past training does not carry over to current election cycles.

(continued on page 5A)

On election night, November 2022, an inquiry was made by poll watcher Chip Bennett to Commissioner Bill Bullock concerning his role in the Annex Building. Bullock promptly

As a note to our readers, in order to be a certified election judge, you



## Inside Look: Commissioners Candidates Discuss Current State of Carbon County



Norma Shultz

**What's at stake and how the Carbon County Candidates plan on tackling the future issues facing the county.**



Bill Bullock

(continued on page 1B)

## SUSTAINS ACT Gives Unelected Bureaucrats and Potentially China or Environmental Groups Control Over Farmer's and Rancher's Production, Which In Turn Controls Consumption



The SUSTAINS Act hitched a ride with the Omnibus Bill, meaning it didn't pass as a standalone bill. It allows the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the United States Department of Agriculture, to accept contributions from private sources whether individuals, corporations, countries (China), foundations (Bill and Melinda Gates . . . ) or environmental groups (Sierra Club . . . ) and allow those donors to have a say in determining how to manage agricultural land in America. Imagine China or an environmental group contributing funds to the USDA (American Prairie Restoration . . . ) and then declaring the land was now off limits for cattle ranching. This should be very concerning to everyone in America, not just the farmers and ranchers as it can have a huge impact on what food items get produced in our country (cricket meal in your cereal instead of corn or wheat).

Mindy Patterson, the president of the Cavalry Group, an organization that defends the rights of animal owners, has concerns about the bill. In her opinion the SUSTAINS

(continued on page 5A)

## Our Elections Are More Vulnerable Than Ever

By Brian T. Kennedy  
TomKlingenstein.com

**Editor's Note:**  
*A war is a struggle for control — control of a nation, its resources, its land, its government. This is just as true in a cold civil war as it is in a hot war. In a cold civil war like ours, however, the main theaters of conflict are political and cultural rather than military. Chief among these in recent years has been the electoral system, where partisans of the group quota regime employ any and all tactics to gain an advantage over their enemies. Brian Kennedy proposes that their success in this theater may open the way for an even greater threat: foreign interference in a dramatically weakened U.S. election process. This essay was originally published in The American Mind under the title "The Diminishing Likelihood of a Fair Election."*

At no time during the Cold War with the Soviet Union was it imagined that the Russians could manipulate a United States presidential election in favor of their preferred candidate. Hollywood's portrayal of a "Manchurian Candidate" aside, American elections were held in person, using paper ballots, counted by human beings, with other human beings watching them. And, however vicious and corrupt the normal partisan interplay of American politics may have been, this practice insured that a fair enough election could be held. Today that is no longer the case.

Regardless of who the nominees are in 2024, just as in 2020, much of America will hold their elections in the least transparent, most vulnerable method possible: absentee ballots. Because of this, a free and fair election



cannot be assured. It matters not that President Trump is ahead in all the polls and in ways that some pollsters believe cannot be overcome. Citizens should expect that, since America is in a war with Communist China, November's election will be the target of a massive intelligence operation to decide the next president.

It should be noted that America's election system was not built to stop the Communist Chinese or any nation state, or for that matter any dark money group, with the capacity and the interest in deciding an American presidential election.

The United States is made vulnerable by being the only developed country in the world to allow for this widespread use of absentee ballots. Every other advanced democracy conducts their elections in person, with identification shown, on paper ballots counted by large groups of people transparently tallying vote totals with the results available the same day of the election. In

(continued on page 8A)

This edition of The Liberty Bell is dedicated to the memory of Brian Murphy



# Orchestrated High-Stakes Human Hide and Seek

**Biden/Harris underground railroad has gained altitude as their new frequent flyer program covertly flies over 400,000 illegal immigrants from foreign airports to US Airports-which are now the new Ellis Island**

Courtesy of the **Committee on Homeland Security Republicans(CHSR):**

The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation to uncover more about the program which is perhaps the most enigmatic and least-known of the Biden administration's uses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) One cell phone scheduling app, which is responsible for almost invisibly importing by air 400,000 aliens with no legal right to enter the United States since it got underway in late 2022. The government characterizes these programs as "family reunification programs".

According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), very few of these illegal aliens paroled into the U.S. as "asylum-seekers" actually show up for their asylum hearings (if they even actually file formal applications), and even fewer are removed if their cases, like most, are rejected.

Parole thus creates a system where anyone claiming fear of persecution can simply cross, declare fear, and disappear into American communities without effective monitoring or being required to file for asylum.

CBP has approved secretive flights that last year alone ferried the approximately 400,000 inadmissible aliens from foreign airports into some 43 American ones over the past year, all pre-approved on a cell phone app. This program explains the drop in alien encounters at the US/Mexico border.

**Immigration Term-Inadmissible**  
The status of an alien at a United States port of entry who does not meet the legal criteria for admission.

Most Americans wonder how the border can be bypassed and allow inadmissible aliens to fly directly into airports in interior cities. What most people do not understand is all international airports are included as United States borders. So technically, all those "interior" airports are legal borders and those on the inbound flights go through U.S. Customs once they disembark their flights.

*The Biden administration's legally dubious program to fly inadmissible aliens over the border and directly to U.S. airports has allegedly created law enforcement vulnerabilities too grave to release publicly.*

The people showing up in cities across America are technically not illegals. The Biden/Harris Administration has been flying them into those cities and granting them parole status, which means they have "legally" been allowed to enter the United States and have permission to work. Despite what Trump or anyone else tells you, these people can no longer be routinely deported as a true "illegal" could be.

For most of the past year, big-city mayors and state governors have loudly complained about the hundreds of thousands of presumably illegals showing up in need of housing, food, medical treatment, clothing, and education, placing extraordinary unfunded financial burdens on local populations. Routinely, politicians and major media outlets have laid blame for the influx on both Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida for flying inadmissible aliens to other places like Martha's Vineyard, and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's busing program.

Tom Bensman of CIS wrote:

"It remains part of the administration's "lawful pathways" strategy, with its stated purpose being to reduce the number of illegal border entries between ports of entry. The countries whose citizens are eligible are Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, and Ecuador. Under these legally dubious parole programs, aliens who cannot legally enter the country use the CBP One app to apply for travel authorization and temporary humanitarian release from those airports. The parole program allows for two-year periods of legal status during which adults are eligible for work authorization."



Overall, **95.8 percent** of all inadmissible aliens who scheduled appointments through the app during this time were ultimately issued a "Notice to Appear" (NTA) and released into the United States on parole.

The documents show **278,431 appointments scheduled**, with **266,846 of these individuals released** into the interior.

Individuals from a number of countries of concern made appointments through the app and were overwhelmingly released into the country.

- Out of **57,381 appointments made by Venezuelan nationals**, **55,690 were released** on parole, a rate of **97 percent**.
- Out of **20,948 appointments made by Russian nationals**, **19,780 were released** on parole, a rate of **94 percent**.
- Out of **2,279 appointments made by Uzbek nationals**, **1,866 were released** on parole, a rate of **82 percent**.
- Out of **801 appointments made by Belarusian nationals**, **787 were released** on parole, a rate of **98 percent**.
- Out of **246 appointments made by Afghan nationals**, **229 were released** on parole, a rate of **93 percent**.
- Out of **36 appointments made by Chinese nationals**, **32 were released** on parole, a rate of **88 percent**.
- Out of **18 appointments made by Iranian nationals**, **16 were released** on parole, a rate of **88 percent**.

The app has consistently been used to release otherwise inadmissible aliens from Mexico and Northern Triangle countries.

- Out of **58,772 appointments made by Mexican nationals**, **55,099 were released** on parole, a rate of **93 percent**.
- Out of **20,776 appointments made by Hondurans**, **20,060 were released** on parole, a rate of **96 percent**.
- Out of **3,939 appointments made by Guatemalans**, **3,717 were released** on parole, a rate of **94 percent**.

Other nations represented in the release statistics include Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Yemen.

However, the ongoing review of the initial production of documents revealed several shocking findings about DHS' abuse of the CBP One app:

"Secretary Mayorkas has utterly abused the CBP One app in his quest for open borders," said Chairman Green. "These numbers are proof that Mayorkas' operation is a smokescreen for the mass release of individuals into this country who would otherwise have zero claim to be admitted. At a time when global tensions are rising, and our enemies are growing bolder, releasing tens of thousands of these people into our communities—especially when they have not received adequate, if any, vetting—is irresponsible. It shouldn't take a subpoena threat from Congress to get these answers, but we are going to keep fighting for the truth."

All inadmissible aliens can fly in if they can show they have a non-family financial sponsor (which can even be "a business, organization (NGO such as Catholic Charities, Jewish Family Services, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and United Way Worldwide) or other entity" and meet other requirements, such as owning a valid passport.

Nongovernmental organizations relocate migrants using taxpayer dollars and are under scrutiny over misspent funds, no record-keeping...

Some of these NGOs see the majority of their budget coming from tax payer money. Church World Services, reported more than \$20.5 million in grant funds in its 2022 financial report, making more than 40% of its assets coming from taxpayers. Charles Marino, a former DHS advisor under former President Barack Obama, said, "Problem is, NGOs have taken over as official travel agency of DHS. So now they've turned it over to the NGOs, not just to coordinate the shelter and the food, but also the travel, ultimately, we're going to see billions of dollars of taxpayer money go to waste through fraud and abuse because there's no oversight through FEMA."

From the local to the state and federal level, Americans are paying a hefty price for the humanitarian crisis at the southern border, and in a way, the federal government is able to hide the true cost of the border crisis from the public through NGOs.

**"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11**



**The top 15 airport locations used for the Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela (CHNV) program and the number of inadmissible aliens who flew into a port of entry between January-August 2023 were:**

- Miami, Florida: 91,821**
- Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: 60,461**
- New York City, New York: 14,827**
- Houston, Texas: 7,923**
- Orlando, Florida: 6,043**
- Los Angeles, California: 3,271**
- Tampa, Florida: 3,237**
- Dallas, Texas: 2,256**
- San Francisco, California: 2,052**
- Atlanta, Georgia: 1,796**
- Newark, New Jersey: 1,498**
- Washington, D.C.: 1,472**
- Chicago, Illinois: 496**
- Las Vegas, Nevada: 483**
- Austin, Texas: 171**



The majority of migrants arriving in cities like New York or smaller towns across America, do so with the help of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) — organizations like charities or religiously affiliated nonprofits.

In the past two years, Border Patrol holding stations have constantly been at overcapacity in dealing with the massive influx of migrants crossing illegally into the U.S. When this happens, Border Patrol releases processed migrants to NGOs to shelter, feed and coordinate travel for migrants to their final destination.

“Once received, whether it be the adult population or the families, the sites will then work with them, and the general term that we use is we go through a ‘processing.’” John Martin, the deputy director for the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, said. “That processing is to facilitate travel to the destination of their choice.”

On September 3, 2024, Fox News reported that the Biden/Harris administration is providing another \$380 million to nonprofits and local governments to cover some of the costs associated with taking care of migrants once they’ve been released by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the southern border. That’s on top of the \$259 million previously allocated earlier in 2024. That’s almost \$640 million in 2024 and the year isn’t over yet.

The huge sum is being awarded by DHS via its Shelter and Services Program (SSP), which aims to provide “critical support” for migrants by way of offering them food, shelter, clothing, acute medical care, and transportation while they await their immigration court proceedings.

DHS says the money helps prevent overcrowding at short-term Customs and Border Protection (CBP) holding facilities and enables non-federal entities (NGOs) to “off-set allowable costs incurred for services associated with noncitizen migrant arrivals in their communities.”

NGOs are receiving billions of taxpayer funds through several federal departments like the Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services and even assistance from the USDA to purchase homes in rural areas (see *Biden/Harris Administration Relocating Inadmissible Aliens to Rural Towns Across Montana* on page 4A).

Michael Mayhew, head of the Immigration Records and Identity Services division at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services audited the program. On September 9, 2024, Newsmax reported the audit revealed the process for approving sponsors was filled with loopholes that made fraud easy to perpetrate and tough to spot. Newsmax reported that one fraudster filed an application using the passport number of

former first lady Michelle Obama. Auditor Mayhew, indicated there is little to no barrier to entry to file it led to a lot of fraudulent, exploitative, and duplicative filings. Just like with voter rolls, the audit said gang members and scammers were applying to be sponsors by using dead people’s names. Additionally, lack of adequate staffing and protocols made it impossible to adequately detect this fraud. The end result was these scammers easily stole Americans’ identities to perpetrate the fraud. After the audit findings were presented, the program was temporarily halted for about one month to allow time to implement some changes; however, it was restarted in the later part of August. Former senior agency leaders said the audit described a doomed program.

“This administration is more interested in putting people through than it is in vetting for the correct individuals,” Emilio Gonzalez, who ran United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the Bush administration, said after the Washington Times shared portions of the internal report.

**“Their vocabulary never uses the word ‘stop.’ It’s always ‘process,’ ‘transport,’ ‘house,’ ‘educate,’ ‘bring them through.’ They want to get as many people through the door as possible and then deal with the consequences once they’re on this side of the border.”**

In September, the Washington Examiner reported that cartels are using virtual private networks (VPN) to skirt requirements that aliens signing up for appointments at ports of entry via CBP One be present in northern Mexico before making the appointment. Using these VPNs, the cartels can exploit vulnerabilities in the app and schedule appointments for individuals regardless of their location—all for a fee—and they advertise this “service” on social media.

In September of 2023, DHS processed approximately 43,000 inadmissible aliens into the country using the CBP One app, and announced nearly 278,000 “successfully scheduled appointments” between January-September 2023. The app was created for commercial use, but the Biden administration is now using it to incentivize otherwise inadmissible aliens to schedule an appointment and claim asylum directly at a port of entry, after which they will be released into the interior, regardless of the legitimacy of their claim.

Inadmissible aliens from many dozens of other countries also get this parole benefit at eight U.S.-Mexico land ports of entry. That separate parole program has brought in another 420,000 immigrants from nearly 100 nations from May 2021 through December 2023, according to the CIS lawsuit.

So while large immigrant-receiving cities and media lay blame for the influx on Republican governors busing or flight programs, CBP apparently would not disclose the names of the 43 U.S. airports that have received 400,000+ inadmissible aliens, nor the foreign airports from which they departed. The agency’s lawyers have cited a general “law enforcement exception” without elaborating on how releasing airport locations would harm public safety beyond citing “the sensitivity of the information.” Luckily, Congress is controlled by Republicans and the House Committee on Homeland Security was able to obtain that data (see infographic to the left).

**ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY (CHS) DOCUMENTS – *Hundreds of thousands of inadmissible aliens, including from hostile nations like Afghanistan and China, released into the interior***

Following months of stonewalling, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) finally responded to multiple requests by the House Committee on Homeland Security for information and documents regarding the expanded use of the CBP One app by DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas’ department to release hundreds of thousands of otherwise inadmissible aliens into the United States. DHS documents reveal that an additional 1.6 million foreign nationals were awaiting travel authorization to enter the United States. Since parolees are not bound by numerical caps like legal immigrants – who often wait years or even decades to receive visas and permission to immigrate – all 1.6 million could eventually be granted an expedited entry, work authorization, and various welfare benefits at the expense of American taxpayers. Through the CHNV processes, up to 30,000 otherwise inadmissible aliens can be granted parole every month.

Under the Biden Administration, parole has been turned into a backdoor amnesty program for hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to enter the United States, bypassing the normal requirements for immigration. Parolees are able to obtain work authorization almost immediately and are eligible to adjust their status to obtain green cards and then citizenship.

However, under law, the parole authority is only meant to be used in exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, only for a temporary period of time and for urgent humanitarian need or significant public benefit. Granting parole *en masse* is a violation of the law.

***As detailed by FAIR, parole is now granted so broadly that it has reached the scale of our legal immigration system. In just the first nine months of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 876,577 paroles were granted by Secretary Mayorkas. In the first two quarters of 2023, the number of paroles granted (636,601) actually surpassed the number of green cards approved (545,419).***

***The unlawful expansion of parole becomes even more concerning when considering that parolees do not undergo the screening and vetting processes required for most other foreign nationals looking to obtain visas or visa waivers.***

Parole applicants are not mandated to submit for in-person interviews before entering the United States. To obtain permission to travel to the U.S., parolees are only required to submit limited and often unverifiable biographical information and a photo through the CBP One app, and only need a passport if arriving by air.

The Biden/Harris administration’s unlawful Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan (CHNV) mass-parole program admits to flying in over 400,000 illegals who are given parole status which means they are allowed to be in our country and are no longer considered “illegal” therefore, they cannot be deported.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) further admits that none of these individuals have a legal basis to enter the country before being paroled through the program, stating, “All individuals paroled into the United States are, by definition, inadmissible, including those paroled under the CHNV Processes.”

***“Department of Homeland Security (DHS) data is revealing the more than 45 cities in the U.S. that hundreds of thousands of migrants have flown into via a controversial parole program— with the vast majority entering the U.S. via airports in Florida.***

(continued on page 4A)

**“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.” — Ephesians 5:11**



## HUMAN HIDE & SEEK from page 3A)

The Biden administration created the CHNV parole program to grant travel authorizations for qualifying inadmissible aliens to fly into the country and be released under a two-year work authorization. In addition, DHS expanded the use of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's CBP One app from its intended commercial use to allow illegal immigrants who participate in the CHNV parole program to schedule appointments through the app. In March 2024, a Haitian national who entered the country through the CHNV program, was arrested for aggravated rape of a 15-year-old girl in Rockland, Massachusetts.

Chairman Mark E. Green, MD (R-TN) said, *"These documents expose the egregious lengths Secretary Mayorkas will go to ensure inadmissible aliens reach every corner of the country, from Orlando and Atlanta to Las Vegas and San Francisco. Secretary Mayorkas' CHNV parole program is an unlawful sleight of hand used to hide the worsening border crisis from the American people. Implementing a program that allows otherwise inadmissible aliens to fly directly into the U.S.—not for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons as the Immigration and Nationality Act mandates—has been proven an impeachable offense. Following our subpoena and the House's impeachment vote—especially in light of the Senate's complete failure to fulfill its duty to hold a trial—the Committee will not rest until this administration is finally held accountable for its open-borders agenda and its devastating impact on our homeland security."*

*"Secretary Mayorkas has utterly abused the CBP One app in his quest for open borders," said Chairman Green. "These numbers are proof that Mayorkas' operation is a smokescreen for the mass release of individuals into this country who would otherwise have zero claim to be admitted. At a time when global tensions are rising, and our enemies are growing bolder, releasing tens of thousands of these people into our communities—especially when they have not received adequate, if any, vetting—is irresponsible. It shouldn't take a subpoena threat from Congress to get these answers, but we are going to keep fighting for the truth."* In February 2024, Secretary Mayorkas was impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors,

due to his refusal to comply with the laws passed by Congress and his breach of the public trust. Secretary Mayorkas defied the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), abusing the INA's permissibility for parole, which may be granted only on a case-by-case and temporary basis, for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian need. The use of the CHNV program to release inadmissible aliens into the interior violates the law's clear direction.

**However, the Seante, including Montana's own Sen. Tester, voted to dismiss the impeachment by a 51-48 vote (Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski voted present).**

**According to FAIR, parolees compete with the most vulnerable of Americans for jobs while presenting an additional cost for American taxpayers who already pay a net \$150.7 billion annually to shoulder the growing fiscal burden of both 16.8 million illegal aliens and their U.S.-born children.**

While the defenders of parole abuse portray their agenda as compassionate and humane, open-borders organizations are, in fact, openly supporting the increased importation of a low-wage, low-skill, and low-English-skills population that is vulnerable to exploitation.

**This says nothing of the 85,000+ children that have crossed the border and are now lost due to the federal government's failure to vet sponsors who take in unaccompanied minors (UACs).**

The report, entitled "Gaps in Sponsor Screening and Follow-up Raise Safety Concerns for Unaccompanied Children," focuses on the operations of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) – the department within HHS responsible for the custody and welfare of UACs – between March and April of 2021.

