

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WILLOW VALLEY

NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Paid for by Democratic Club of Willow Valley

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Addressing the Issues

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How We Get Rid of Citizens United

How We Get Rid of "Citizens United"

And get back our democracy

ROBERT REICH April 1, 2026



Friends,

This week's video is important. It shows a clear path to getting rid of the Supreme Court's horrific 2010 decision *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Committee*.

That decision opened the floodgates to campaign spending by giant corporations. The high court reasoned that corporations are *people* who have First Amendment rights to free speech, and that corporate spending on elections is a form of free speech.

But the Supreme Court never got to the more fundamental question of corporate power, because since the early twentieth century states haven't limited corporate powers to do much of anything.

Yet corporations are creatures of state law. States create and define corporations. Whatever powers corporations have come from state decisions to *grant* them those powers.

This principle is embodied in [an 1819 opinion](#) by Chief Justice John Marshall declaring that a corporation "possesses only those properties which the charter of its creation confers upon it."

It wasn't until the early 20th century that states began to give corporations all the powers human beings have. But states don't *have* to do that. States can decide to give them the powers they need to do their business, but *not* the power to spend money on elections.

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How We Get Rid of Citizens United (cont'd)

This isn't about corporate *rights*. It's about the more basic question of corporate *powers*. If a corporation doesn't have the power to do something in the first place, it obviously doesn't have any right to do it. Without the power to do it, a corporation *cannot* do it. The state hasn't *empowered* it to do it.

Montanans will be voting next fall on whether Montana should remove from corporations doing business in Montana the power to spend money on elections.

Hopefully, their answer will be yes. There's absolutely no reason why states should grant corporations this power.

So far, lawmakers in 9 other states have introduced bills mirroring the Montana plan. Proposals are active in California, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, Washington state, and Hawaii, where a version has already [cleared one chamber](#).

[Here's](#) more information on the Montana plan.

Please push your state to follow Montana's lead. Organize and mobilize. Share and use this video — so we can get rid of "Citizens United" for good.



Things are Bad for Trump ...

Things Are Bad For Trump and The Republicans. They Are About To Get Much Worse

Trump is a failed President. Congress must step up now and start cleaning up the many messes he has created.....

SIMON ROSENBERG

APR 2

Morning all. There was something deeply desperate and pathetic about Trump's speech last night, a sort of "Mommy I've been a very bad boy" element to it. And then there was also the magical thinking, that others would subdue Iran (admitting his failure), reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and everything would snap back to the way things were, easy peasy.

In [yesterday's post and my video talk](#) I spelled out what has to happen now, regardless of Trump's willingness to do it - the US must enter into extended and humiliating talks with our allies and Iran to re-open the Strait of Hormuz and bring a rough peace to the region. Leaving the Iranian-Russian "Shahed Alliance" in charge of the region is not an option for the US, the Gulf Arab states, or energy-starved Asia or Europe. Trump can neither leave, nor, as he has apparently assessed, can he re-open the Strait by force (immense risk of failure, loss of lives, no appetite in the public). We have a vast military presence in the region so that may change, any day. Trump may decide to just go for it. But his moment to escalate and fight appeared to be last night, and so here we are this morning - Trump and the Republicans are now bogged down in three simultaneous and debilitating Trumpian quagmires - tariffs/weakening economy, DHS/ICE/mass deportation, and Trump's failed war.

As bad as all this is for Trump and the Republicans things are about to get much worse.

Oil prices surged overnight, returning to a near war high. Markets are off today all over the world. Trump's poll numbers saw significant decline in the past week, and Democrats now have polling leads in the AK, ME, NC, OH Senate races, which, if they hold, means Dems would not only retake the House but the Senate too. Mike Paxton is now favored to beat John Cornyn, the #2 Republican in the Senate, in their Senate run-off - a big humiliation for Thune and the Senate GOP leadership, and a strategic disaster for it means that Texas

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Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

may actually be in play this year. The MAGA Golden Boy Victor Orban is likely to lose his election on April 12th. Mike Johnson joined Senator Thune's retreat on DHS/ICE funding last night, another humiliating loss for Trump and the entire DC GOP enterprise.

Yep, pretty bad. But what is going to make all this far worse is that over the next week is that we are going to get the first tranche of major economic reports with post-war data. Tomorrow we will get the March jobs numbers, and next week we will get two of the main gauges of inflation, CPI and PCE.