According to FAIR, during its audit of ORR, the Inspector General found that the agency does not always conduct the proper background checks for sponsors. Under current guidelines, potential sponsors are subject to background checks that examine criminal records, the sex offender registry and address information.

However, the OIG found that in 16 percent of the cases it examined, ORR could not demonstrate that all of the required checks were conducted. Not conducting these checks can result in missed information that can lead to UACs being placed in vulnerable situations.

In addition, the OIG raised safety concerns regarding cases where sponsors have pending background checks. Incredibly, as the report notes, ORR policy allows the agency to release UACs to sponsors while the results of FBI fingerprint or child abuse and neglect registry checks are still pending. The OIG found that for 19 percent of children released to sponsors with pending background checks, case files were never updated with the results. As the Inspector General explained, this is because ORR policy does not require that the results be added to case files.

**However, without those results case managers are unable to determine whether they are sending UACs to individuals with a history of child abuse and neglect – or, if the file is never updated, whether a child has already been sent to such an individual.**

During a 10-month period in 2021, a Florida Grand Jury report showed that ORR discouraged staff from closely checking addresses of sponsors before placement, leading to the use of strip clubs, parking lots, and empty fields as addresses. The Grand Jury went on to reveal that reports of trafficking to the HHS hotline have increased by 1,300% over the past five years and that many of those children are then forced into dangerous employment. The New York Times also reported in 2023 that the agency lost contact with 85,000 UACs from 2021 to 2022. Despite repeated calls for accountability from members of Congress, HHS has instead stonewalled at every turn.

The Biden Administration's abuse of parole authority is yet another example of its complete disregard for our immigration laws. Without real policy changes, the American people will continue to reel from the impacts of an open-borders agenda. 🇺🇸

# Biden/Harris Administration Relocating Inadmissible Aliens to Rural Towns Across Montana

**Through the USDA 502 Program Which Subsidizes Home Purchases with: 1% Interest Rate, No Money Down and Up to 38 Year Terms**

The Biden/Harris administration expanded the USDA Section 502 single family direct housing program to help low-income applicants achieve rural homeownership for both citizens and inadmissible aliens. All of Montana is considered rural by the USDA and Missoula is recognized as a United Nations Refugee Resettlement Area where many non-government organizations welcome inadmissible aliens. It is part of the process that welcomes refugees from every part of the world from Afghanistan to Gaza to Zimbabwe.

Upon arrival, they are assisted in finding housing outside of Missoula. They are often relocated to more rural counties across the state. A noteworthy point is that each refugee is eligible to participate in this USDA homeownership program as they immediately qualify as being housing insecure and low income, which are requirements of the program.

On July 11, 2024, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a fiscal year 2025 budget that increased the funding for the 502 program to \$1 billion. This program is designed to assist those who are facing housing insecurities, including veterans, single mothers, and young professionals such as police officers, paramedics, or teachers; however, the NGOs are also able to use the program to acquire homeownership for the inadmissible aliens they are resettling into Montana.

If you or someone you know is exhausted from dealing with substandard rentals and believe that homeownership is an unattainable dream, we encourage you to apply. This initiative could be your stepping stone towards secure and improved living conditions. The cost is \$30 for a credit check and the program can cut mortgage payments for a home up to 50% less than a conventional loan.



This program is designed to make homeownership more accessible and affordable in Montana for those who might not qualify for traditional mortgages and need assistance with finding permanent housing in our rural Montana Communities. If you would like to apply or have any specific questions or need further details, call Heidi Anderson at the USDA office in Billings: 406.756.2005 or email her at: Heidi.Anderson@usda.gov 🇺🇸

Here are some key points about the program:

- 1** This program assists low- and very-low-income applicants obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant's repayment ability. Payment assistance is a type of subsidy that reduces the mortgage payment for a short time. The amount of assistance is determined by the adjusted family income.
- 2** USDA direct loans offer less traditional loan term options of either 33 years or 38 years. The term you qualify for will depend on your income level. The interest rate attached to your loan will be set by the government.
- 3** Purpose: The program aims to assist low- and moderate-income households in rural areas to purchase, build, rehabilitate, improve, or relocate a dwelling including non-citizens who are paroled into the United States from the border or flown directly.
- 4** The property can not be a production property (cannot be a working farm or ranch etc.).
- 5** Generally, the maximum housing expense (including mortgage payment, taxes, and insurance) is limited to 30% of the buyer's gross monthly income.
- 6** The USDA guaranteed loan does not have a listed minimum credit score requirement and is determined on a case-by-case basis. However, some credit situations such as delinquent child support might make an applicant ineligible.
- 7** In Carbon, Stillwater and Yellowstone County, the maximum home market value is capped at \$603,000.
- 8** If you are facing financial difficulties and can't make payments on your USDA 502 Direct Loan, there are options available to help you manage the situation:
  - Payment Assistance: You can request a payment assistance package to see if you're eligible for reduced payments based on your income.
  - Moratorium Assistance: If you're experiencing financial hardship, you can request a payment moratorium, which temporarily suspends your payments. This can be granted for up to one year and can be extended for an additional year if needed.

**"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11**

**(BALLOT SHREDDING from page 1A)**



This ensures that all election judges are up-to-date with the latest procedures and protocols, reinforcing the integrity of our election process.

The Carbon County Attorney's office doubled down on Bullock being an election judge and continued to back his presence on election night as authorized. Upon further probing by the Daily Montanan's Editor, including public records requests for documentation such as election judge certification letters for Bullock, the Carbon County Attorney's office revised their narrative to state Comm. Bullock has every right to access his office, use his computer and essentially disrupt the election process; even after normal working hours during an election. However, this update came after numerous months of silence on the issue and with none of the public records requests filled.

The situation begs the question – if the commissioner's office can be accessed during an election by commissioners, and perhaps other employees and officials that work there; then maybe for the security of our elections, it makes sense to move the tabulation of the election to another facility where only authorized officials, judges and poll watchers are allowed access?

After the November 2022 elections, a group of concerned citizens submitted a request to obtain a copy of the county's security footage. Macque Bohleen, the Clerk & Recorder, informed that the staff's request for privacy screens on all interior cameras has been implemented, eliminating the possibility of any interior footage. The only active recording device was the outdoor camera and she retorted the cost to obtain the footage would exceed \$600. The citizens bore the expense for the footage. However, the citizens discovered that the privacy screen did not completely cover the recording. It left one inch of recording where the date and timestamp were located.

Through the grace of God, the surveillance system captured Commissioner Bullock handling ballots in various sections of the premises,

**(SUSTAINS ACT from page 1A)**

Act authorizes the NRCS under USDA to accept contributions of non-federal funds to support conservation programs which in turn gives those groups authority to dictate what happens or doesn't on that land. The landowner no longer has the final say. "For the government to accept private funds to determine how to manage agricultural land is concerning," said Patterson, "especially when the government agency is not elected."

The five-page legislation includes the following language, which puts her on alert: "An easement funded pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the requirements of the covered program for which the contributed funds were used, except that the Secretary may modify such requirements, as they apply to the easement, for the purpose of

Patterson said open-ended legislation like this can be dangerous. "It's difficult to decipher what's really behind these bills. It's like solving a riddle. I don't like riddles and the American people don't like being lied to. To me this is a straight out attack on rural America," she said. "Those private parties could be animal rights groups, they could be environmental extremist organizations, they could be China, they could be John Doe. Then this money goes to a bureaucracy (USDA) to be managed," she said. "So you've got unelected bureaucrats basically running our country and running farmers and ranchers. And now they are taking money from private parties. This is basically private money influencing government. That's what public-private partnerships are," she said. The USDA news release says that the SUSTAINS Act will use private donations to "expand implementation of conservation practices to sequester carbon, improve wildlife habitat, protect sources of drinking water and address other natural resource priorities."

including the tabulation room. The cameras also recorded him observing Crystal Roascio, the election administrator, as she seemingly shredded over 100 absentee ballots around 8:45pm on election night. His persistent side glances her way indicate he was continuously monitoring to see if she had finished shredding. As per Montana Attorney General Austin Knutsen, the shredded materials bear an uncanny resemblance to absentee ballots.

Security footage from external cameras illustrates Bullock seemingly removing election-related items, potentially even ballots, from the election tabulator room. These items are later seen on the front seat of his vehicle. The Carbon County Attorney's Office clarifies that these supposed loose ballots, which Bullock handles on election night and places on the passenger seat of his parked car, are actually road crew schedules.

This article includes a QR code associated with the video of Bullock removing materials from the tabulator room on election night. Readers are encouraged to view the footage and form their own opinion of Bullock's intentions.

Footage of Bullock handling ballots and watching the election administrator shred what appears to be absentee ballots: <https://rumble.com/v442jlb-election-administrator-crystal-roascio-commissioner-bill-bullock.html>



Footage of the Carbon County Election Administrator, Crystal Roascio, shredding ballots: [https://rumble.com/v26deb6-carbon-county-montana-2022-general-election-night-video.html?e9s=src\\_v1\\_upp](https://rumble.com/v26deb6-carbon-county-montana-2022-general-election-night-video.html?e9s=src_v1_upp)

Given the rising public concern over election security, it's crucial that officials, especially commissioners charged with certifying our elections, maintain transparency in their actions. By removing what seem to be ballots from the tabulator room and placing them in his vehicle, Bullock fueled these concerns and left the public with the impression that Bullock is not committed to election integrity or a secure and transparent election process. As in the movie *Gone with the Wind*, Bullock's actions scream "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn."

For the sake of election integrity, any work that needs to be accomplished on election day should ideally be conducted from a home setting. His coming into the office for over seven hours on election night to "hang-out" with election staff not only embodies disrespect for civic responsibilities, but also shows his willingness to compromise the integrity of our election process to suit his needs with utter disregard to the process and his constituents.

Preserving the sanctity of our elections is paramount. All tasks that need to be tackled on election day should be undertaken from the comfort of home. Bullock chose to spend over seven hours socializing in the office with election staff on election night. Not only does this undermines the seriousness of our civic responsibilities, it risks the integrity of our election system, overlooking the crucial process and the people it serves. Let's prioritize maintaining unblemished election proceedings over personal convenience.

Bullock's presence in the tabulator room and handling ballots on election night is a manifestation of irreverence for the security and integrity of our electoral process. Bullock's actions, such as using his phone and computer in the tabulator room in the midst of an election and leaving with a stack of documents from that room, are not in line with election integrity. Bullock did not show any commitment to uphold the sanctity or security of our elections.

But this is how Bullock operates. The public has noted certain concerns regarding Bullock's attitude. His interactions with the public and employees have been perceived as domineering and dismissive. It's apparent that his assertiveness has evolved into actions that can be construed as aggressive bullying, particularly towards those he represents.

Bullock lacks discretion and weaponizes his position as commissioner. Bullock reclassifies roads so they are no longer maintained. He refuses to release public information and threatens members of the public and encourages them to sue the county if they don't like how he operates. His behavior epitomizes toxic culture.

Many other public workers and constituents say Bullock's dismissive attitude and his arrogance is offensive and undermines the public trust needed in a collaborative work environment.

**It should be said that when arrogance becomes bullying or bigotry it should not be tolerated; therefore, Bullock should not be re-elected. 🇺🇸**



Patterson said that, although "conservation" and "sustainability" sound positive to the average American, the terms have been weaponized against landowners to implement policies that reduce food production.

"When people think of sustainability, they think of being good stewards of the land so it can be passed on to future generations. Well, farmers and ranchers are already doing that. The word sustainability has been stolen to be used as a mascot for global UN mandates pushing more renewable energy and restrictions on food production."

"Under the heading of climate change, the SUSTAINS Act would expand authority to include conservation programs for carbon sequestration, wildlife improvement and more," she said. "They are already taking farmland out of production for the Endangered Species Act, carbon sequestration, and more," she said. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association backed the SUSTAINS Act during the session.

"Beyond the production of beef, cattle operations across the country are a primary tool for environmental conservation, social responsibility, and rural financial health. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) supported the SUSTAINS Act on Capitol Hill, and we plan to submit comments to USDA-NRCS on its implementation. The SUSTAINS Act eases the creation of public-private

partnerships that support practical conservation practices, many of which are already being implemented by cattle producers across the country," said Mary-Thomas Hart, NCBA Chief Counsel.

However, Brett Kenzy, the President of Rancher Cattlemen Association Legal Fund (R-CALF), which is the largest cattle producer-only trade association dedicated to ensuring the continued profitability and viability of the U.S. cattle and sheep industries, is concerned about the bill. "To me, it violates separation of powers, the role of government. R-CALF has fought consolidated corporate power for 25 years and tried to get our government to protect us from that," he said. "And this seems like a bill that merges the government that has failed to protect us from corporate power with that very corporate power itself," said Kenzy. "If that's not the case, I hope someone can explain to me why I'm wrong," he said. "This whole radical climate agenda has swept in like a tidal wave," Kenzy added. "Given the text of this bill and the fact all of this passed without debate, my humble ask is this: at a minimum, let's lengthen the comment period, and then let's have a conversation about this."

Patterson said she sees this bill as an effort to gain more control over the food producers in this country, and to bring the Environmental and Social Governance policy and Natural Asset Companies in through the backdoor. "This is not a noble motive at all. This is driven by a UN agenda that the U.S. shouldn't be a part of. Many lawmakers from both parties are corrupt, they are taking so much money into their companies and campaign funds, they have fallen prey to the green agenda," she said. "They want transparency of farmers and ranchers, how about transparency of government?" said Patterson. 🇺🇸



## The Corporate Transparency Act Has Far-Reaching Implications for Small Family Farmers and Businesses



The CTA requires all state or tribal registered entities, including those with under 20 employees, such as limited liability companies (LLCs), to report private, sensitive information on “beneficiary owners” to the federal government, which will be stored in a database. CTA creates a large compliance burden on 11 million businesses with 20 or fewer employees (large corporations are exempt) and does little to aid law enforcement with money laundering.

The Heritage Foundation had this to say: The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) would create a new beneficial ownership reporting requirement imposing a large compliance burden on approximately 11 million businesses with 20 or fewer employees (the only non-exempt category and would create as many as 1 million inadvertent felons. Under the CTA, religious organizations and charities would be subject to fines and imprisonment unless they file a written certification with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Compliance with the bill is easily and lawfully avoided by more sophisticated businesses, and would do virtually nothing to achieve their stated aim of protecting society from illicit finance.

Moreover, both reporting regimes would be easily and lawfully avoided by criminal elements with even a rudimentary knowledge of business. Better, more comprehensive information is available from tax forms already provided to government. Ranchers Cattlemen Association Legal Fund (R-CALF), based in Billings, MT, filed suit noting that the CTA’s reporting obligations mainly apply to small business owners while many large corporations are exempt from reporting. The groups also outlined the harsh penalties for noncompliance, financial and legal burdens on small business owners, the federal overreach into states’ rights and regulations of business ownership and formation, and several constitutional violations.

R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard said that his group is seeking an injunction on behalf of its members for protection from what they consider an unconstitutional imposition on

private information. “This law was intended to identify those who already don’t follow the law when it comes to money laundering, terrorism funding, and other illicit financial activities,” said Bullard. “Rather than put money or time into law enforcement or detective work to find these alleged criminals, the government chose instead to place a significant burden on law-abiding small business owners.”

“The CTA is an egregious overuse of federal power that seeks to invade personal and private data of small business owners and their associates across America,” said R-CALF USA Property Rights Committee Chair Shad Sullivan. “Another blow to hard-working Americans who are the backbone of small communities across this nation.”

The CTA would require each “applicant” to form a corporation or limited liability company to file a report with FinCEN containing a list of the beneficial owners of the corporation or limited liability company (LLC).

Partnerships, trusts and some other legal entities would be exempt, but the applicant and each beneficial owner of a corporation or LLC would be required to provide his or her name, address, date of birth, and either a passport or driver’s license number and a copy of the passport or driver’s license showing a photograph of the beneficial owner (identity theft anyone). These reports would need to be filed every time there was an ownership change and minimally, every year until the LLC or corporation is dissolved.

To make matters worse, the term applicant isn’t well defined so it isn’t clear who the applicant is that needs to submit these filings. Many corporations and LLCs were created decades ago and the “applicant” may no longer have anything whatsoever to do with the business. CTA also prohibits bearer shares.

The definition of beneficial ownership is not consistent with an ordinary understanding of ownership or the concept of ownership under state corporate or LLC laws. The term “beneficial owner” is defined as: a natural

person who, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

- (i) exercises substantial control over a corporation or limited liability company;
- (ii) owns 25 percent or more of the equity interests of a corporation or limited liability company; or
- (iii) receives substantial economic benefits from the assets of a corporation or limited liability company.

The Heritage Foundation adds, “Thus, non-owners with an unspecified “understanding” or “relationship” who are deemed to “exercise substantial control” or “receive substantial economic benefits” will be potential beneficial owners. Providing false beneficial ownership information, willfully failing to provide complete or updated beneficial ownership information, or knowingly disclosing the existence of a subpoena or other request for beneficial ownership information can result in fines of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to three years. But businesses would not really know what weasel words like “understanding,” “relationship,” “substantial control,” or “substantial economic benefits” actually mean until years of litigation and the associated court rulings have provided guideposts to their legal advisors.”

Substantial and potentially ruinous expenses will be incurred by small businesses trying to comply. As explained below, large firms are exempt. Certain applicants are exempt from the beneficial ownership reporting requirements, but only if they file a written certification with FinCEN and provide identifying information regarding the applicant. Small LLCs created for farming and ranching and other mom and pop businesses, do not have the time, money or expertise to figure this out.

Exempt entities include public companies, government-owned enterprises, banks and credit unions, broker-dealers, exchanges and clearing agencies, investment companies, insurance companies, commodities traders, public accounting firms registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, public utilities, churches, charities, political organizations and other not-for-profit organizations, and any business with more than 20 employees and gross receipts of more than \$5 million. Thus, the only non-exempt category is small businesses that are not in finance or allied lines of business.

Beneficial ownership information would be retained by FinCEN until five years after the corporation or LLC terminates. Because corporations and LLCs may exist indefinitely, this means FinCEN would often retain the information for very long periods of time. Beneficial ownership information would be

(continued on page 7B) —

## 10 PRINCIPLES FOR THE RESTORATION OF OUR LAND, LIBERTY & PROPERTY RIGHTS

### 1. Americans’ Well-Being and Rights are Most Important

The inalienable rights of the people shall be the primary consideration of laws and regulations affecting land and these shall benefit human prosperity and well-being.

### 2. Property Rights Must be Fully Protected

Every citizen’s right to own land must have the protection provided by the Constitution so that we may secure our food, shelter, security, personal wealth, and freedom. Americans must have a reasonable means to directly challenge the infringement of their property rights to the Federal Judicial branch of government. Our individual right to own land is essential to prevent economic and political power from being centralized and corrupted.

### 3. Diminishment of Use Justly Compensated

Just compensation shall be paid by the Federal government for taking private property or any right therein. This includes not only the physical invasion of private property, but also the diminution of private property through regulations. Such actions are those that prevent private property owners from using, selling, or building on their land and by forcing private property owners to provide the public with benefits, such as through mitigation, that would otherwise be paid for by tax dollars as a condition to obtaining governmental approval for a lawful land use.

### 4. Federal Lands Managed for the People’s Benefit

Federal lands must be managed for the

benefit of the American people. The principal uses of these lands shall be national security, the development and utilization of domestic energy supplies, mineral extraction, timber production, domestic livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, rights-of-way, outdoor recreation and other constructive uses.

### 5. Land Management Must be Guided by Scientific Principles

The conservation of Federal lands in a natural condition or in a condition that otherwise prohibits natural resource use and development must first satisfy the peoples’ representatives that such protection is necessary under established scientific principles and based on verifiable data and reproducible facts, and not on subjective studies and projects that cannot be replicated.

### 6. Federal Land Management Shall Benefit Local Communities

No Federal land management policies shall result in unreasonable burdens on families and small businesses, and these policies shall benefit the communities in the immediate locale of the land. To that end, the requirement for federal coordination shall be interpreted as deference to the land use policies of the States, Tribes, and local governments, to the maximum extent allowable under law.

### 7. Government Ownership and Control of Land Must be Limited

Eminent Domain shall only be utilized when an essential public purpose makes this necessary. There shall be no net increase in permanent Federal control of land and

no net loss of privately owned land in the United States. Permanent government control of the land should be reduced, and unrestricted private land ownership increased.

### 8. Government Land Must be Equally Distributed Among the States

Any new Federal land acquisition shall require the approval of the legislature of the affected state by a 2/3 vote and by a similar approval of the local jurisdictional governments. Further, no state shall be expected to bear an inequitable amount of federal acreage, and federal authorities shall begin the process to restore private-land ownership in the United States and its Territories.

### 9. Land Restored to American Citizens

Federal lands restored to private ownership can only be acquired by individual American citizens or tax-paying businesses owned by American citizens, and dispersed according to State law in such a manner as to prevent the monopolization of our natural resources and centralization of economic or political power over the American people.

### 10. Land to be Managed by the Living

Land shall be governed by the living and policies restricting land use in perpetuity should be eliminated, securing the ability of future generations to limit government and protect individual liberties.

These 10 principles were drafted by the Property Rights Task Force, July 4, 2023.

# LARGEST LAND GRAB IN HISTORY From americanstewards.us

The Biden Administration promised to use every tool in the toolbox to entrench the 30x30 program throughout the administrative agencies. He has redirected existing funds and programs to meet this target. Every federal agency is using their authority to impose more control over Americans' land.

On the federal lands, the administration is moving more of our multiple-use lands into special protected categories, such as designating expansive National Monuments, advancing more wilderness areas, creating restrictive Areas of Environmental Concern, withdrawing critical mineral deposits from exploration and freezing oil and gas leases.

They are also rewriting regional land use plans that reduce grazing, timber harvest, recreational access and energy development as well as rewriting planning rules that elevate conservation over the multiple-uses that Congress established as the purpose for the land.

They are circumventing Congress by rewriting these plans and rules because existing law does not authorize turning one third of our nation into a nature preserve. Current law requires that we keep our federal lands open to meet America's food, fiber, energy, and recreational needs for today and in the future.

To gain control of private lands they are flooding the markets with billions of dollars for conservation programs that take land out of production and drive-up prices. This pressures the small landowner into "voluntarily" signing up for the federal programs just to stay in business, creating a federal nexus to their property.

emergency service, roads, and other infrastructure. Tax revenue is significantly reduced on the conservation lands as well as the production that comes from these lands, both of which support the local economy.

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022 (IRA), another \$20 Billion was allocated for these programs. However, along with the new money came a new purpose, which has not been publicized. The pre-IRA funding was to help agriculture production. The new IRA funding is to mitigate climate change, reduce livestock emissions and control agriculture production, or in other words, conscript these private lands into the 30x30 agenda.

Every acre enrolled with IRA conservation funding obligates that land to carry out the 30x30 agenda. They are also pouring billions of federal dollars into environmental organizations who then convince landowners to place conservation easements on their lands -giving the easement holder p permanent control of that land forever.

protected lands would have allowed private and foreign investors to reap the profits.

**The investors would have had "management authority" over those ecosystem services and been required to ensure the land was managed "sustainably" with limited to no use. This would have invited our enemies, such as China and Russia, to invest in a NAC and functionally control the natural resources of America.**

**The conservation programs are directly competing with, and out pricing the working landowner. They are making it more profitable for a landowner to set aside land in "conservation," than to produce food. This is driving up the cost of the land and the taxes on nonconservation lands, as well as driving up food prices.**

**The result of all these programs is they are making property more expensive, which pushes the middle class off the land while the government, global elite, and environmental organizations assume ownership of America.**

Although the NACs have been stopped for now, the federal government is executing a similar strategy where they are monetizing the natural processes that make up the ecosystem services and are placing these on the federal balance sheet under "Natural Capital Accounts." The natural processes they are monetizing, and claiming ownership of are elements such as pollination, photosynthesis, the health benefits that come from people being in open space, etc. These are naturally derived processes that every life form depends upon, and no one has a right to own.

**If they can own and allocate credits for the air we breathe, then they can constrain the citizen's activities and functionally control the people.**

### Is 30x30 Connected to the "Natural Asset" Agenda?

The 30x30 objective is to push more land out of the hands of the people and into a vehicle for proponents of 30x30 to exclusively profit from these lands, and to collateralize the increased federal debt.

Counties that have large amounts of conservation program lands are finding it difficult to pay for the schools, hospitals,

ASL recently led the campaign to stop the formation of "Natural Asset Companies (NACs)" on the New York Stock Exchange where the ecosystem services from these

**"The moment the idea is admitted into society, that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence."**  
*John Adams - 1787*

**This is not about conservation. This is about control of our land and liberty.**

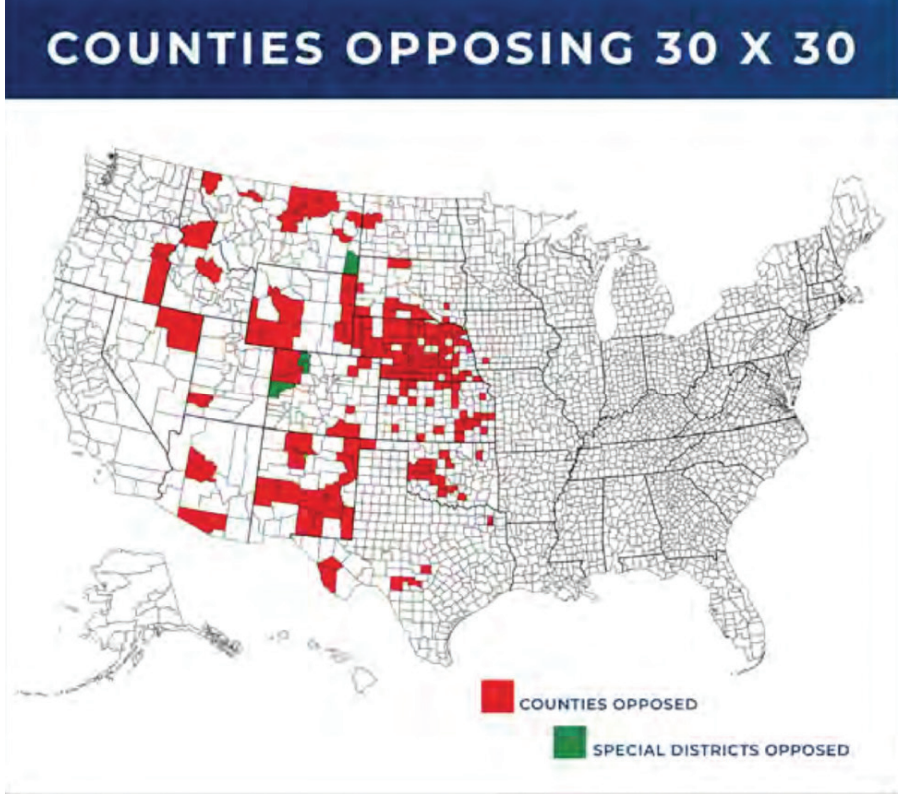
## How You Can Help Stop The Land Grab americanstewards.us 512-591-7843

**When the 30x30 agenda was exposed in 2021, local leaders began educating their communities, which resulted in the passage of hundreds of local government resolutions by counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, other special districts and organizations. The map represents many of the communities who have taken this action.**

Scan to learn more



**"You only have the RIGHTS you're willing to defend."**



### CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT from page 6B)

shared by FinCEN with local, tribal, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, the law enforcement agencies of foreign countries or with financial institutions, with customer consent, as part of the institution's compliance with due diligence requirements.

Even though CTA states the information provided to local, tribal, state, or federal law enforcement agencies may only be used for law enforcement, national security, or intelligence purposes, who trusts the government, or even the private sector to not turn that information over to other companies such as insurance

companies or debt collectors. Furthermore, there is no comparable statutory limitation on information provided to foreign governments.

How much of your hard earned tax dollars will the new government program take to implement when roughly 11 million businesses will be making reports, and roughly two million more businesses and not-for-profits will need to seek exemption from the regime?

The proposal contains poorly drafted "look through" rules and the application of these rules is not clear. In the absence of such rules,

however, the entire reporting regime maybe could be easily avoided through having a corporation or LLC own a corporation or LLC.

Regardless, a new breed of lawyer/accountant will need to be on your small business payroll to understand how to comply to avoid heavy penalties and jail time. Just what America needs-more paperwork and regulations that weigh down mom and pop but are easily navigated by the criminal enterprises the bill claims it was trying to identify.

**"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11**



**OUR ELECTIONS ARE MORE VULNERABLE** from page 1A)

states around America, Secretaries of State have allowed or been part of the development of elections systems that would appear to be designed to allow for fraud. So whether or not an election is stolen, a free and fair election system has been stolen from the American people. Today we have systems that lack transparency, whether it is the absentee ballot process or the electronic voting systems. That it can be exploited by the Chinese Communist Party should seem obvious.

It was widely underreported that Communist China declared a People's War against the United States in May of 2019 after the Trump Administration's efforts to curb their theft of American intellectual property. This so-called People's War was declared in the pages of the People's Daily when Communist Party apparatchiks told the Chinese people they would have to make sacrifices to stop the "greed and arrogance" of the Trump administration.

This war between the U.S. and the CCP involves political warfare, information warfare, and psychological warfare. It is war, after all, and as such, there are few rules. Any reasonable assessment of the state of U.S. defenses should include whether such political warfare could include the CCP intervening in the 2024 election. This assessment appears not to have been done. This is critical since this is not merely about the manipulation of search engines or social media platforms. This is about a comprehensive strategy to steal the 2024 election using whatever means necessary.

And, though the level of hostilities between the U.S. and the CCP has not risen to traditional military conflict, we should be clear that the Chinese Communist Party is deadly serious in their intent to destroy the United States. The death of over 70,000 Americans last year because of Chinese-manufactured fentanyl — imported via Biden's open border with Mexico — means that China's unrestricted warfare is in full operation and that nothing is beyond the pale of the CCP.

It is delusional to believe, therefore, that the U.S. government under President Biden has taken the necessary steps to defend America from Communist China. We let our children die at the hands of the Chinese Communists. Is permitting them to steal an election so far-fetched?

### China's Strategic Design

Communist China is a great nation with great ambition. They spend roughly \$16 billion on intelligence and influence operations annually in the United States. They do so because they have not yet subjected us to their rule. It would not be unreasonable to believe that they wish to change this in November's election.

The Chinese Communist Party has at their disposal important allies. Indeed, the political and information war being waged against the American people is by a condominium of the Chinese Communist Party and American leftists—from Progressives to Communists—and the collection of transnational corporations and globalist elites that run them. This latter group assumes they will have a preferred position financially and economically in a new world order.

For their part, the CCP and their communist allies here within the United States seek to perpetuate the Biden regime and its ongoing military and strategic submission to the Chinese Communist Party, and to dismantle the political and economic system of the United States. In the past three and a half years, China has taken unprecedented steps toward an invasion of Taiwan, prepared for an attack on the United States through the use of surveillance balloons across the United States, operated bio-weapons laboratories (at least one of which was found in Reedley, California replete with Ebola, anthrax, and the like), formed a "no limits" strategic alliance with Russia in their war with Ukraine, signed an "all-weather" strategic partnership with Hungary on the threshold of Europe, and supplied both funding and intelligence resources to the Iranians, Hezbollah, and Hamas in their war with Israel. No one believes any of this would have happened under President Trump.

Likewise, the Biden administration, with Congress, has engaged in levels of spending that have ballooned the American national debt to nearly \$35 trillion. This reckless spending has led not merely to inflation but has undermined the world's faith in the U.S. dollar as the reserve currency. Witness Saudi Arabia's failure to renew the use of the U.S. dollar as the primary means for the clearance of oil contracts. If



it is in Communist China's interest to have the Renminbi be the world's primary reserve currency, the fiscal policies of President Biden could not be any more conducive to that goal.

That this is not clear to anyone with eyes to see might seem a great mystery, until one considers the active measures of the Chinese Communist Party to buy up the most influential law, public relations, and political lobbying firms in Washington and New York. Money—the aforementioned \$16 billion—is spread through political and philanthropic donations, investments, advertising in new and legacy media, support for journalists and scholars, and contributions to major academic institutions and think tanks throughout the country. Quite literally the most powerful forces in American politics and communications have been coopted—whether they know it or not—by the Chinese Communist Party to promote or sympathize with Beijing's perspective.

These billions of dollars ensure not merely that journalists and scholars think twice before publicly acknowledging Communist China's ongoing malfeasance, but also that counter arguments—regarding the origins of COVID-19, China's military buildup in the South China Sea, or the ongoing harmful effects of China's Belt and Road Initiative throughout the world—are formulated and propagated proactively by a domestic Fifth Column within our opinion-making institutions. This should come as no surprise, of course, since active measures are to be expected by a nation at war.

For the Communist Chinese only the United States stands between them and global domination. From China's purely strategic point of view, the American people and their republican form of government must be destroyed. This may not be something that can happen overnight, but China is patient.

Globalists, especially America's business elites, will point out that Communist China is highly dependent on America for trade, and that hundreds of thousands of its young people go to college in the United States each year. Why would they wish to destroy the United States? But China may have determined that they have served as the manufacturing base of the United States for long enough. It may be that they wish to develop China along different economic lines and expand their reach throughout the globe through the many client-states they have developed. Trade with the United States along the lines of the three decades since China was awarded Most Favored Nation status may not align with their strategic plans.

It may also be that the Chinese have extracted from the West all the knowledge that is necessary for them to become the most powerful nation the world has ever known, in the fields of engineering, physics, science,

philosophy—including political philosophy—and literature. Here again, they may no longer need the United States. Indeed, they have probably noticed that the teaching of even the hard sciences in American universities has not withstood the effects of so-called "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion," and that our once-superb research institutions no longer produce the kind of excellence that built the modern world. From the CCP's point of view, having extracted the wealth and knowledge of the United States, they are now better off managing America's exit from the world stage.

Within six months of the declaration of the People's War, COVID-19 was spreading throughout China and the world. Within another six months America was in lockdown. Would Communist China's strategic planners be capable of seeing that a kind of global reset caused by a global pandemic would create the conditions to remove an American president whose policies were explicitly designed to put America first and to put Communist China in its place?

The spread of COVID came just before an American presidential election was held under circumstances that disadvantaged the populist incumbent Donald Trump, whose political energy was built on his signature rallies. Americans were locked down and fed a steady diet of narratives that COVID-19 was a death sentence.

Based on this, elections were changed nationwide—mostly without the legislative participation at the state level required by the U.S. Constitution—to require the use of absentee ballots. Prior to 2020 it was widely accepted by both Republicans and Democrats that absentee balloting could lead to widespread voter fraud. The blue-ribbon commission led by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker in 2005 explained this clearly. COVID-19 created the perfect circumstance to look the other way. Who, after all, would want to die going to a polling place?

At one level it matters not that the American Left was radicalized to exploit the death of George Floyd and the ubiquitous and false narrative that Donald Trump was a racist and open Nazi sympathizer. The Black Lives Matter and Antifa operations were part of an effort to intimidate the American people into compliance. Americans were to stay indoors and accept that their political interaction was to be limited to television and social media, the latter of which would turn on President Trump in the final weeks of the election. At a more basic level it created the necessary political narrative that would allow otherwise sensible observers to believe that President Trump lost the election legitimately. The middle-class aversion to violence and disorder was exploited to suggest that the removal of Trump would lead to a restoration of calm.



**Was the 2020 Election Stolen?**

No serious person believes the 2020 election was fair. The signature anomaly, the middle of the night pause in counting in the six swing states—where President Trump was in the lead at the start of the pause, only to have the count resume with Joe Biden ahead—is all one needs to know.

The election of 2020 was decided—most likely—by the illegal collection and production of absentee ballots by a variety of front groups whose purpose was to steal the election. It is not possible to demonstrate with absolute certitude this assertion because there was no real investigation of the election and its many anomalies. Historic numbers of absentee ballots were returned, the chain of custody of ballots was either missing or defective, and signature verification was in many states nearly non-existent. Under the letter of the law, many key states were unable to certify their elections legitimately.

Citizen groups that did investigate were treated not only with contempt, but as if their civic actions were criminal in nature. Charges of Trump supporters being election-deniers became the dominant narrative throughout the left-wing media that only four years prior had supported similar claims from Hillary Clinton and her supporters, claims that remain to this day.

One would think that a legitimately elected president would have been eager to demonstrate to the world the legitimacy of America's political system. This was not the case. Indeed, raising the question of election irregularities was met with lawfare and intimidation. For many Americans this merely reinforced the illegitimacy of the election and therefore the Biden presidency itself.

For all their sophistication, Americans are amazingly naïve about the mechanics of their electoral process. They are somehow of the belief that there are real authorities from both parties scrutinizing the electoral process and, by so doing, bringing order and fairness to the system. Were that it were so.

Because we are citizens of a free country, though getting less free by the day, we naturally tend to think in terms of fairness between one citizen and another. We don't like the idea that one

80-some cases brought before state courts were dismissed on procedural grounds having primarily to do with standing either before or after the election; the merits of the argument were not addressed. The judiciary, in our system of government, is the weakest branch, having neither force nor will to enforce its decisions. This was evident after November of 2020. The letter of the law be damned and it mattered not whether the elections were not held in accordance with state election law. The courts were not going to put themselves in the middle of political controversy. The elections were over and that was that.

And, in any case, is it not the job of the Secretaries of State around the country and the Trump administration's own Department of Homeland Security and its Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to make sure an election is fair? Certainly, the nonpartisan government oversight function could not have gotten this so wrong, could it?

Secretaries of State are partisan offices and, especially in the blue states, were overwhelmed by the political pressure of the COVID-19 lockdowns to permit absentee ballots. They knew that the Democrats and Biden would not be disadvantaged by this. They were also being given access to funds and programs such as Mark Zuckerberg's Center for Tech and Civic Life which were designed to promote the use of absentee ballots to get as many people voting as possible. These efforts, presumed to promote voting in this non-traditional method because of COVID-19, opened the door for unknown, and uninvestigated, amounts of fraud and may well have been cover for other dark money spending and their much less transparent efforts. The billions of dollars funneled into the system by Arabella Advisors, The Tides Foundation, The Sixteen Thirty Fund and other anodyne sounding organizations themselves mask the sources of funding including from foreign individuals and corporations seeking to influence American politics to promote globalist and communist priorities.

The Department of Homeland Security, it would appear, is clueless to all this. It is as if they did not think it was their job to take seriously a radical change in how Americans vote during the middle of a historic national health crisis and civic unrest and violence the likes of which the nation had not seen for decades. Yet to be

establishment members. What became clear in 2017 was that the Republican Establishment was not on the side of President Trump. They were not for closing the border, standing up to Communist China, or reining in the administrative state. They were as desirous as any Democrat of seeing President Trump out of the White House. President Trump is a man with a movement but not a party. And Presidential elections are run, alas, by political parties.

There is also the not insignificant matter of the electronic voting systems. Let us be clear that there is no freedom of speech in America to discuss electronic voting systems. It is stipulated that electronic voting systems are perfect. But it should only be noted that they operate with electronic components made in Communist China and that many if not most of the machines that will be used by voters were not made in the United States. The software in use in the machines comes from a variety of proprietary developers located in America, Canada, Serbia, Venezuela and elsewhere.

Anyone interested in learning more about this should consult the excellent HBO documentary from 2020 titled: Kill Chain: The Cyber War on America's Elections. In the film, these systems were attacked first by Democrat Senators Amy Klobucher and Elizabeth Warren, who spoke out against using them. The essential argument is that they can be manipulated by foreign bad actors.