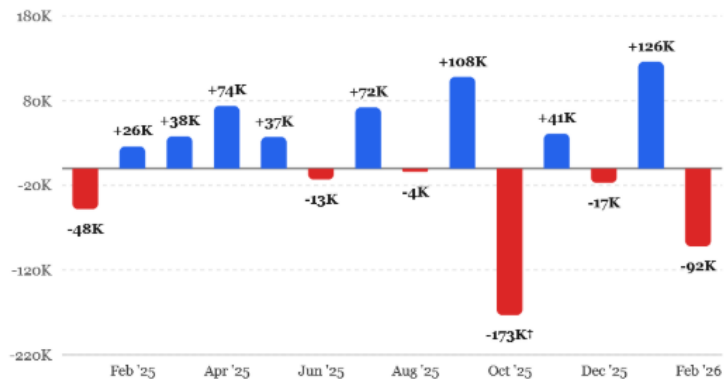
Let's now level set at where we are, and where we will likely be the end of next week. It's a very ugly economic picture.

In five of the ten months since Trump launched his tariffs the US has seen job loss, not gains:

Here's a comparison of average month job growth before and after the tariffs:

Monthly Job Growth — Trump 2nd Term

Nonfarm payroll change (thousands) · Jan 2025 – Feb 2026 · Source: BLS



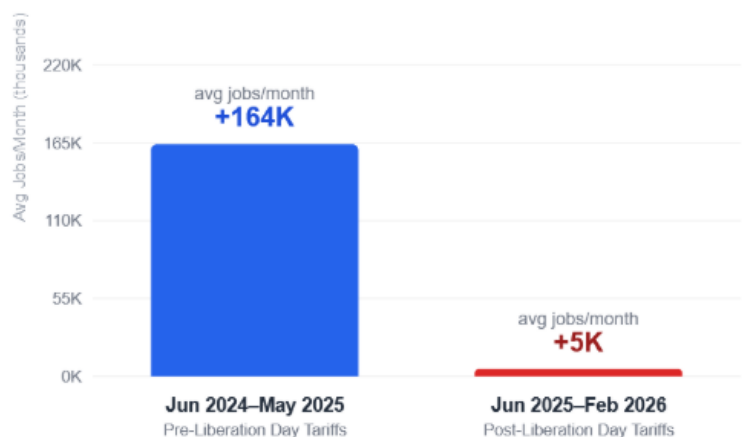
October 2025 data not collected by BLS due to federal government shutdown; revised figure of -173K reflects post-shutdown benchmark.

All 2025 figures are BLS final revised data from the January 2026 Employment Situation report. Annual total: +181K (+15K/month avg).

HOPIMUM CHRONICLES

Average Monthly Job Growth — Before & After Liberation Day

Nonfarm Payrolls, Seasonally Adjusted (thousands) | Source: BLS | Hopium Chronicles



■ Jun 2024–May 2025 (pre-tariff baseline) ■ Jun 2025–Feb 2026 (post-Liberation Day tariffs)

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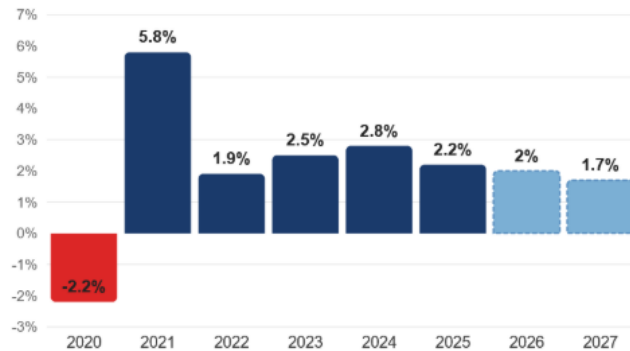
Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

The OECD's new projections has the American economy continuing to slow:

U.S. Real GDP Growth: 2020–2027

Annual % change · Actuals: BEA · 2026–27: OECD Interim Outlook, March 2026

■ Actual ■ OECD Projected



Hopium Chronicles

Trump is now on track to have the slowest GDP growth of any American leader in the last 80 years:

Average Annual Real GDP Growth by President

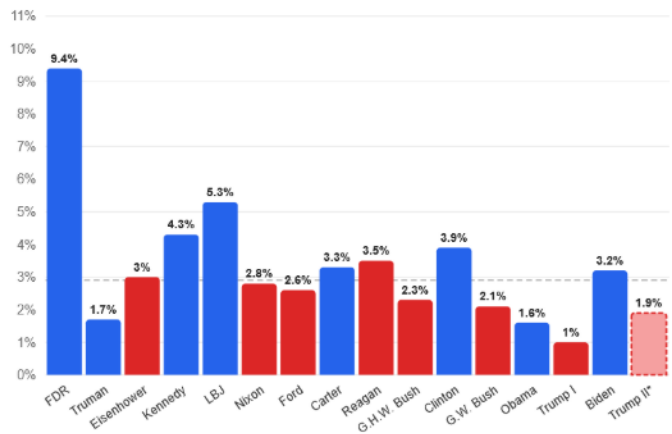
FDR through Trump II · Inflation-adjusted · Sources: BEA; *Trump II includes 2025 actual + OECD projections (Mar. 2026)

All presidents avg: 3.2%

Democrat avg: 4.1%

Republican avg: 2.4%

Trump 7-yr avg*: 1.4%



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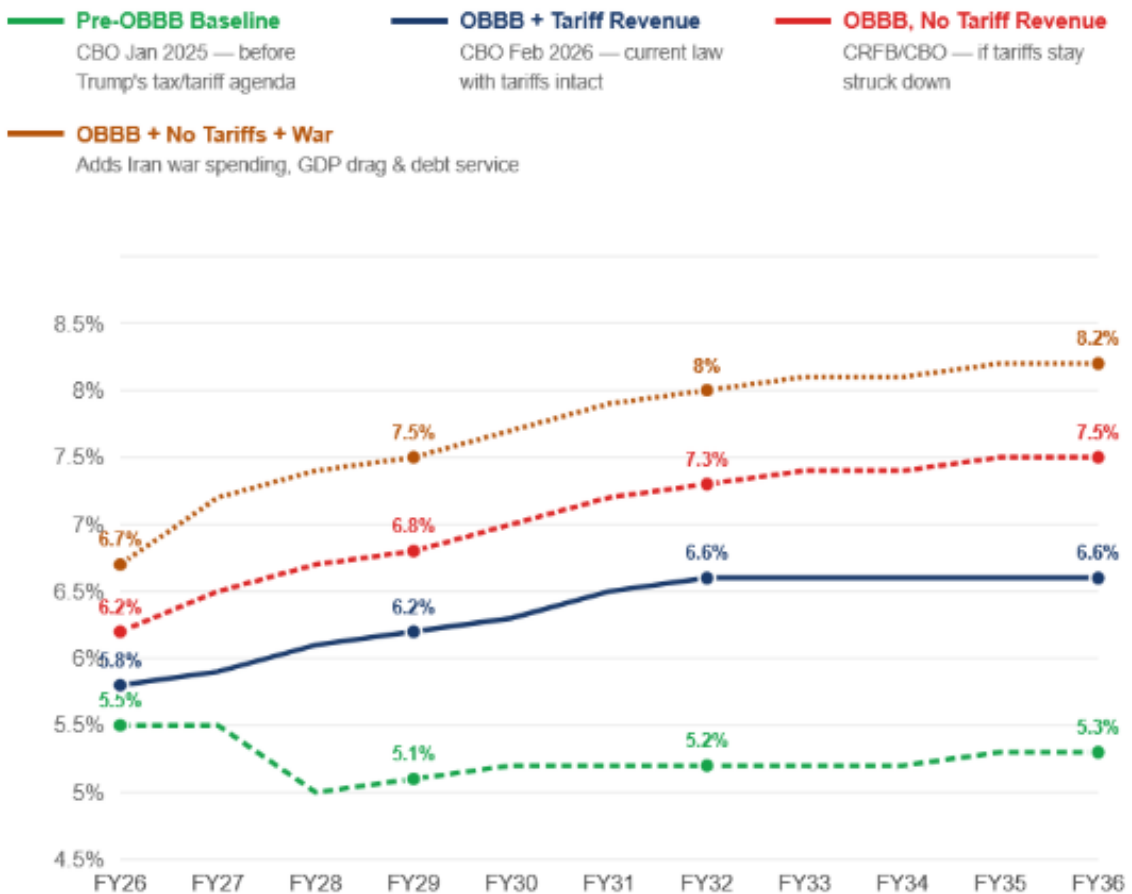
Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