**How Would Communist China Steal the Election?**

It is the view of Communist China and their Central Party Secretary Xi Jinping that they are in a People's War with the United States. We should expect with absolute certainty that the Chinese Communist Party will use their intelligence services to play a role—decisive if possible—in the 2024 election. Although their role in the 2020 election was never investigated, given the change in administrations, there is their funding of communist front groups in the United States during the George Floyd and Antifa riots and the logistical support that the Chinese consulate in Houston, Texas appears to have been providing such groups. It is likely no coincidence that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ordered that the Houston consulate cease all operations on July 21, 2020 for, among other things, their on-going and aggressive espionage activities in the United States. In the days after plumes of smoke could be seen from the consulate as CCP staff burned the embassy's documents.

In 2024 we should expect the CCP to be even more aggressive.

Consider the fact that Communist China can counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills, as can North Korea. If we apply this to absentee balloting in American elections, we simply have to ask whether Communist China would, with their vast intelligence and influence operations budget, use a small fraction of their resources to counterfeit hundreds of thousands or more ballots in each of the seven swing states that decide a U.S. presidential election?

Counterfeiting American election ballots is radically easier than reproducing U.S. currency, which has many sophisticated security features, and is printed on special paper with special ink. Election ballots have no security features. As a practical matter the Communist Chinese will have access to the same paper stocks being used, easy access to the actual PDFs of the ballot, and ready access to U.S. voter rolls (themselves highly unreliable in many circumstances). And, using artificial intelligence, they can collect the signatures of every voter through databases used in the signing of checks, credit cards, and other methods that require a signature. Even if some of this required the surreptitious acquisition of signatures, Communist China's People's Liberation Army has a cyber unit of some 600,000 men and women who engage in hundreds of thousands of cyber-attacks on U.S. banking, financial, and industrial systems daily. And, they have thousands of warehouses around the United States from which such ballot counterfeiting could operate.

Given that the Communist Chinese have the capacity financially, the interest strategically, and the desire politically to see a "soft on China" president elected, whether it is this election or any future election, it would be a small investment on their part to engage in such measures. At a minimum they do not want to see an America First president like Donald Trump returned to office.



citizen might steal another citizen's vote or that another group would engage in voter fraud, whether through the electronic manipulation of ballots or the stuffing of the ballot box with fake or fraudulent ballots. This is especially true of a presidential election.

It was clear that once President Trump had been adequately vilified for the specious idea he was a racist—George Floyd died while he was president after all—the political conditions were created so that not only could an election be stolen, but should be stolen by any means possible. For the American Left, Trump was Hitler, and better to stop Hitler by stealing an election than to watch him win another term.

But hasn't it been said by some that the election of 2020 could not have been stolen since it was litigated all over the country and that no court saw fit to overturn the election, including the Supreme Court? What is true is that no court was going to insert itself into the presidential process either before or after the election. The

investigated is the statement on November 12, 2020 by CISA Director Christopher Krebs and his superiors that the election "was the most secure in American history." But how could he know that, and how could he know it so soon? The idea that it was the most secure election was completely ridiculous on its face, but a very useful media narrative emerged that even the Trump Administration believed the election was secure.

There was no way of knowing so shortly after the election what had transpired in the submission of millions and millions of ballots never before cast in a presidential election this way. And never had a presidential election had such a wide use of electronic voting systems under these circumstances.

If there is an obvious lesson to be drawn from this, it is that whereas President Trump is the leader of an enormous national political movement, he does not control, even very likely today, the Republican Party and its many

(continued on page 10A) —



**OUR ELECTIONS ARE MORE VULNERABLE** from page 9A)

And to frame it differently, what would we do as a country if we knew with absolute certainty that Communist China was going to print up one million ballots of low-propensity voters for each of the seven swing states for the Democrat nominee for president and have them inserted into the system somehow? The low-propensity voters are not going to complain since they don't vote in any case. Would anyone dare to insist on in-person balloting, or would that be called an effort to disenfranchise minority voters? Or would we simply watch as a national election was stolen?

It should be of great concern that nowhere in the calculations of how to secure a U.S. national election has the subject of Communist China and their ability to interfere in the election in this way been raised. China has every interest in deciding the election in their favor. If we had an adequate counter-intelligence capability in this country, or if we eliminated absentee balloting, it would not be an issue. Unfortunately, it is.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines warned in May that Russia remains the greatest threat when it comes to influencing a U.S. election, harking back to 2016 and the idea that the Russians wanted President Trump elected. She even noted that China and Iran could also play a role when it came to social media and artificial intelligence. If Director Haines genuinely believed in the Russian threat there would be an immediate call for ban on absentee ballots and their usage in the 2024 election, lest Russian President Vladimir Putin install his supposed puppet Donald Trump into the White House. U.S. Intelligence and law enforcement agencies know full well of the potential of an industrial level production of absentee ballots by foreign intelligence services that could decisively alter an American presidential election and therefore American history and are by all accounts doing nothing. Why is this not being debated as if the future of the American Republic actually mattered?

**Are There No Safeguards Against This?**

Nearly every part of the US government appears committed to denying President Trump a fair shot in this November's election. From the courts' prosecution of transparently bogus lawsuits to the harassment and intimidation by the FBI and Merrick Garland's Justice Department, the Biden Regime has decidedly put their finger on the scales against him.

The very officials within the Biden Justice Department who approved the use of lethal force in the raid on Mar-a-Lago, in effect putting President Trump in the crosshairs, will be, at one level, the people overseeing the 2024 election. And though the actual running of elections falls to state officials, the federal agency tasked with securing the integrity of the election, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), is overseen by the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Why would anyone believe that the very part of the U.S. government tasked with securing our border and therefore the country itself, which has allowed in over 10 million illegal aliens—some of them criminals, terrorists, and foreign combatants—would be capable of or interested in ensuring that such an election was secure? This is made even more remarkable since the open border policy of Mayorkas was carried out at the behest of an Administration that would also like these same illegal aliens to be able to vote in our elections including this November.

The American Left has assembled a cohort of lawyers nationwide who will work with friendly judges and election officials to ensure that the election will be run much like 2020 and that there will be little transparency to see what is going on both before and after the election. Lawyers on behalf of the Trump Campaign and the Republican Party will wage a valiant effort against this but it is a decidedly uphill battle given that courts may not consider relevant cases, may ignore relevant facts, and even if successful, may be ignored by state and local election officials.

There is right now a widespread campaign in the media suggesting President Trump would engage in "retribution" for what has happened to him and his allies over the past four years. Given that President Trump's political enemies already think he is Hitler, when you combine this with the idea that there will be justice for their actual crimes over the past four years, who in the Biden Administration will raise a finger to make sure there is a fair election?



And, under these circumstances, why would anyone believe that the House of Representatives and the Senate will not be stolen as well? If Communist China's goal is the destruction of the American Republic why not give the new Democrat president, whoever that may be, all the power they need?

There are several problems, of course, in stealing an election. We have seen them over these past four years. If an election is so obviously stolen that everyone in the country believes it to be the case, you will have an ungovernable country for four years. There will be a constitutional crisis even greater than the one we have today. If you are Communist China, what better way to control the United States then to put us into a state of confusion, chaos, and possible civil war? And however much Democrats may desire political power, and desire it they do, they will have a country in ruins and the Communist Chinese know this.

**What Is to Be Done?**

The only real remedy for all of this is to conduct the election only on November 5—rather than some multiweek voting scheme—by human beings in person, who show their identification and cast ballots that are counted by other human beings in the most transparent way possible. Absentee ballots could be used for the military overseas or the indefinitely confined. Every other voter should have to show up in person. In a world of cyber warfare and artificial intelligence, only a system that relies on the actions of a human being verified by other human beings present in the room will do.

Many of President Trump's supporters believe that they are going to 'outvote the steal' and that this November election will be "Too Big to Rig." That may well be the case. But that wasn't the case in 2022 where around the country in the key battleground states—where one would have thought that President Trump's advisors would have gone all-in to ensure that Republican governors and secretaries of state were elected—nearly every MAGA candidate who could have

ensured a fair election in 2024 lost. This was a strategic error of immense proportions. The election in 2024 in the key swing states will now be conducted by some of President Trump's most vicious political enemies. That does not mean the election cannot be won by President Trump. What it means is that he will have to win by such an overwhelming margin that even the concerted efforts of Communist China, and the billions spent by dark money groups, cannot overcome it.

In the war we find ourselves in, a war for the future of the American Republic, it is critical that Congress, the President, and the political class of the United States do everything in their power to ensure a free and fair election this fall. This may be the only thing separating this country from a genuine civil war, where citizens no longer believe that they live in a republic, and that their vote no longer matters. This is the logical result of the political war being waged against the United States by enemies foreign and domestic and the rise of technologies that could easily undermine America's voting system.

It is entirely the strategy of China and Russia that America be divided. There is no better way to achieve this than to corrupt our electoral process in this manner.

Americans will find out whether they are still one people or whether they will allow our enemies to divide us. Let us pray that the better angels of our nature prevail. Let us also recognize that if ever there was a time for the American people to humble themselves before God, to ask his forgiveness and to pray for justice this fall, now is the time.

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**"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11**



## **CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: The Attack on Farmers & Ranchers No One is Talking About**

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<https://americanstewards.us/>

### **1. Land under a conservation easement is no longer private property.**

The primary problem with conservation easements is that they willingly convey control of the property to a third party, rendering the fundamental right of “private property” void. Control of the land is the essential element of a property right, but when a landowner signs a conservation easement, they give this away.

### **2. Conservation easements are more accurately defined as conservation “servitudes.”**

What the environmental community has labeled as a conservation easement (CE), more accurately meets the definition of a “conservation servitude.” CE’s create a “negative servitude” on the land by preventing the landowner from taking action on his property. In contrast, an “affirmative easement” allows the landowner to make active decisions and use of the land.

For example, when a road easement (an affirmative easement) is conveyed across a property, the easement holder is guaranteed access, yet this limited right does not allow the holder to dictate what use the landowner will make of his property. Control of the property remains with the landowner.

That is not the case with a conservation easement, aka, “servitude.” In this case, the primary control of the land is to ensure the conservation purpose is met and not harmed by any other actions on the land. The landowner’s rights become sub-servient to the conservation purpose. However, using the term “servitude” instead of “easement,” would dissuade many landowners from considering the agreement. It is not surprising that the environmental community chose the more palatable, yet less accurate, terminology

### **3. Does the conservation value become the primary purpose of the land?**

**Yes** – Once the easement is in place, the conservation purpose for the land becomes the dominate right that determines all other uses, in perpetuity. This is determined by the land trust or governmental entity, not the landowner.

### **4. Can the landowner change the use of the land in the future?**

**No** – When the CE agreement is created, a “baseline assessment” of current productive uses, such as livestock grazing, farming, existing improvements, hunting and recreational uses, is created and included as a part of the contract. Typically, these uses are authorized to continue at existing levels. For example, if you need to repair an existing fence, you can do so, but you will likely be prevented from adding a new fence without express permission from the holder of the easement.

The exception to this is if the contract plainly allows for this change. However, this must be done in such a way as to not infringe on the conservation purpose now or in the future, which will not be decided by the landowner, but by the holder of the easement.

### **5. If the CE allows agricultural uses, will these uses continue in the future?**

Many landowners believe that the agricultural use of the land will continue as agreed upon when conveying the easement. However, this is an assumption destined to fail.

The freezing of existing uses is problematic because nature, advancements in technology and science, and society’s preferences are continually changing, and all activities that rely on nature must change with it in order to retain the best qualities of the land. But, because of the restrictive easement terms, landowners no longer have the ability to make reasonable changes in their operations as required. This places the landowner in a position of continuing activities that, over time, are very likely going to harm the land, contrary to the conservation purposes, and detrimental to the landowner’s business.

However, the conservation easement holder, i.e., land trust or government agency, retains maximum flexibility to modify activities to fulfill the conservation purpose, such as protecting endangered species habitat. When the landowner’s activities and priorities collide with the conservation purpose, it is the conservation purpose that prevails. When a conservation easement is placed on land in perpetuity, it is the conservation purpose that must be carried out. The agricultural activity may continue.

### **6. Does the conservation easement protect the land from development, forever?**

**No** – Land with a conservation easement can be condemned for a public purpose, as can any other parcel, such as for new power lines connecting wind farms, or carbon sequestration pipelines.

The idea of placing a conservation easement on your land to protect it from development seems noble, until you realize the only activities restricted or prevented are those of the landowner. The easement holder gains a substantial asset that is recorded on the entities balance sheet. They also gain primary control of the land. Meanwhile, the landowner and future heirs are forever committed to live under the restrictions and oversight of the easement holder.

### **7. Can a land trust sell the conservation easement to a governmental entity?**

**Yes** – The easement can be sold to another land trust or governmental entity. Unfortunately, the conservation easement has become an easy way to convey property sought by governmental entities because it allows the government to avoid public scrutiny generated when seizing private property through regulations, zoning or condemnation

An article published by the National Center for Public Policy (NCP) in 2008, found that two-thirds of The Nature Conservancy’s budget was spent on purchasing conservation easements from landowners and then reselling these to government entities. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is arguably the largest land trust in the world. In one example they site, TNC resold an easement purchased for \$1.2 million directly to the Bureau of Land Management for \$1.4 million.

An additional concern is that many land trusts receive federal funds for the acquisition of conservation easements. In the same article mentioned above, the NCPP found that TNC was receiving \$100 million annually for its conservation easement program. The conservation easement program is big business.

In areas where private landowners are being approached by government entities to purchase their land, and later approached by land trusts offering to protect them and their property from future development, seller beware. It may seem like the preferable option, however, there are no guarantees that the property won’t eventually be in the government’s control, as originally planned.

### **8. Can the landowner dissolve the conservation easement if the IRS denies the tax-deduction?**

**No** – Many landowners encumber their property with the conservation easement for the purpose of reducing their income tax liability, or to reduce the estate tax liability to their heirs upon their death. To receive the tax-deduction, the IRS requires the conservation easement to be: 1) in place; 2) held by a land trust or government entity; 3) for conservation purposes; and 4) in perpetuity. If the IRS finds these requirements have not been met, the deduction is denied. However, the conservation easement is a binding contract that continues. **It is forever.**

### **9. Does a conservation easement devalue the land?**

**Yes** – In most cases the easement reduces the taxable value of the land, causing property taxes to go up for surrounding landowners, and the revenue to states and counties for public services to go down. Nebraska Department of Revenue found that the Federal Wetlands Reserve Easement devalued the land by 40%.

### **10. What benefit does the inheriting generation receive?**

**None**, except for the restrictions. The landowner who signed the agreement can take either an income-tax deduction, or estate-tax deduction on the property. Once this has been exercised, the inheriting generation receives no additional financial benefit, however, they will still be bound to the restrictive terms of the easement, in perpetuity.

### **11. Should conservation easements have a sunset clause?**

**Yes** – Eliminating the “in-perpetuity” provision at the state and federal level would allow the next generation to decide if they want to continue with the conservation servitude on the land. There is a concept in property law that the “dead hand” should not control land beyond the grave, that the earth belongs to the living. A term no longer than 15 years would allow the landowner to re-evaluate the relationship and either withdraw or continue with the encumbrance.

### **12. Would eliminating easements “in perpetuity” better protect individual liberties?**

**Absolutely** – Taking this concept further, we must ask the moral question of whether we have the right to restrict the individual liberties of future generations. We know that property rights are essential to our ability to limit the powers of government that threaten individual liberty. A conservation easement diminishes the control we have over our property and limits our protections we have against government tyranny, not just for today’s generation, but for generations to come.

### **13. Are conservation easements being used to accomplish the 30x30 agenda and monetization of natural assets?**

**Definitely** – Conservation easements in perpetuity are part of the lands that make up the Department of Interior’s 12 percent figure they reported as being “permanently protected,” and therefore meeting the 30x30 requirement. Numerous environmental documents and Biden Administration policy statements identify conservation easements as a primary tool to move private lands under the control of the 30x30 program. The recent proposed rule by the Securities and Exchange Commission to create “Natural Asset Companies,” would allow land trusts or the government to enroll the easements into the private investment product with or without the landowners’ consent. Additionally, the Biden Administration is looking to add the “ecosystem services” value of lands it controls to the federal balance sheet under “Natural Capital Accounts.” The federally owned conservation easements would be valued as a federal asset for these purposes.

Proponents of 30x30 identified early on that they must convince landowners to “voluntarily” enroll their lands into conservation easements in perpetuity to make progress towards 30x30. Sixty percent of America’s lands are still privately owned today. These are some of the most productive lands in the nation that environmental elitists, profiteers and the administrative state want to control.

The motivations of landowners to place conservation easements on their land are often well intended. They want to protect the land from future development, ensure the agriculture use continues, and receive a financial benefit. However, the conservation easement cannot guarantee that any of these intentions will be met, and in the case of agriculture, it works against this interest by preventing management flexibility.

Additionally, “in perpetuity” becomes the most important consideration of a landowner when placing a conservation easement on their land. Their heirs or future owners of the land may not want to continue the “conservation purposes” of the easement and desire to change the use of the land to coincide with technological advancements, environmental changes, or a number of factors undeterminable at the time the conservation easement is implemented, but they will never have that option. 🚫



# The Greatest Conservation Con in US History!

## “Natural Capital Accounts” Poised to Add Private Lands to Secure America’s Debt

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The Biden Administration unveiled a slew of Earth Day actions, including a first look at how they plan to support the growing national debt by monetizing natural processes. In other words, Biden and Harris want to take control over the natural resources on both federal and private land and use it as collateral for the national debt. This latest action is similar to what Wall Street attempted through “Natural Asset Companies.”

*Groups like The American Stewards of Liberty, however, recognized quickly that NACs are a direct threat to energy, mining, and agricultural production on land across America saying, “It is the fleecing of American’s property rights, consolidation of power, and transfer of wealth on an international scale.”*

Two significant Earth Day announcements have been released from the White House that connect the 30x30 agenda, Natural Asset Company scam, and the federal government’s strategy to add “Natural Capital Accounts” to the federal balance sheet.

First, President Biden claims 41 million acres have been added to meet his 30x30 target — the unauthorized agenda to turn at least 30 percent of the United States into a nature preserve by 2030.

*Why is the Biden Administration attempting to lock up 30 percent of our land and create new assets out of thin air? Because they need more collateral to back our increasing national debt — debt we owe to many countries including China. If we default, it will be China, not the American people who will be mining, drilling, grazing, recreating on, and developing our “conservation” lands.*

The IEG admits that “producing these essential goods and services and managing resources wisely is as valuable, or perhaps even more valuable, than food production.” Without question, this is a part of the Biden administration’s 30x30 agenda - a land grab designed to secure 30 percent of America’s land and waters for conservation and preservation by 2030. Ultimately, this would allow the federal government, questionable investors, and perhaps international extremist groups to massively profit off of America’s natural outputs while simultaneously gaining control over them.

In December, President Biden and Vice-President Harris announced an international partnership initiative called Lands at 2030 International Partnership Initiative. This partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA, both members of the Working Group for Biden’s National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions, will help them understand and track changes in the condition and economic value of land, water, air and other natural outputs. In short, it is satellite data collection on every square inch of earth and its sole purpose is to create an asset base for an investment product such as a NAC.

The release states: “Private land in the contiguous 48 states was valued at \$32 trillion,



## Your Home Could Be Security for the Federal Debt.

**The Natural Asset grab is not for the purpose of protecting nature. It is to satisfy our nation’s creditors. If they succeed, our protected natural resources will eventually be mined, grazed, drilled and developed – just not by Americans.**

equivalent to roughly 30% of the net wealth already measured in U.S. accounts.

### We are witnessing the rapid consolidation of land and power in America.

It appears the government intends to hand control over natural assets to the NACs as reports indicate that plans are underway to track the values of natural assets and place them on a federal balance sheet. It is also reported that a new accounting framework has been created by the Rockefeller-founded Intrinsic Exchange Group (IEG) because traditional NACs could not withstand the scrutiny required under general accounting principles, possibly leading to an artificially created economy four times larger than today’s entire economy.