:Trump's policies - tax cuts, war, tariffs, mass deportation, higher inflation - are causing a significant and potentially dangerous erosion of our fiscal condition:

Four Deficit Futures: The Compounding Cost of Trump's Agenda & the Iran War

Hopium Chronicles

Federal deficit as % of GDP, FY2026–FY2036 - Sources: CBO, CRFB, Penn Wharton, Fortune/OECD



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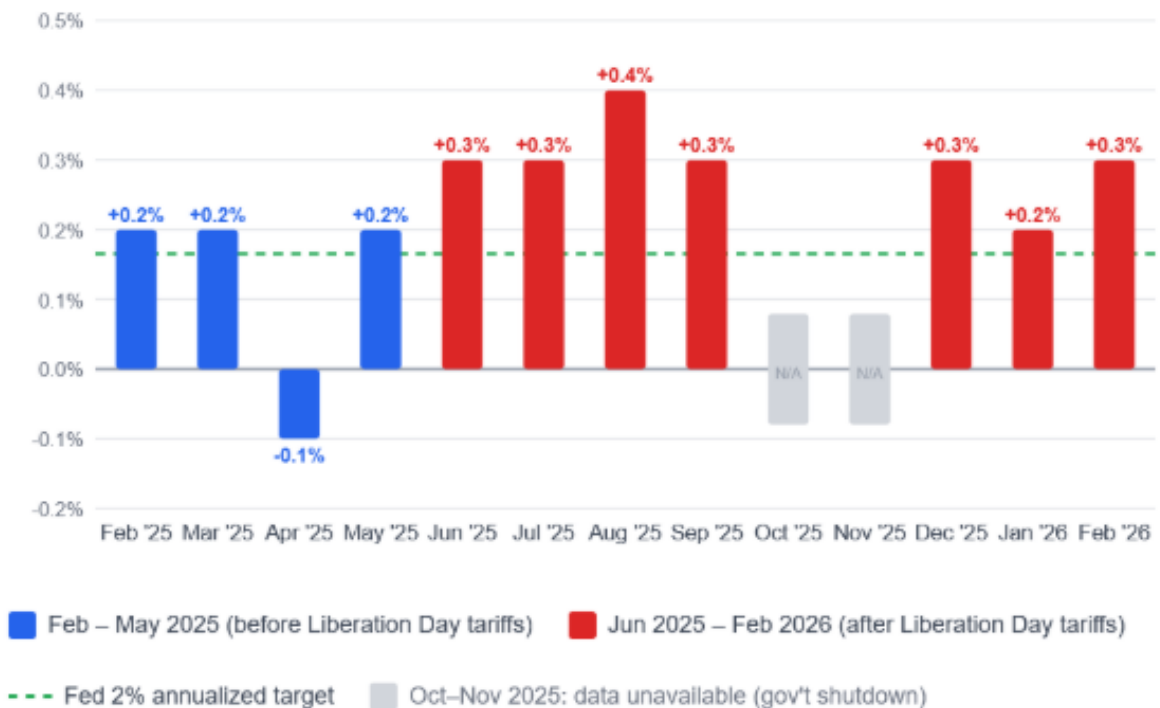
Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

:So none of that is any good. Where things are about to get very bad for Trump and the Rs is with inflation and rising interest and mortgage rates. Here is what we were seeing before the war and soaring energy, gas, and commodity prices. Inflation was way too high and rising:

HOPIUM CHRONICLES

U.S. CPI: Month-Over-Month Change

February 2025 – February 2026 | Seasonally Adjusted | Source: BLS



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Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

HOPIUM CHRONICLES

Core PCE Inflation: 12-Month (Year-over-Year) % Change

PCE Excluding Food & Energy — The Fed's Preferred Inflation Gauge | Jan '25–Jan '26 | Source: BEA