The April 22, 2024, Fact Sheet notes some of the significant land and mineral withdrawals made to help reach 30x30, lands that hold incredible economic wealth: “The Administration has already protected more than 41 million acres of lands and waters, and President Biden is on track to conserve more lands and waters than any President in history. This includes establishing five new national monuments and restoring protections for three more; creating four new national wildlife refuges and expanding five more; protecting the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, the nation’s most visited wilderness area; safeguarding Bristol Bay in southwest Alaska; and withdrawing Chaco Canyon in New Mexico and Thompson Divide in Colorado from further oil and gas leasing to protect thousands of sacred sites and pristine lands.”

*What the Biden Administration is attempting to pull off is the greatest conservation con in our nation’s history. If these actions are allowed to stand, America will no longer be the land of private property, nor the land of the free.*

Next, they unveiled a new website, conservation.gov that houses the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas mapping tool. The Atlas was created to track the progress of 30x30 including the protected status of the lands as well as quantifying natural processes such as photosynthesis and pollination used to manufacture an arbitrary ecosystem service value.

This week they released “A Successful Inaugural Year for Natural Capital Accounting in the United States.” This is the first look at how the White House is attributing a dollar value to these natural processes. This new contrived value will be added to the federal balance sheet

under “Natural Capital Accounts,” or NCA.

January of 2023, the White House initiated this effort when they released the “National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental – Economic Statistics.” Since then, they have been working to establish a methodology to value the ecosystem services.

In the latest news release, they announce they have built four pilot accounts to test their methodology. The four accounts are for land, water, air emissions, and environmental activity. The “Pilot National Land Account” measures the economic activity and total market value for all the land in the United States, 2.3 billion acres. They do not give the value of the federally owned lands, but do single out the value of private lands – \$32 trillion.

*Where they have a federal nexus to regulate these emissions, such as through the conservation programs funded with Inflation Reduction Act dollars, they are poised to control the landowner’s activities in the event they find these are reducing federal natural asset values.*

Accounting for natural assets like land on our nation’s balance sheet is critical; omitting them would dramatically understate U.S. wealth.” This makes clear the Biden Administration plans to add private lands owned by American citizens to the NCA category on the federal balance sheet.

The “Pilot National Air Emissions Account” “measure greenhouse gas emissions associated with specific industries on a national scale.” The release uses as an example “carbon dioxide or nitrous oxide emissions attributable to agriculture or the retail industry.” The air emissions account will be tracking these industry by industry.

### Every Action that Erodes Property Erodes Liberty.

This is why we must continually push back on the environmental agenda regardless of the political party in office. We must expose our opponents and educate our elected leaders, communities and associations. It is essential if we are to reign in the administrative state and restore our land and liberty.

In essence, the administration is conscripting private citizens’ land to secure the national debt unbeknown to the American people and Congress. 🇺🇸

## Commitments from Candidates for Carbon County Commissioner District #3\*



Norma Shultz



Bill Bullock

\*Candidate statements are published as they are as submitted to our office. We do not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.

### 1. What do you believe to be the role of a County Commissioner and what makes you an ideal candidate?



The responsibility the county voters entrust in their commissioners tests every capacity of a person's compassion, intellect and character. As a political subdivision of the state, county governments are more directly impacted by the significant challenges facing the state than any other level of government. The role of a County Commissioner is to serve all the citizens of the county. This involves day-to-day management of county responsibilities and proactively addressing issues facing the county. A County Commissioner needs to make timely community-based decisions and provide responsible and transparent funds management. The role of government is to protect and maintain individual rights; not grow government.

#### Budgets/Finance:

As commissioner, I would consider how best to leverage the county's revenues, debts, financial predictions, negotiated union contracts and expenditures to meet our obligations and position us to meet our long-term goals. I believe in living within our means at all times-I do **NOT** believe in we collected it, we must spend it.

There is never enough money to fund every good idea or project and likewise, property taxes are never low enough; especially, to help the contributing residents of our county with lower or fixed incomes: such as the elderly; veterans; those with disabilities or other medical conditions or infirmities; and public service employees, such as teachers and police officers. Budgets are always the most difficult aspect of a commissioner's job.

Often, it is a delicate balance to provide planning and adequate funding to projects to comply with mandates and to guide the organization into the next stage of growth and development; but that is what I did for over 50 years. I will strive to always have our county live within our means and always look for ways to return money to the pockets of our residents.

As a representative of the people, I will be everywhere and anywhere you need me. I live by the quote, "If you want to fix something, start by being there!" You will have access to me and I will be in the field with you because I know walking in your shoes will help me understand your needs and is what it takes to represent you best.



I believe the role of a County Commissioner is to implement policy and manage the budget and funding for County Government. I believe this role resides within a board, and the

ability to work with fellow Commissioners for the most desirable outcome for our constituents, is essential. Coupled with this, is the ability to lead and innovate, in order to perpetuate our community.

I have done this on countless occasions. Whether it be the floods of 2022, the wildfires of 2021, Covid of 2020, or the passing of fellow commissioners, such as the untimely death of Commissioners Grewell and DeArmond.

(continued on page 2B)

## Is Your Vote Safe? Unlock the Truth of Montana Election Audits

Did you know that Silver Bow County certified its 2024 Montana primary election despite counting 1,131 more ballots than voters? Here's the math: 12,077 ballots were counted but only 10,934 county residents voted in the recent primary. That's a whopping 10% discrepancy.

The cause of this alarming mishap? Linda Sajor-Joyce, the Silver Bow County Election Administrator, believes an extra 1,023 votes came from a memory stick (USB thumb drive) she used to test the equipment prior to the election. However, it should be noted that this procedure also did not follow secretary of state rules which requires the testing to occur the day real ballots begin to get counted, not the day or days before counting the real primary ballots.

The Election Administrator claims another 96 ballots were counted because the wrong thumb drive was inserted on election day, and these ballots were not cleared prior to scanning real ballots. The source of the remaining excess ballots has not been identified; although a forensic audit would undoubtedly get to the bottom of it.

In the aftermath of the Silver Bow County incident, vulnerabilities were revealed. The Senate Select Committee on Elections, assigned to probe the discrepancy, decided by a 4 to 1 vote against conducting an audit of the utilized election equipment. Furthermore, they did not request a review of the cast vote records (CVR). Senator Theresa Manzella was the lone advocate for the audit. The committee, it appears, attributed the incident to human error and opted to proceed without further investigation.

**The county certified the election despite the fact that this large discrepancy was apparent in the post-election audit results, which did NOT meet the criteria required by law!**

The cause of this alarming mishap? Linda Sajor-Joyce, the Silver Bow County Election Administrator with over 20 years' experience, isn't sure, but she suspects the extra 1,100 votes came from a USB thumb drive she used in a public demonstration two weeks prior to the election and inadvertently used for the primary election without wiping it clear. The thumb drive had 1,100 votes loaded on it from that demonstration that she claims were inadvertently added to election day tallies. In the new results from the recount that was required as a result of this error, an election for a Republican Precinct Committeeman race flipped and the leader in the County Attorney race was changed (though both candidates will appear on the general election ballot).



**Even their post-election audit did not catch this egregious error. What's worse, the county certified the election.**

**"This confirms it takes a computer and a government worker to REALLY screw things up!" United Sovereign America's (USA) Doug Bohn said.**

Bohn believes Montana should go back to hand counting ballots. He serves as the Analyst for USA's Montana chapter. His point is that machines make election tallying more complex and vulnerable. Moreover, in a state with a small population like Montana, hand counting is simpler to implement, faster, more transparent, more secure and less expensive and prone to hard-to-find errors. Silver Bow was not the only Montana County in the June 2024 primary that had a BIG discrepancy in the total of ballots counted versus the number of people that voted. However, it was the only county where the election administrator cooperated and requested a recount to try and determine the cause of the discrepancy.

If the acceptable criterion of 0.5% were applied to the ballot/voter discrepancies as is applied to post-election audits, 38 of the 56 counties in Montana DID NOT meet this standard, yet in all those counties their county commissions went ahead and certified the election. With a discrepancy of 27%, Powell County had the largest % discrepancy, nearly 3x that of Silver Bow County.

No safeguards were or are in place in the counties or the office of the SOS to appropriately find, question or deal with an egregious error such as this in a timely manner. This incident was brought to light thanks to the proactive measures of an election watchdog group affiliated with United Sovereign Americans unite4freedom.com/. In order to be able to monitor and identify these discrepancies, they had to invest more than \$5,000 of their own funds to purchase

a subscription to Montana's voter rolls. Without their diligent efforts, this significant discrepancy would surely have slipped through unnoticed and unresolved. The problem with voting machines used by Montana counties is clear. Errors in software, so-called bugs, are commonplace, as any computer user knows. Computer programs regularly malfunction, sometimes in surprising and subtle ways. This is true for all software, including the software used in voting machines.

In close races, errors can obviously affect the outcome of elections. That's the point of having a recount. A recount is an alternate system of tabulating votes: one that is slower because it's manual, simpler because it just focuses on one race, and therefore more accurate.

In Montana, the recount laws are structured in such a way that obtaining one can be rather challenging. The legal framework mandates that only an impacted candidate or the initiator of a ballot measure can make a request for a recount. Additionally, this request must be submitted within a stringent deadline of five days following an election.

To make that five-day recount deadline even more challenging, the process of vote counting can extend beyond election day due to several factors. Some jurisdictions permit ballots to be tallied for several days post-election, while provisional ballots might require over a week for review. Additionally, access to results may face delays, creating an information gap for candidates and the public. This often hinders their ability to request a recount within the designated narrow time frame of five days post-election.

**The majority of our election laws were drafted during a time when manual ballot counting was the standard process. The introduction of computerized voting systems has dramatically and unnecessarily increased the vulnerability of the electoral process to human error and, worse, possible manipulation.**

Here's a case in point. In 2012, after the election in Montana was audited and certified, Senator Rick Ripley from Lewis and Clark County noted that his small county precinct of 25 people, which consisted mostly of family members, didn't register a single vote for him. So he inquired with the county.

Per the image of the letter in this article, you can see the election administrator contacted ES&S to determine the cause of the error. They

(continued on page 3B)



CANDIDATES from page 1B)

2. What are areas where you can see the County making the most improvements if you are re-elected commissioner?



**INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATION WHICH EMBODIES TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION**

**Infrastructure:**

There is no doubt that roads and bridges are a major area where improvement needs to be made. It doesn't matter if you are a class 1,2 or 3 road, the county is not doing a good enough job of maintaining, grading and snow removal. My priority will be to interview and work with the district's road and bridge team and find out if the heart of the issue is in lack of staffing, lack of available overtime, lack of proper equipment, lack of the proper maintenance to maintain the equipment we have or combination thereof. Nothing is harder on a good employee then wanting to get the job done right and not be given functioning equipment. If the issues stem from lack of financial resources to pay for the staff or equipment that is needed to do a good job, then this needs to be clearly communicated with the community so decisions on how to either reallocate resources or raise additional revenue to bridge the gap can be had so we can move forward with a successful strategy of having proper road maintenance for which everyone can be proud.

**Communication:**

I believe one of my most important jobs is to represent the voice and will of the people when dealing with the state, federal or other county/city governments. Most of the work of a successful elected official is in communication, cooperation and trust. I earned the trust of organizations and people I served. I delivered results and I plan on doing the same for the

people of Carbon County.

**I feel strongly that the easiest improvement the county can make is to its communication style, customer service and transparency.**

Community members should not feel ignored and all input should be appreciated. It is the job of county staff to not only help within their department areas, but to also offer helpful information from other departments.

Case in point, I had a complete loss of my home, in the 2022 flood. Like many others in my same predicament, I needed to find temporary shelter after living in a tent for over six weeks post flood. Eventually, I purchased a fifth wheel and needed to get it hooked up to a working septic system. I applied for the permit and after weeks of not hearing back, I followed-up with the county only to be told that septic permits could not be issued without a building permit. Yet, when I applied for a septic permit, no one instructed me to walk down the hall to the Clerk and Recorder's Office to get a building permit; even though I didn't need a building permit because I was not "building" a new home, simply hooking up my fifth wheel to a septic. In my opinion that is an area ready for improvement. Those issuing the septic permits should automatically be guiding residents through the process and making sure we applied for a building permit, regardless of whether we needed to build anything (either that or not require a building permit for a septic permit if all that is needed is to hook up a fifth wheel to the septic system).

As commissioners, we cannot do all the work alone. We need the input, wisdom and frustrations from all community members

to ensure we are doing the right thing and doing it well. This is not a job that is done alone by three people in Red Lodge. This is a community where we all roll up our sleeves and take constructive criticism and great ideas and work together to implement them to the best of our ability. Everyone deserves the right to be heard and the commissioners need to know everything the community says is worth hearing and it is our job as commissioners to work with the community to solve problems.

**Collaboration:**

With over 50 years' experience working in the service industry, especially in nursing homes, I interacted with all types of organizations and people from: unions; schools; government agencies; non-profits and community members. I did everything from sweeping floors to writing and evaluating grant applications.

I've dealt with and resolved difficult and sensitive personnel issues. These included simple misconduct to spousal abuse, addictions, and child protection issues. My experiences provide a framework and knowledge base to address our county-wide issues as they concern the very serious side of county work. I am the candidate that embodies the working class and who values collaboration.

**Transparency:**

With the level of cynicism in government today, actively promoting the public trust is essential. In all aspects, I will endeavor to ensure the people of Carbon County are both included and heard. This also means making county government as transparent and accountable as possible. I stand firm that as a commissioner, I am here to serve the people of our county.



I can see the most improvements being brought out of infrastructure necessity. What I mean by that, is that even as I am writing this, we are taking a more pro-active role in assessing and experimenting with alternative

road treatments to get more longevity out of our surfaces, while trying to keep costs down. With that, we have acquired traffic counters to more effectively gage where we are allocating resources.

With all of this, and I hope it resonates with folks, is simply this: we have a lot more people moving here. Our development is on a frequency unlike we have ever seen. There are a lot of folks moving here to Carbon County, for all of the reasons we as residents already know.

I also see improvements to our own County infrastructure. In order to serve our growing population, we have to begin to adapt. For example, figuring out a solution for inmate

incarceration. What we are doing now isn't sustainable. Driving inmates all over the state to be housed, isn't doing us a lot of good. It is expensive, and is not solving the issue. We have limited funds to provide the services necessary for our community, and we have to stretch those funds as far as we can to get the most benefit.

3. The County continues to face financial realities and tough decisions will need to be made. What increase to revenue or reductions to expenses might you propose?



I can be counted time and again to reduce programs when not working or not needed and likewise looking for ways we can reduce the tax burden in the county, especially as it relates to our ability to reduce property tax burdens. Our residents need to know a lot of the property tax burden is out of the control of the county

commissioners and rests in Helena with our legislative and executive branches, but I would work closely with our representative there.

I would follow a resource allocation strategy designed to address immediate community needs while laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and development. It reflects a commitment to improving our residents'

quality of life, fostering a stable economy, and preserving the unique character of our county. My emphasis is on infrastructure, housing, and economic growth which is in harmony with Carbon County's strategic vision and long-term goals, ensuring that the funds are utilized in alignment with the collective aspirations and priorities of our community.



This is really a question that resides with the voters. We at the Commission level do

not have the ability to arbitrarily raise taxes or revenues. If there is a question of raising taxes, that is one to be answered by the voters.

I believe it is our job and responsibility to live within the financial constraints put on us by our constituents. If we can't afford it, we don't do it.

4. What are your top policy proposals aimed at affordable housing in Carbon County?



**Growth and Development:**

Carbon County is facing significant growth that will provide opportunities for new businesses, increased housing developments, expanded road systems, and others. I would support and proposed specific planning, zoning and other land use regulations based on the will of the people of Carbon County.

Our small county does not have the resources to house all who are in need of permanent housing because at least 25% of our housing is either in a short term rental pool market or is secondary housing for temporary residents and

this includes apartment rentals.

After taking the important first step of reviewing regulations to reduce barriers to development, such as, streamlined the development approvals process to encourage the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on existing lots, Carbon County may find that additional incentives are required to encourage the creation of lower-cost homes. I would promote a System Development Charge waiver, which exempts newly-built or converted ADUs from the infrastructure hook-up fees fee for three years or extend the waiver permanently on the condition that ADUs are not used for short-term rental housing for a minimum period of

15 years. I would like to see Carbon County make ADUs legal in all single-family-zoned areas as of right. Thus, no public hearings or special approvals are required to build them.

Furthermore, I think Carbon County could use more mobile home parks where the mobile home owner owns his lot, not just the mobile home. Mobile homes are a great starter home that makes home ownership more affordable and allows our county to retain locals born and raised here that are entry and mid-level employees that would otherwise be priced out of the market and forced to move away from the community they know and love.



It is no mystery that affordable housing is a critical issue in our County, and our State. We at the County aren't immune from this either. We are on our 14th potential employee, that, although qualified and potentially an excellent employee, they never even showed up for lack of being able to find a place to live. We are at such a need right now,

affordable housing, in my opinion needs to be implemented on a very large and intense scale.

That being said, we have taken the steps necessary to have access to our funds that were rolled out in HB 819. We have literally just today, indicated our CRO to receive these monies from the State of Montana. My hope is that this will help to stand up more affordable housing for our County. I don't see this as a

'give away', but a means to stand up affordable housing and have it perpetuated. That, coupled with private enterprise stepping up to provide affordable housing that fits the needs of our community and its employees. With this we have received \$25,000 grant to revise our subdivision/growth policy.



5. If the County received \$5 million dollars in funding to be used for any purpose, what would you do with it and why?



**PUBLIC SAFETY AND LONG TERM CARE**

**Public Safety:**

Carbon County needs to improve public safety, address drug trafficking through and in our county, as well as, mental health and addiction issues. Not having a jail makes addressing public safety more difficult as our Justice of the Peace has to weigh the costs and difficulties of incarcerating offenders versus releasing them. Carbon County believes in enforcing the law, but the county has spoken, via a ballot measure, that they didn't want a jail built in our county. \$5 million isn't enough to build a jail anyway, but it might be enough to enter into a joint cooperative agreement with our neighboring counties that are without a jail and pool resources to get a jail built for all our use in their county.

**Long Term Care:**

Invest it to bring back long-term elder care to

Carbon County. The Willows needs to be re-opened and we need to partner with private businesses to ensure their success in successfully offering care to the elderly of our community. I would couple this with housing for home health care workers. I feel it is very important for people to age in the communities in which they were born or in which they chose to move or retire.

I find it heartbreaking that as people age and can no longer live alone, they are forced to move to foreign communities where they have no interest, meaning places they don't know and where they have no family or support networks. Aging is a delicate process and as we age we do not adapt to change as easily. This additional emotional stress on a person who is already going through the grieving process of loss of their independence, is exacerbated by the stress and feelings of loneliness and distress that compounds their mental state when they have to be uprooted from their community.

Additionally, the communities lose the value these older members of our society contribute to the cohesiveness of their personal families and communities. Friends and families are divided, often by hours drives as these elderly residents often are relocated to communities great distances away.

We need to value every life and, as a community, support our families and friends regardless of their physical or mental abilities, ages, socio-economic status, political views, race etc. Community contains "unity" and we need to step out of our comfort zones and realize our community thrives when we help each other thrive.

If elected I promise to be compassionate, transparent and willing to listen to all. Let's work together to figure out the best way to provide for the growth of our community and the people that make our community so amazing.



Ironically, in a lot of ways this has already happened. The combined total, including grants for ARPA, LATCF, and CARES, Carbon County has received just over \$5 million in funds over the last 4 years.

What we have done with this is:

A. Support and improve water and sewer infrastructure for all of the unincorporated towns (Roberts, Edgar, Belfry). These funds went to improve water services in these towns, improve sewer services in these towns, and get them to a point where they are functioning and providing the necessary water and sewage treatment for folks to live there. The reason for this is fairly simple. These are hard infrastructure improvements that are expensive, and slowly occurring. They can wait for a grant cycle, however, sometimes these systems fail, due to the simple reason of being 60-80 years old. When they fail, they need to be fixed, immediately. These monies went to these unincorporated areas

because they needed repairs, and there really weren't any other financing options out there at the time.

- B. We also put forward monies towards all of the Senior Centers in the County. Again, there is no revenue pots available to ensure these facilities carry forward. We bought a new floor in Fromberg, a new parking lot for Red Lodge, HVAC and a remodel in Bridger, HVAC in Joliet, a lift assist in Boyd, food storage for all, and implemented a Farm to table food program, utilizing Carbon County producers for their meal programs. These are hard inputs that will carry these facilities for decades to come.
- C. Money towards radio repeaters and communication infrastructure for law enforcement, Fire and EMS.
- D. We obligated monies to all 3 libraries in the County for HVAC, internet, computer and overall building improvements. Again, there just aren't funding mechanisms out there for this purpose.
- E. Lastly, we at the County, sold the property we had acquired for the proposed detention

facility. With that, we made an additional \$50,000 from the sale. Using this amount of money and the available CAREs, ARPA, LATCF monies, we acquired property in Red Lodge, the county seat, for future consolidation of County services, to get us through the next 75-100 years. This would fix long lingering issues with access and facilities that we face every day.

\*\*If we were to receive \$5 million in revenues on top of this, in my opinion, we would finalize our vision of a County Services building, with the inclusion of a 'detention/mental health wing', which would help diffuse the issue of incarcerating individuals. This alternative would be a benefit to our citizenry and court system, and law enforcement. While doing that, it would free up our current facilities to finalize our transition to a one stop location for all County services. We would sell what we have vacated, freeing up space and making it available for enterprising individuals to explore or implement more affordable housing within the private sector. 🏠

**IS YOUR VOTE SAFE? from page 1B)**

admitted they had a programming error in that one race in that one precinct and that indeed Sen. Ripley should have been credited with 25 additional votes.

This of course is once again after the post-election audit and after certification of the election. The letter further stated that the ES&S team looked at all the code for all other races in the state and there were no other errors to be found. However, no state employee or independent third party was involved to verify ES&S's claim. Therefore, we do not know if ES&S did inspect every line of code or that no other errors were found.

Since this error by ES&S in the Montana 2012 election, this same problem has occurred in numerous races across the country. However, such a problem is only uncovered when a blatant error similar to Sen. Ripley's occurs and a recount or equivalent course of action can be sought.

Here are a few examples of election errors that caused by errors involving voting machines and their software:

1. In 2022, an unexpected turn of events occurred in the DeKalb County, Georgia, Commissioner's race due to tabulator machine computer programming errors. The individual who came last in an election, which was audited and certified, turned out after a recount to have garnered the most votes out of all candidates. An investigation revealed that this error was prevalent across all voting precincts in the county. The candidate, Michelle Long Spears, was shortchanged by 3,792 votes which took her from a last place finish with 24% of the vote to a first-place finish with 43% of the vote.
2. In North Hampton, PA, in 2023, a voting machine coding error caused votes to be flipped on a ballot question that asked whether a pair of incumbent state appeals judges should be retained. Voters were asked to decide whether Pennsylvania Superior Court Judges Jack Panella and Victor Stabile should be retained for additional 10-year terms. The "yes" or "no" votes for each judge were switched because of the error, according

to County Executive Lamont McClure. If a voter marked "yes" to retain Panella and "no" on Stabile, for example, it was reflected as "no" on Panella and "yes" on Stabile.

3. In Boone County, Iowa, the electronic vote-counting equipment showed that more than 140,000 votes had been cast in the municipal elections, even though only half of the county's 50,000 residents were eligible to vote.

There are hundreds of similar stories. What's important about these problems is not only that they resulted in a less accurate tally, but also that the errors were not uniformly distributed. They affected one candidate more than the other. You can't assume errors will cancel each other out. Rather, you must assume that any error will skew the results significantly and affect the result of the election.

As shown in these examples, the post-election audit and certification processes did nothing to notice or uncover the serious errors in the tabulation equipment's tallies. Compared to hand counting, a lot can go completely undetected when using election machines.

Here's a list of some things that can go wrong with voting machines, either by mistake or with intent:

1. The wrong election software can be loaded, resulting in tallies being read improperly.
2. Tabulators can be tested but the election administrator can forget to clear the tallies on the equipment before counting real ballots.
3. The equipment manufacturer can make errors programing the software that runs the election resulting in inaccurate vote tallies (see inserted letter regarding Sen. Ripley's 2012 election in Lewis and Clark County).
4. Votes can be manually preprogrammed to start at a certain number or loaded in tabulators before the actual ballots are counted, fraudulently inflating a candidate's totals.
5. The same ballots can be run through the equipment more than once (even multiple times), inflating vote counts.

It is for these reasons that citizens who understand what is at stake with ensuring the

integrity of our elections wanted a full forensic audit of Silver Bow's 2024 primary election to confirm for certain what caused the errors, and to also find out from the audit if the same errors could have occurred in some or all of the other 38 Montana counties that had large errors but did not get scrutinized.

It matters not whether the error is a programming error by the manufacturer, or a mistake by an election administrator. The point is that mistakes are not only easy to make, but some are also difficult or impossible to find. Either way, county commissioners are certifying their elections without addressing these mistakes.

The situation demands additional scrutiny as it represents a critical example of how vulnerable our elections are to human error, not to mention how easy it is for bad actors to take advantage of the same vulnerabilities.

**Technology gets in the way of accuracy by adding steps. Each additional step means more risk of errors, simply because no technology is perfect.**

Consider an optical-scan voting system. The voter fills in ovals on a piece of paper, which is fed into an optical-scan reader. The reader senses the filled-in ovals and tabulates the votes. This system has several steps: voter to ballot, to ovals, to optical reader, to vote tabulator, to centralized total. At each step, errors can occur. Mistakes in tabulation—either in the machine or when machine totals get aggregated into larger totals—also cause errors.

**A manual system of tallying the ballots by hand, and double-checking the results, is more accurate simply because there are fewer steps.**

According to Bruce Schneier, Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society Fellow and security technologist, the error rates in tabulator equipment can be significant. Some voting technologies have a 5% error rate, which means one in twenty people who vote using the system have their votes counted incorrectly.



**IS YOUR VOTE SAFE? from page 3B)**

A system like this operates under the assumption that most of the time the errors don't matter. If you consider that the errors are uniformly distributed—in other words, that they affect each candidate with equal probability—then they won't affect the outcome of elections except in very close races. This is assuming the errors are inadvertent. However, what if errors are intentional and skew races toward one candidate?

**Election software can be hacked, and it's not that hard to do.**

Another issue is that election software can be 'hacked'. That is, someone can deliberately introduce an error that modifies the result in favor of a preferred candidate. Although there is some threat of this happening on election day if equipment is connected to the Internet, the real threat is that the computer code could be modified while it is being developed and tested, either by one of the programmers or a hacker who gains access to the voting-machine company's network. It's much easier to surreptitiously modify a software system than a hardware system, and it's much easier to make these modifications undetectable.

Malicious changes or errors in election software can have far-reaching effects. A problem with a manual machine just affects that one machine. A software problem, whether accidental or intentional, can affect hundreds of machines and skew the results of an entire election.

Some have argued in favor of tabulator systems, citing the millions of dollars that are handled every day by ATMs and other computerized financial systems. That argument ignores another vital characteristic of voting systems: anonymity.

Computerized financial systems get most of their security from audits. If a problem is suspected, auditors can go back through system records and figure out what happened. If the problem turns out to be real, the transaction can be unwound and fixed. However, because elections are anonymous, that kind of security just isn't possible, as the same level of backup data isn't available.

This means we need to recognize the vulnerabilities of tabulator systems. To this end, computer security experts recommend:

1. Paper trails. Let the voter see how their vote was counted and have both a digital and a paper trail to show how it was counted.
2. Software used on voting equipment must be open to public scrutiny. This transparency has two functions: it allows any interested party to examine the software and find bugs, which can then be corrected, and it increases public confidence in the voting process. If the software is public, no one can insinuate that the voting system has unfairness built into the code. Companies that make these machines regularly argue that they need to keep their software secret for proprietary and security reasons. Don't believe them. In this instance, secrecy has nothing to do with security.
3. Computerized systems with these characteristics won't be perfect. No piece of software is. But they'll be much better than what we have now. We need to treat voting software like we treat any other high-reliability system.
4. The auditing that is conducted on slot machine software in the US is significantly more meticulous than that applied to voting software. The development process for mission-critical airplane software makes voting software look like a slapdash affair. If we care about the integrity of our elections, this must change.
5. Proponents of voting equipment often point to successful elections as "proof" that the systems work. That completely misses the point. The truth is that errors in the software—either accidental or deliberately introduced—can undetectably alter election results.
6. An election without any detected problems is no more proof that the system is reliable and secure than a night that no one broke into your house is proof that your locks work. Maybe no one tried to break in, or maybe someone tried and succeeded. Either way, you simply don't know.

**Geographic Information Systems could help secure elections.**

Marilyn Bracken  
Election Supervisor  
Telephone (406) 447-8338  
Fax (406) 457-8598



City-County Building  
316 North Park Room #168  
Helena, MT 59623

**CONSOLIDATED OFFICE OF TREASURER/CLERK AND RECORDER**

November 20, 2012

Senator Rick Ripley  
8920 Mt Highway 200  
Wolf Creek, Mt 59648

Dear Senator Ripley:

My name is Marilyn Bracken and I am the person that you talked to here in the office about the discrepancy in your final vote count in the general election.

I appreciate you pointing out this issue to me, so that we could check into the matter and get a correct answer. I contacted Election Systems and Software in Omaha, Nebraska. This is the company the Secretary of State contracts with for coding of ballots, etc. ES & S found an error in coding in the race for Senate District 9. They did check all the other other races for us and your race was the only one that was affected.

We hand-counted your race with Mr. Szabo yesterday, and the final count was 742 votes for you and 220 votes for your opponent. Again, I want to thank you for pointing out this error so we could determine the correct results.

Sincerely,

*Marilyn Bracken*  
MARILYN BRACKEN  
Election Supervisor  
Lewis and Clark County

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There are technologies that could help secure our Montana elections. For example, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which are found in many Montana counties, could be used to verify that a residential address exists at the address listed on a voter registration form.

Every registered voter's form should go through the county's GIS database to verify the accuracy of the information before the voter's registration is accepted. The process ought to be automated, and in cases where an address is returned, it's imperative that the election administrator contact the voter to understand the core issue. This could involve determining whether the individual is homeless or incorrectly wrote their address.

Even if we get the technology right, we still won't be finished. If the goal of a voting system is to accurately translate voter intent into a final tally, the voting machine itself is only one part of the overall system. In the 2020 US election, problems with voter registration, untrained poll workers, ballot design, and procedures for handling problems, resulted in votes being left uncounted, as well as more than 10 million votes cast using factually invalid voter registrations. See [unite4freedom.com/progress/](http://unite4freedom.com/progress/) for details.

Regardless of hand counting or using a tabulator or both, the integrity of the voter rolls comes first. If ballots are cast that should not legitimately be cast because the person no longer lives in the district or because someone filled out another voter's ballot, then neither tabulators nor hand counting can correct that issue. This method of fraud has been around since voting was conceived and is the reason why maintaining accurate voter rolls is paramount.

This is also not a new situation. In Missoula in the 2020 election, the initial recount noted there were 4,596 more votes counted than voters. Nine months later the Missoula election office claimed to have found two more boxes with thousands of absentee signature envelopes that supposedly accounted for the bulk of the

missing ballots. However, with no chain of custody and many months to fake additional envelopes, there was no way to accurately ascertain that those signature envelopes were from authentic voters, and no transparency when those boxes allegedly went missing and were therefore unavailable for the initial recount.

None of these scenarios leads to faith in the current election process being followed. That is the crux of the problem. Tabulator errors are extremely difficult to spot and can be undetectable if hidden in programming code, whether inadvertently or intentionally.

For the average person working as an election judge or administrator, or a county commissioner who certifies election results, the process can be so complex and overwhelming that serious errors can go unnoticed. This can undermine the integrity of the entire process.

Opting for hand counting elections provides a clearer understanding of the process and ensures its transparent execution. This method minimizes the risk of severe election mistakes that could easily go undetected. Although not without issues, the transparency offered by hand-counting ballots preserves the integrity of the election outcome better and makes it easier to find and correct errors.

In Carbon County for the June 4, 2024, primary, 4,323 voters voted, with 3372 who voted absentee (78%) and 966 who voted the day of the election (22%). Using tabulators to count votes, elections results were not available until 4:30am the next day. One can only guess at what led to the delay in tabulating the results. With only 966 in-person votes to tally the entire day, and half of them received by 3pm with the afternoon pick-up, it leaves one to wonder why it took from 8pm to 4:30am to count less than 500 votes. The posting of results more than eight hours after the polls closed certainly raises questions about the efficiency of the tabulator counting process.

In 1900, Carbon County Montana had more than 15,000 residents. Yet the county was able

(continued on page 9B)





# It's Not About Conservation. It's About Control

## -30x30- LAND GRAB

**30 x 30 is an international plan to permanently protect 30 percent of the world's lands and oceans by 2030. These lands are to be kept in their natural state, with the ultimate goal to prohibit all human use.**

**To attain this target, they need to take control of another 400 million acres in America. This is the equivalent of protecting an additional area the size of nine states of Nebraska or two states of Texas by 2030.**

**This is the largest unauthorized federal land grab our nation has ever faced.**



President Biden launched this agenda on his sixth day in office. It was initiated by Executive Order, circumventing Congress and a vote of the people. There is no Congressional or Constitutional authority for 30x30.

The Biden Administration has redirected existing funds and programs to meet this target. Every federal agency is using their authority to impose more control over Americans' land.

As they take control of land uses, the federal agencies are increasing their regulatory powers to impose climate crisis mandates on landowners by changing regulatory rules and imposing new agency directives. These are driving more Americans out of business and off the land.

The more land the government owns, the less power we the people have to keep them in check. Eliminating the citizens' ability to make the best decisions for their land will cause immeasurable damage to our economy, natural resources, and the land they claim to be protecting.

### 30 x 30 is not about conservation.

It is a plan to take property and power away from the people, consolidating both into the hands of governments, global elites, and environmental organizations.

### 10 KEY POINTS ... to know about the 30 x 30 Program:

1. One of the Administration's first actions was to rescind an order that gave States and local governments veto power over federal land acquisitions. Now they can acquire more federal land without the peoples' consent.
2. Three months after the agenda was exposed, the Biden Administration changed the name of the program to "America the Beautiful," masking the land grab. They claim they are conserving and restoring the land, yet they refuse to define the key term "conserve."
3. They say we are losing a football field worth of habitat every 30 seconds. This totals roughly 11 million acres in ten years. Why then are they trying to protect another 400 million acres in nine short years if their "nature crisis" prediction will result in a fraction of this amount?
4. On lands the government already owns (40% of America) they are increasing restrictions, preventing public access, withdrawing large critical mineral deposits, canceling oil and gas leases, and designating millions of acres as protected. All these actions force people off the land and shutter the industries that support local economies.
5. To acquire control of the private lands they are flooding the markets with billions of dollars for conservation programs that take land out of production and result in driving up prices. This pressures the small landowner into "voluntarily" signing up for the federal programs just to stay in business. They are also pouring billions of dollars into environmental organizations who then use these funds to pressure landowners into conservation easements - giving the easement holder permanent control of that land forever.
6. Only 5.4 percent of the land in America is developed. Half of this is considered open space that includes city parks, golf courses and large lots. That means roughly only 2.5 percent of America has manmade improvements, where we have our homes, schools, hospitals, churches, businesses, stores, and roads.
7. If government control of the land would solve the climate crisis and prevent species from going extinct, as they claim, there should be no crisis today. Almost 40 percent of the United States is already owned by federal, state, and local governments and are managed under nature-preserving policies.
8. The lands that make up the 12 percent already protected are our National Parks, State Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and conservation easements on private lands. These are highly restricted areas with limited access or no use.
9. The lands with the greatest productivity and biodiversity are privately owned. Proponents of 30x30 are very concerned that as of 2021, only 1 percent of these lands are permanently protected. This is why many of the 30x30 tools are focused on controlling America's private lands. Making the private landowner subservient to the green agenda is a key goal. This will lead to immeasurable damage to our land, liberty, and the species they claim to protect.
10. Taking 30 percent of our lands and oceans is only the first step. Advocates' next goal is the "Half-Earth" agenda where they plan to preserve 50 percent of the world's lands and oceans by 2050. 30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.



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"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11



# We Shouldn't Be Promoting Voting By Mail

COMMENTARY BY

**Hans A. von Spakovsky@HvonSpakovsky**  
Heritage Foundation Election Law Reform Initiative  
Manager, Senior Legal Fellow

## Key Takeaways

**Why would we want to encourage voters to cast their ballots through the mail or place them in unsupervised, unsecured “drop” boxes instead of voting in person?**

**The worst mail-processing facilities in the country only managed to deliver this very important election mail 84.2 percent of the time.**

**Given the inherent security problems with mail-in ballots, their use should be very limited, and states should protect the integrity of the absentee-voting process.**



Ask yourself: If you won \$500 million in the Powerball lottery, would you put your winning ticket into an envelope and trust the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to deliver it to the state agency that administers the lottery? Or would you want to deliver your ticket personally to lottery officials to ensure that they received it and acknowledge that you are the owner of that ticket?

The answer is pretty obvious to just about anyone. So why would we want to encourage voters to cast their ballots through the mail or place them in unsupervised, unsecured “drop” boxes instead of voting in person in a polling place?

A polling place under the bipartisan supervision of election officials and the observation of poll watchers has numerous advantages. It helps ensure not only that the ballots are completed by the registered voters and deposited in a locked, sealed ballot box, but also that the voters' eligibility and identity are verified; that no voters are pressured or coerced to vote a particular way by candidates, party activists, and political guns-for-hire, who are all prohibited from being inside the polling place; and that no ballots get “lost” in the mail or not delivered on time.

To the average person, a ballot may not be as valuable as a \$500 million lottery ticket, but securing our ballots so that every eligible citizen can vote in a secure, fair, and honest election is worth quite a bit. In fact, it is essential to maintaining our democratic republic. Mail-in or absentee ballots are the ones most susceptible to being misdelivered, stolen, altered, and forged, and to having the voters be pressured or coerced when voting, because they are the only type of ballots marked in an unsupervised, unobserved setting. The many cases of proven absentee ballot fraud in the Heritage Foundation's Election Fraud Database demonstrate and underscore the reason why Florida's Department of Law Enforcement concluded in a 1998 report that the “lack of ‘in-person, at-the-polls’ accountability make absentee ballots the ‘tool of choice’ for those inclined to commit voter fraud.”

This problem is made worse in the many states like California that allow vote trafficking, which proponents of mail-in voting call “vote harvesting” because that sounds better. Every state allows absentee ballots to be mailed back or delivered personally to election officials by the voters or, usually, members of their immediate family or a designated caregiver. But vote-trafficking states allow any third-party stranger to go to voters' homes to pick up and deliver their ballot. In other words, these states give political actors with a stake in the outcome of the election the ability to handle a very valuable commodity—the ballots that can ensure the victory (or defeat) of their election or the election of the candidates who they work for and support, giving them the opportunity to complete, alter, or simply fail to deliver those ballots.

That is an unwise, reckless policy. Numerous cases show that, too, such as the Ninth Circuit congressional race in North Carolina in 2018, which was overturned by the state board of elections due to “concerted fraudulent activities related to absentee by-mail ballots,” including illegal vote trafficking by a political consultant and his associates.

The targets of these types of schemes are often the most vulnerable voters. A trial court described the “predatory pattern” in

an absentee ballot fraud conspiracy in a Democratic mayoral primary in East Chicago, Indiana, in 2003. The fraudsters targeted “first-time voters or [those] otherwise less informed or lacking in knowledge of the voting process, the infirm, the poor, and those with limited skills in the English language.” That election was overturned in a decision upheld by the state Supreme Court.

But even when fraud doesn't occur, mail-in voting is still a bad idea for several reasons. The Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Postal Service released a report in 2019 on its delivery of election-related mail—including mail-in ballots—in the 2018 election. Its goal was timely delivery of absentee/mail-in ballots 96 percent of the time—not 100 percent. That means that even if the Postal Service met its goal, 4 percent of all voters would potentially not have their mailed ballots delivered on time to be counted. The report said that on average nationally, the service achieved its goal 95.6 percent of the time.

In a letter to U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy on September 11, 2024, The National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Association of State Election Directors, said local election officials “in nearly every state” are receiving timely postmarked ballots after Election Day and outside the three to five business days USPS claims as the standard for first-class mail.

Kansas Secretary of State Scott Schwab, the recent past president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, sent his own letter in recent days to DeJoy. He said nearly 1,000 ballots from his state's Aug. 6 primary election couldn't be counted because they arrived too late or without postmarks — and more continue to come in.

Schwab and other Kansas election officials also have said some ballots arrive on time but without postmarks, which keeps them from being counted under Kansas law. What's more, Schwab told DeJoy, local postal clerks have told election officials that they can't add postmarks later even if it's clear that the Postal Service handled the ballot ahead of the mail-in deadline.

Kansas will count ballots postmarked on or before Election Day if they arrive within three days of the election. The Republican-controlled Legislature created that grace period in 2017 over concerns that mail delivery had slowed after the Postal Service shut down seven mail-processing centers in the state. That left much of the state's mail handled through larger centers in Denver, Amarillo, Texas, and Kansas City, Missouri.

Schwab has long said voting early in person or dropping ballots off at the count office is more secure than ever trusting the U.S. mail. The USPS has often had problems including reports of carriers not paid overtime which incentivizes them to throw out mail they failed to deliver during their shift.

**“Keep your ballot out of the hands of the federal government!” Schwab advised voters in a post on the social media platform X after the August 2024 primary. “The Pony Express is more efficient at this point.”**

But the worst mail-processing facilities in the country in places like California, Illinois, and New Jersey only managed to deliver this very

important election mail 84.2 percent of the time. Imagine the screaming headlines if a jurisdiction was rejecting 16 percent of all of the ballots cast by voters in person in a particular polling place or region. Everyone would rightfully be upset, but the fact that this is happening with mail-in ballots according to the Postal Service's own inspector general doesn't even raise a murmur.

Mail-in ballots also have a higher rejection rate than ballots cast in person. There is no election official in voters' home to answer questions or remedy potential problems. In 2012, before the progressive love affair with mail elections started, even the *New York Times* published a critical report that concluded that “votes cast by mail are less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised and more likely to be contested than those cast in a voting booth.” What's changed? Nothing.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission publishes a report after every federal election. Its report on the 2020 election shows that more than 500,000 of the absentee/mailed ballots returned by voters to election officials were rejected and not counted. But even more disturbing is that of the almost 91 million mailed ballots sent to voters by election officials in all states, only 70 million were returned. What happened to those other 20 million-plus ballots? Did voters simply decide not to return them? Did they never get them because they were delivered to an incorrect address? Were they picked up by vote traffickers who then trashed them because they realized that particular voters had a history of voting for candidates of the opposite party? We don't know.

Again, there would be screaming headlines if in-person polling places across the country had records showing that 20 million ballots were missing and hadn't been counted and election officials had no idea what happened to them.

## Democratic vs. Undemocratic

No one is arguing that we get rid of absentee voting entirely. Some individuals are too disabled or ill to vote in person or may be unable to do so for other valid reasons, such as our military personnel and their families who are stationed abroad. But given the long periods of early, in-person voting available in most states today, it is difficult to imagine that there are many other individuals who need to vote through the mail because they are out of town or unavailable on Election Day or the many other days they can vote in person. Given the inherent security problems with mail-in ballots, their use should be very limited, and states should protect the integrity of the absentee-voting process by ensuring accurate voter-registration rolls, requiring voter identification, banning permanent absentee-ballots lists that risk ballots being mailed by election officials to voters who have died or moved out of state, and prohibiting vote trafficking.

One final note. Maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the election process is essential to ensuring that citizens participate. Processing and counting mail-in ballots takes longer than processing ballots cast in person, especially when states imprudently allow absentee ballots to be returned days after Election Day. A recent poll by the Trafalgar Group shows that the longer it takes for election officials to report election results, the less likely the public is to trust the results.

That is just another reason for minimizing mail-in balloting and making it more secure. 🗳️

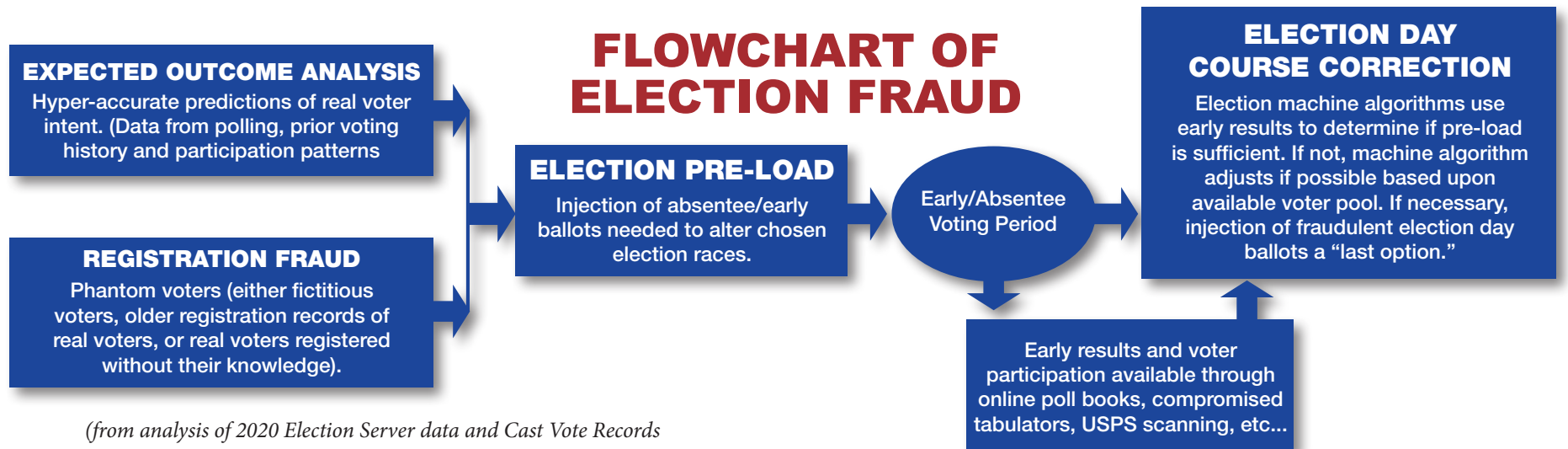
**STOP VOTING BY MAIL!** by Jeff O'Donnell Forensic Data Analyst with Over 40 Years as a Software and Database Engineer at Fortune 500 Companies



There is currently a movement taking place within conservative Republican circles whose goal is to convince Republicans to vote early and by mail in the upcoming 2024 general election. I cannot possibly express how terrible an idea that is.

I am the lead researcher and co-author of the “Mesa County Report #3” as well as the author of the “Fingerprints of Fraud” reports, for which I have studied 2020 election data from nearly 1,000 counties. All of this research proves beyond reasonable doubt that many of our nation’s election machines are having their election data manipulated.

My research shows that while election fraud occurred via many methods in 2020 (and since), many systems showed the following “flowchart of fraud”.



(from analysis of 2020 Election Server data and Cast Vote Records)

The system is deductive, manipulative, and reactive. Deductive because it determines a preliminary course of action based upon information known before the election period, manipulative because it can alter records in the registration and voting systems, and reactive because it uses the early voting period to make corrections on election day. Note that the “course corrections” can be made during the early voting period, as is seen in “Mesa County Report #3”. Also note that the correction is bound by the number of available voters (phantom voters and traditionally low-participation voters who have not yet voted).

By voting early, Republicans are providing essential data to the system which can be used to determine the course correction needed to achieve the desired result. By Republicans withholding their true numbers until election day, it makes it more likely that the algorithms in use will not be able to accurately model the situation and thus fail in their goal.

Republican voters in states where it is possible to sign up to automatically receive mail-in ballots should cancel that immediately and change to receiving an election day ballot, a once again it provides too much information to the algorithm and those who created it.

The well-intentioned but fact-challenged individuals who are calling for Republicans to vote early have used the metaphor of a football game, saying that by voting on election day we are sitting out the first three quarters of the game and having to play “catch up” in the final quarter. I challenge that metaphor with the assertion that if this was a fair game, I would agree. Republicans are, however, playing the 2000-era New England Patriots, and by voting early they are letting the Patriots know how many they need to score in the fourth quarter by whatever means necessary. (With apologies to Patriots fans reading this).

My analysis of the 2022 election shows that Republican efforts to increase election day turnout (and greater oversight of the entire process) was, on the whole, a measured success. In Arizona, this forced those committing the fraud to resort to actual physical methods – sabotage of election equipment as one example. Republicans winning control of the House of Representatives cannot be credulously spun as an intended outcome of the election. Instead of changing course, we should redouble our efforts to increase election day voting participation.

Another point brought up to support early voting is the effect of bad weather on election day. This is a valid concern, but in my opinion a failure to elect a candidate due to bad weather speaks more to that state or county’s “get out the vote” effort on election day than anything else.

All the efforts being spent to push this dangerous “bank your vote” scheme would be better spent on:

1. Registering medium to high probability voters as early as possible. (In places that are not adopting universal registration, like Pennsylvania). Efforts to register low probability voters are counterproductive because those committing the fraud know full well that they are low-probability, and thus candidates for fraudulent votes.
2. Organizing and improving election-day voting assistance efforts. Every registered Republican should be a) educated that they should vote on election day if humanly possible and b) provided with assistance in getting to the polls on election day, if they need it.
3. Supporting efforts to remove election machines from counties in lieu of hand-counted paper ballots.
4. Lobbying for the redistricting of the relatively few insanely large voting precincts in the country. No precinct should have more than 1,000 potential voters.
5. Limiting absentee and early voting to pre-Covid levels, if not abandoned completely.
6. Lobbying for replacement of all current registration systems in lieu of the most transparent system available, followed by a complete voluntary re-registration.

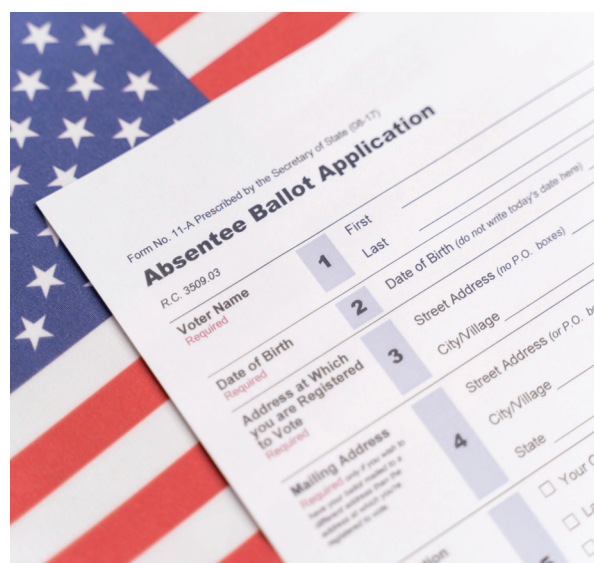
To summarize, while there are numerous methods of election fraud in use, convincing the majority of Republicans to vote on election day seriously cripples one of the methods I have found in use in hundreds of counties. Until our elections are fair, early and absentee voting provide the ammunition for fraud. 🗳️

**ANALYSIS OF ABSENTEE VOTE FRAUD IN 2020 ELECTION**

I have made claims that the best path for a victory by President Trump in the 2024 General Election is to convince 25% of his voters who cast their ballots via Absentee voting to instead vote on Election Day. Following is my reasoning behind this. It is based upon my opinions which are drawn by my findings from analyzing 2020 Cast Vote Records from throughout the country. My report, “The Fingerprints of Fraud”, outlines in detail those findings. (<https://fingerprintsoffraud.com>) This is not a scientific study, in the true sense, as all of the variables are not known. It will, however show my rationale for my 25% estimate.

**CASE STUDY: ARIZONA**

To demonstrate my thinking, here is how things break down in Arizona. One of my critical assumptions is that absentee voting by Republicans (and Democrats as well) provides critical information needed to “adjust” the vote via fictitious absentee ballots and computer manipulation. I believe that they model the upcoming election based upon their polling data and historical assumptions. Thus, anything that interferes with that model has a negative impact on the whole plan. In Arizona, Biden is reported to have defeated President Trump by 10,457 votes (1,672,143 to 1,661,686). Based upon the best data I can find, an estimated 531,740 Trump voters voted absentee (about 32%). I assume that the model being used by the



overall algorithm predicted this (barely, by the small margin). If 25% less Republican voters had voted Absentee, that would have reduced that number by 132,935, which is 4% of the total vote count. My belief is that this would have caused a 4% “uncertainty/error” in their calculations. Considering that the margin of reported victory was 0.2%, this is extremely significant. I chose 25% because in Arizona and other swing states, it provides what I considered to be a comfortable margin to compensate for all of the unknown factors.

**5 SWING STATES**

When doing the same analysis of four other “swing states”, an amazing

correlation appeared when there should be none. All five of these states, when calculating the impact on a 25% decrease in early information, have almost the same uncertainty/error impact on the outcome.

**SUMMARY**

To truly “flood the fraud” in the 2024 general election, we must do everything we can to reduce the magnitude of that fraud. It is my strong professional opinion that one of the most impactful – and easiest - is to reduce the information available to the fraud algorithms by holding our votes until election day if possible. If someone is truly unable to vote on election day, they should vote early in-person as close to election day as possible.

If someone receives an absentee ballot, they should consider filling it out at home and then taking it to their precinct on election day. In some states they can destroy it there and then cast an election day ballot, and in others they can cast the absentee at that time.

This is not the only method of fraud available, of course, but by limiting this area we force the criminals to commit overt physical actions which puts them in danger of discovery. “Forewarned is forearmed”, as the saying goes.



# OCCUPIED: How a Republican Cabal and a Compromised Church Has Stalemated Montana!

COMMENTARY BY

**Dick Pence - Big Sky Worldview Forum**

In Montana (and beyond) we have come under the Political Occupations of a cabal – a small elitist group that controls much of our political voice. Several of these men claim to be Christians, but their activities are devious and dishonest. It's time that “we the people” STOP our pragmatism, act on principle and confront them. It's time we call this the sin that it is!

At the same time, the voice of TRUTH (John 18:37) has been SILENTCED by an elitist class of spiritual leaders that OCCUPY us spiritually. Together, these seemingly strange bed fellows have SILENCED the voices of the people. Actions beneficial to we the people in both governmental and spiritual issues is in a chess-like Check-Mate.

However, and importantly, we the people are even more to blame. WE have cowardly and safely maintained SILENCE and allowed this to happen. WE continue to VOTE for compromised politicians. WE continue to SUPPORT churches that, I will argue, are worse than the same-sex affirming churches! Will WE continue to be OCCUPIED by these two groups of integrity-less leaders? OR will we form new organizations and relationships? Will pragmatism continue to rule over principle?

**The future of our State (and America) is in our hands – nobody else is going to reverse this.**

The Vulnerability of a Vision-less Electorate: Proverbs 29:17 is a thought-provoking. “Where there is no vision (direction or revelation), the people perish...” The picture is that of a river or stream with no banks to direct it. This Proverb begs the question... “are we a people of vision, do ‘we the people’ know where we are going? Apathy and ignorance are a threat to our future. Not so with the Elitist group – they know exactly where they are leading us and they have no interest in what the people think. NONE! Their arrogance is stunning. Any vision but their own is irrelevant if not destructive to their cause.

## The Elitists in Montana:

The last two Republican Primaries are screaming at we the people to stand up and say NO MORE, NEVER AGAIN! In 2022, this group boldly took down Dr. Albert Olszewski as he ran against now congressman Ryan Zinke. In 2024, this same group took down Congressman Matt Rosendale. Now they are promoting a man for Senate with no governing experience, confident that he will march in lock-step with them. And after that, what's next? Because of our SILENCE, they will do it again! And who is this elitist cabal? Senator Steve Daines, Governor Greg Gianforte, Ryan Zinke, some in the Media (all Republicans) – trusting that they can mentor Tim Sheehy into their fold.

Now, we are being asked to support Tim Sheehy over Jon Tester. The question I will ask WE the people is this. At what cost – what will be the price – what must we compromise? Will we continue to succumb to the pragmatism over principle offering - again? And, equally as important, how has this been orchestrated and who are the players? Because... this will only embolden them to “do it again.”

Brad Johnson, a former Secretary of State and former chair of the Public Service Commission also ran in the Senate primary. The state GOP, this Cabal, and Republican Central Committees in Gallatin and Yellowstone shut him out. **Get your head out of the bucket Montana – the point is NOT how good or bad Johnson is. The point is are we going to have Primaries where we the people hear the candidates and make a decision? Or – are they going to be selected for us ahead of time by the likes of Mitch McConnell, Kevin McCarthy, Steve Daines, Greg Gianforte and Ryan Zinke, Central Committees and the Montana GOP?**

That is the bottom line! When Elitists Chose for Us as they did in 2022 with Dr. Albert Olszewski vs. Ryan Zinke for U.S. Congress. When Ryan Zinke ran for Congress in 2022, he had so much baggage that a sixteen-wheeler couldn't carry it all. His voting record in the Montana legislature was not conservative. The Democrats gave Ryan and award for voting with them more than ANY other Republican. He voted AGAINST protecting unborn human life,

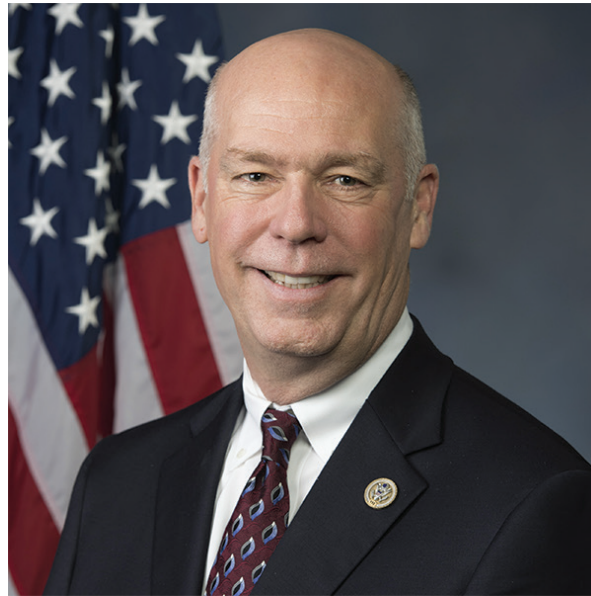
the personhood amendment, clarifying that abortion was not in the MT constitution. He was friendly towards amnesty, against Voter ID – and the list went on. But for the Elitist Four Horsemen of the Montana Republican Party, he was their perfect choice. He would conform, he was not a principled person, and he had the right vintage, after-all, he was a Navy Seal.

## And who is this elitist cabal?

**Senator Steve Daines, Governor Greg Gianforte, Ryan Zinke, some in the Media (all Republicans) – trusting that they can mentor Tim Sheehy into their fold.**



Senator Steve Daines



Governor Greg Gianforte



Ryan Zinke

The powerful influence of Senator Steve Daines, Governor Greg Gianforte (MT Cabal), and certain media forces (on state-wide radio) denied, denied, and denied any of the truth about Zinke's situation. The MT Cabal also quietly encouraged other candidates to enter the primary hoping it would steal votes away from Dr. Olszewski. When it appeared Olszewski might win – he was up by 3 points in the poles - Kevin McCarthy's group made a visit to the Flathead to visit with Olszewski – see if he was conformable and transactional – i.e. you do this for us, we will support you. But Albert said no thank you! So, during the last 8 days, Daines's PAC (More Jobs, Less Government) and friends spent \$800K, against Dr. Olszewski. In the end, the messaging from these powerful elitists was successful in targeting Olszewski and helping Zinke win by the narrowest of margins. But we the people let them get away with it so they DID IT AGAIN!

Congressman Matt Rosendale vs. the Elitists, the Establishment, and the Montana GOP: So, like all nefarious factions, when they got away with it - when we the people did not say enough to stop them - they just did it again in 2024. Senator Daines began working with Mitch McConnell (who he is also ambitious to replace when the time comes) with his National Senatorial Committee and Kevin McCarthy to tell Montana who their senate candidate would be. Stop for a minute and think about that – *they clearly told us for whom they would allow us to vote for United States Senator in Montana. How? As we will see, by eliminating the competition. If that does not bother you, I am speechless!*

“To hell with primaries, we know what we want” was the obvious battle cry of these Establishment Elitists. Let me be very clear, this was orchestrated by Senator Steve Daines, this is about Daines much more than Sheehy but Entitled-Tim went along with it. Earlier, Daines had said “We need millionaires to run for Senate that can finance their own campaigns” Daines and the MT Cabal crowned Tim as our Senate candidate.

But they had huge problem, how to get rid of the very popular Congressman Matt Rosendale? Oh, I know, Joe-Six Pack Republican bought the Establishment lie that Rosendale was too extreme. Legislature friends of mine said he was too harsh for them. The truth is that he was one of the few that said – NO, STOP the spending, the buck stops with Congress. Rosendale and about seven others Congressmen paid a dear price to get rid of the scoundrel Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, but that's what STATESMEN do! And the MEDIA and this CABAL howled like wounded wolves about it. Unlike the rest of the Montana delegation to D.C., Rosendale was serious about stopping the spending and opposing the Establishment in D.C. So, in vintage-Democrat-dirtball-style, they took him out!

Daines threatened that he would spend \$20M to defeat Rosendale if he ran for Senate. Five rumors were invented (most traceable back to Helena) to destroy Rosendale. Then they threatened Rosendale, his family, staff, vendors and donors. Take your head out of the bucket Montana, they dumped Rosendale and it was stealthily-orchestrated. Then, it was not a huge hurdle to get Donald Trump to endorse Tim Sheehy. Keep in mind that Daines is very close to Trump. **Bottom line, what they did to Olszewski and Rosendale will become “the new standard” because WE THE PEOPLE... said NOTHING!**

Then, we see the Trump campaign orchestrating the national Republican platform without any input or vote from the delegates in order to water-down the 40-year-old Pro-Life position of the Republican Party. And trust me, same-sex marriage and the favor for the LGBTQ+ crowd will follow.

The Elitists had found their man and their companion Don K (Kaltschmidt) the Chair of the MT GOP was willing to go along with this plot. Tim has not disappointed, even telling me that he owed me no explanations for his former endorsement of Climate Change, DEI, and ESG. With Trump's endorsement and the endorsement of the Establishment in Montana – Daines, Gianforte, Zinke, the media, and others – and the apathetic ignorance of the Montana voters, Tim coasted to victory in the Primary. Helped along I will add by huge chunks of money from More Jobs, Less Government, Steven Daines' political PAC. While Sheehy's television spots brag of how he gave millions to the Bozeman hospital, he stops short of calling himself Pro-Life in the ads. One needs to also ask how much of those millions were used on “Gender Affirming Care” which the Bozeman medical group is also involved in. To Daines and the MT Cabal-WINNING is what matters, not integrity!

This is a much-needed challenge to Montana Republicans. Are we willing to live by principle or are we going to continue to cave to pragmatism? In this Senate race, we are being told, we just gotta get rid of Jon Tester. But again, I ask, at what cost? “I will not vote for a Democrat, but there are going to be several write-in candidates on my ballot because I refuse to sell my soul for this Cabal again.”

When people conform, when they stop thinking, when they give way to this kind of

**"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11**



leadership – really bad history gets written. Meanwhile, our honest, honorable Governor Greg was up to his own mischief – arguably with the help of the Republican Solutions Caucus. Ignoring past precedence that the Republican Party doesn't endorse candidates in the primary, Gov. Gianforte boldly endorsed over 50 legislators in the primary. It was an odd mixture of Uni Party and some solid Republicans. The Conservative4mt PAC (there is nothing conservative about them—just a bunch of Uni Party moderate Democrat like candidates claiming to be Republicans that call themselves conservative to confuse the uninformed voter), spent a ton of money backing Uni party state legislators. The PAC backed Uni Party candidates who won't support the Montana GOP Platform, but claim to be Republicans. Interestingly, they eliminated both of Attorney General, Austin Knudson's parents who ran for state legislative positions.

This is a mixture of out-of-state money and power, the Solutions Caucus, and Greg Gianforte – ever the CEO never the Servant. You should be asking yourself – it's not too early – who will these Elitists put up for governor, for Senate, etc. Possible candidates that I know are aware that running against Steve Daines would be fruitless. Because they will Do it again!

Let's also discuss the vulnerability of a vision-less church - the loss of the Christian voice. This is not comfortable for us because – speaking generally – we have put our Christian leaders up on a pedestal of our own making. Now, they rule from that pedestal – unfortunately – answerable to nobody! They know where they are going and nobody is going to tell them what to do. Think I am wrong? Try confronting your

pastor about – just one issue – why he REFUSES to teach on abortion? Listen to his response and watch the dance! Listen to the excuses – but MOST important – listen to see if he is treating you as an equal that puts his pants on one leg at a time! If he does, he is a rare exception – follow him.

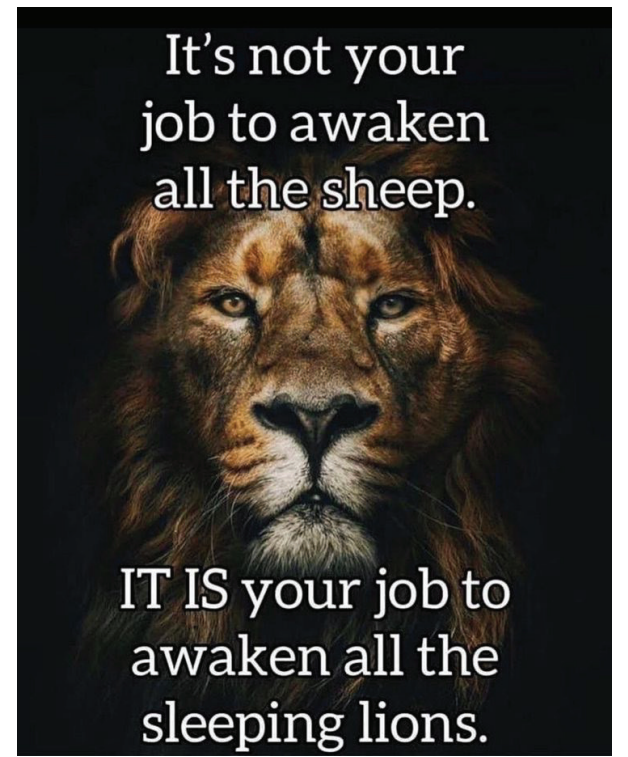
There is a defining principle that you hear often – if your tuned in at all – from I Chronicles 12:32. Speaking of the tribe of Issachar it says “the men of Issachar understood the times they were living in and knew what to do.” If you attend an evangelical church the odds are 99 to one that this is a defining problem. The Leadership and the people have no clue of the signs of the times and worse, they could care less. After Sunday lunch, we can't remember anything that was said at church but we did feel better.

Scripture talks about how “the Gates of Hell shall not stand against His church (Matthew 16:18).” The churches we go to are Fortresses, sanctuaries for safety not Forces attacking evil. So, now, in reality we are talking about a very small Remnant that is the church that stands against the gates of hell. Most of the leadership in these so-called churches are not shepherds they are Hirelings – “he who is NOT the shepherd (John 10:12-13) will leave the sheep when the wolf comes.” The term “hireling” is used in both the Old and New Testaments to describe individuals who are motivated by self-interest rather than by a sense of duty or loyalty.

But the ones writing the checks and a supporting these false shepherds are even more guilty. Just like with the political issues they

know better, but are unwilling to pay the price to say NO, count me out! They are enablers. CI-128, the ballot initiative to put all forms of abortion into the Montana constitution is a perfect, but pathetic example. We have to argue and convince the leadership of these so-called churches to warn the people about CI-128 still most will not.

I have friends in the church that actually think that same-sex marriage is a POLITICAL ISSUE. The TRUTH is that most of the so-called cultural issues are theological issues that are being lied about – in SILENCE – in YOUR Church. They have come into the political arena because of the SILENCE of the church. 🙏



**IS YOUR VOTE SAFE? from page 4B)**

to hand-count ballots in one night, without machines. So why, when in 2024 we have only 7,000 ballots to count, do our officials say it is impossible to hand count them? Maybe what Carbon County needs is an abacus instead of tabulators. Then we might get quicker election results.

In spite of this large discrepancy that could alter the outcome of many of the races, the Silver Bow commissioners rubber-stamped the results and certified the election without hesitation or questions.

**The Silver Bow County discrepancy event highlights how easy mistakes can be made or tallies can be compromised, either inadvertently or intentionally, and then certified without scrutiny or question.**

Montana's existing election administration process is multifaceted, with a set of guidelines that may not sufficiently address all potential election complications or irregularities. Additionally, existing regulations do not provide comprehensive coverage for every potential area of error or mishap. As shown by what occurred in Silver Bow County, one simple misstep could unintentionally jeopardize an entire election. This incident underscores the ease with which such mistakes can occur. What's more concerning is we are told there are safeguards in place to prevent such errors. However, when they are put to the test, they fail to perform their role, or even address the errors.

The blunder in Silver Bow underscores the fragility of the system. It reveals that the measures we think are in place to catch such mistakes fall far short. What's more alarming is the reluctance of election officials to demand machine audits and recertifications before these machines are entrusted with future elections. It is time to advocate for change to ensure that our voting process is reliable and secure.

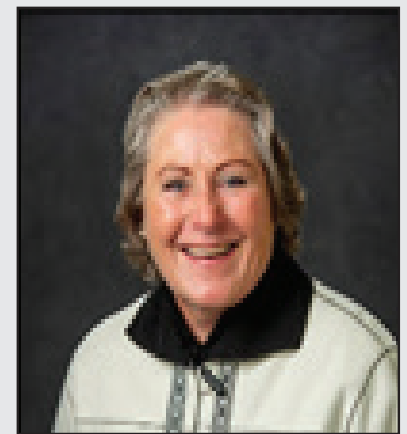
Considering the numerous vulnerabilities that can compromise election results, getting improvements in our Montana election security is a daunting task. However, we have a viable solution at our disposal. We can transition back to hand counting ballots at the precinct level. Many Montana citizens are demanding this simple step toward greater election security.

Manual ballot counting would provide a superior level of control, significantly reducing the chance of unnoticed errors because paper ballots are easier to understand and track. Moreover, they offer greater transparency, which is sorely needed in our elections today. 🙏

## Call your senators to demand a forensic audit



**Jason Ellsworth (R) - SD43**  
Jason.Ellsworth@legmt.gov  
(406) 360-0009



**Shelley Vance (R) - SD34**  
Shelley.Vance@legmt.gov  
(406) 587-8608



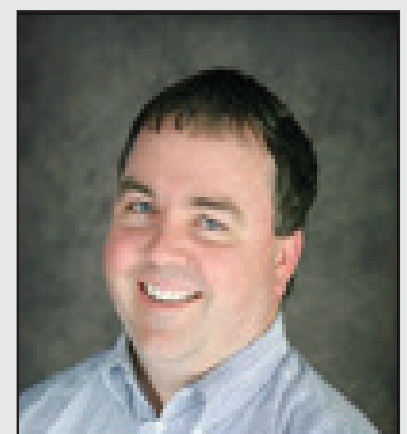
**Mike Cuffe (R) - SD1**  
Mike.Cuffe@legmt.gov  
(406) 293-1247



**Theresa Manzella (R) - SD44**  
Theresa.Manzella@legmt.gov  
(406) 546-9462



**Edie McClafferty (D) - SD38**  
Edie.McClafferty@legmt.gov  
(406) 490-5873



**Ryan Lynch (D) - SD37**  
Ryan.Lynch@legmt.gov  
(406) 498-6625



# MYFAITHVOTES®

United. We Stand.

## Write Now

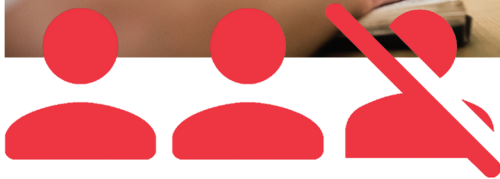
Join the movement that is lifting the Christian vote in the 2024 elections.



Have you felt alone standing for biblical values in America? Do you look around, see the problems in the world, and wonder "what can I do?"

Sadly, in frustration, millions of people choose to sit on the sidelines.

**1 in 3** Christians doesn't vote. That's about **25 million** people.



### YOU can change that statistic.

Join the movement that's driving Christians to the polls by the millions, encouraging them to vote their biblical values.

Sign up and join our letter writing campaign today.

START WRITING



Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom.  
JOHN ADAMS



Moms for Liberty (M4L) welcomes all that have a desire to stand up for parental rights at all levels of government.

M4L is dedicated to fighting for the survival of America by unifying, educating and empowering parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government.

- Hold Leaders Accountable or we work to replace them with liberty-minded individuals.
- Spread Awareness and an understanding of the limited role of government.
- Oppose Government Overreach and intimidation tactics.
- Engage Our Communities on Key Issues and elected leaders on key issues impacting our families.



Montana needs M4L Chapters. To start one please call 406-426-8842



If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.

THOMAS PAINE





# Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) Does not work!



RCV candidates with the most first-place votes can lose elections! Here's how RCV would work if you were to vote for your favorite chicken sandwich. 296,077 voters went to the polls this election, so the number of votes needed to win a majority was 148,040.

## ROUND #1: Here's How You Voted

| Candidate   | 1st Choice | 2nd Choice | 3rd Choice | 4th Choice |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Chick-fil-A | ●          | ○          | ○          | ○          |
| Burger King | ○          | ○          | ●          | ○          |
| Wendy's     | ○          | ●          | ○          | ○          |
| Popeye's    | ○          | ○          | ○          | ●          |

\* The 6,453 ballots that were immediately tossed were due to overvotes and undervotes on the initial ballot. Any remaining ballots were tossed in Round #1 were not counted because the voter did not rank the 1st or 2nd place candidate after the other two were eliminated.

Once all the results are tallied, none of the candidates reach 148,000 votes (50%+1). Both Wendy's and Popeye's receive fewer than 10% of the votes, so they are eliminated. Chick-fil-A and Burger King remain in the running for round #2.

**In this round, 6,453 ballots were exhausted and do not count.\***

## ROUND #2

Now votes are redistributed to the second-ranked choices.

In this round, 8,273 people who voted for either Wendy's or Popeye's as their second choice **do not have their vote counted.**



## RESULTS



## WHAT HAPPENED?



After two rounds of voting, Burger King was declared the winner of the election.



Overall, **14,726 people's votes were not counted** - including your (since you voted for Wendy's as your second choice).



The candidate who was the people's first choice did not win while the second choice did.

### What's an exhausted ballot?

"Exhausted ballots" in elections using rank-choice voting do not count towards the final tally and include tossed ballots, overvotes, and undervotes.\*\* This happens when a voter has ranked only candidates that have been eliminated or have not made selections for all choice.

### RVC DOES NOT:

- X** Increase fairness
- X** Represent the majority
- X** Incorporate more choice



### RVC:

- X** Confuses voters
- X** Threatens voter confidence
- X** Throws out votes

## BOTTOM LINE

Ranked-choice voting disenfranchises voters and undermines "one person, one vote," the bedrock of American elections.



# VOTE NO

# CI-127



## CI-127 Undermines Grassroots Candidates- Especially those of Modest Means; thereby creating a wealthy ruling class.

CI-127 is about requiring candidates to achieve a majority vote instead of a plurality. Montana's governmental system operates on a plurality voting principle. The term 'plurality' indicates that the candidate with the highest number of votes, in comparison to their competitors, is declared the winner.

However, a 'majority' stipulates that irrespective of the number of candidates, the winning candidate must secure at least 50.1% of the total votes. If no candidate reaches this threshold initially, a run-off election is held among the top two contenders until one acquires at least 50.1% of the total votes.

Elections cost money, as evidenced by Montana's 2024 Senate race where the final tally may reach over \$75 million by election day (at \$57 million plus as of July 17, 2024). If CI-127 passes, the likely beneficiary will be the wealthiest candidates or the candidate that sells his/her soul to the most donors and is able to raise the most money.

*Neither of those options lead us to the best candidate to represent "We the People" versus "We the donor class." Not only does the good grassroots candidate lose, so do the voters.*

If CI-127 passes, consider how much more often this intriguing strategy will be used by major parties who cleverly stimulate a third candidate to participate in their adversary's primary, or even in a general election. By encouraging a third-party candidate to enter the race, they cleverly divert votes away from their opponent. This brilliant move often splits the vote, leading to a compelling need for a run-off election.

The complexity of politics might appear daunting, but understanding these tactics can equip you with the knowledge necessary to navigate the political landscape and understand why CI-127 **IS A BAD IDEA AND WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE NO!**

Imagine a scenario where the primary victor has diminished time to face their real competitor in the general election. Not only does this decrease competition, but it also escalates financial pressure on the victorious candidate. They are effectively participating in three races - the primary, the general, and potentially a primary challenge run-off and or a general election run-off. This situation demands a significant increase in fundraising efforts to secure a win. Consider the implications on grassroots candidates of modest means.

Consider the implications of another round of fundraising and additional advertisements. The victorious candidate will be compelled to devote more time on the campaign trail, detracting from their valuable desk time for preparing bills for the upcoming legislative session. Moreover, the ripple effect extends to the general public, as they're left in uncertainty about their representative for several months following the regular general election.

Not only does this cost the local or county taxpayers potentially millions more to run additional elections, but it also delays the ability of a party's candidate to start campaigning against their opponent(s) in the general election. This delay not only hurts that party's ability to campaign against their opponents, but it also delays their ability to raise funds for their general election campaign and gives a distinct advantage to the wealthiest candidate who can self-fund or raise the most money.



# VOTE NO CI-128

### 1 TAXPAYER FUNDED ABORTION

Painful, late-term dismemberment and partial-birth abortions will be funded by YOUR tax dollars.

### 2 PARENTAL RIGHTS REMOVED

Parents will not have the right to know if their minor child is having an abortion, or attempting to change their gender.

### 3 HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

Abortions could be performed by non-doctors, dental assistants, physical therapists, podiatrists, and the like.

### 4 HIDES SEXUAL PREDATORS

Anyone will be able to take their victim to abort their child in order to hide their crime-pimps, statutory rapists, and human traffickers included!

### 5 REMOVES WOMEN'S RIGHTS PARENTAL RIGHTS REMOVED

Women who are injured or killed by their abortionist will lose any right to legal recourse.

### 6 PARENTAL RIGHTS REMOVED

Painful, late-term dismemberment and partial birth abortions will be legalized.

**What CI-128 is about:** Millions of dollars from Illinois, California and other liberal states are pouring into Montana to enshrine into our state constitution, tax payer funded abortion up till the moment of birth, for any reason. This is not about reproductive rights. This initiative is extreme abortion for any reason.

CI-128 would allow abortions, for any reason at all levels of development and would NOT allow a baby that could survive outside the womb to be saved. It would allow for a baby that could be saved and adopted to be dismembered or denied the care it needs to survive.

For more information to go: [www.formontanafamilies.com](http://www.formontanafamilies.com)

"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them." — Ephesians 5:11