HOPIUM CHRONICLES

Producer Price Index: Final Demand

Month-over-month % change, seasonally adjusted | Nov 2025 – Feb 2026



Five consecutive months of acceleration

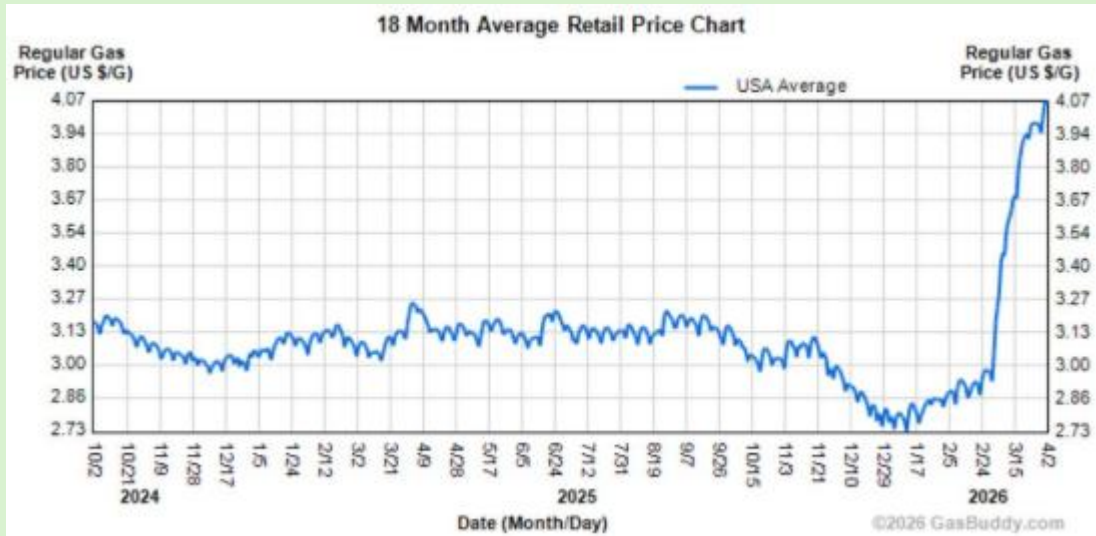
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Jan 2026 revised from +0.4% to +0.5%. 2025 figures reflect recalculated seasonal adjustment factors released Feb. 27, 2026.

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Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

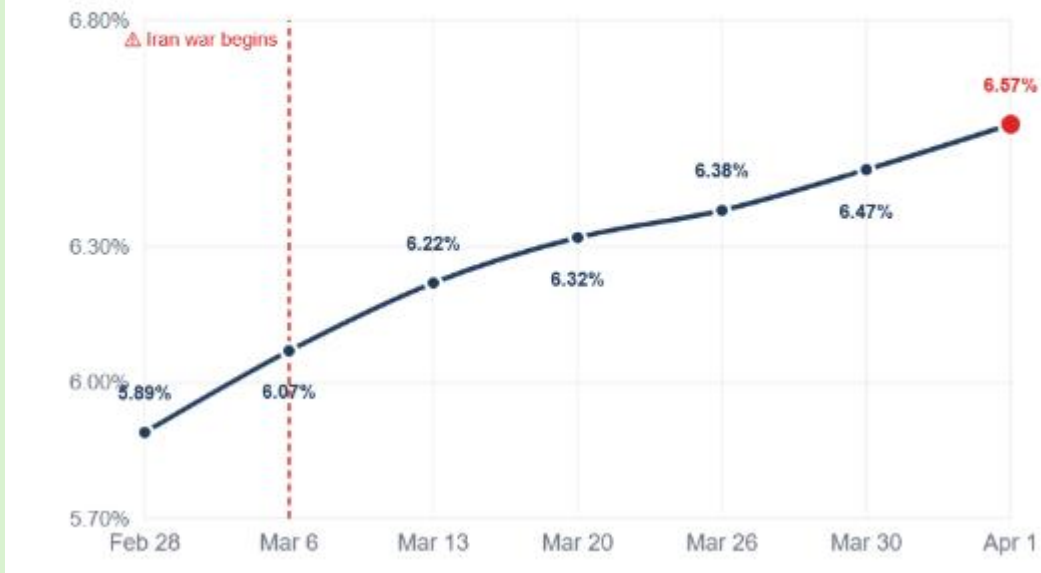
With the war however we are seeing this:



Mortgage rates have started taking off:

30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate

Late Feb – Apr 1, 2026 | Sources: Freddie Mac, Bankrate | Hopium Chronicles



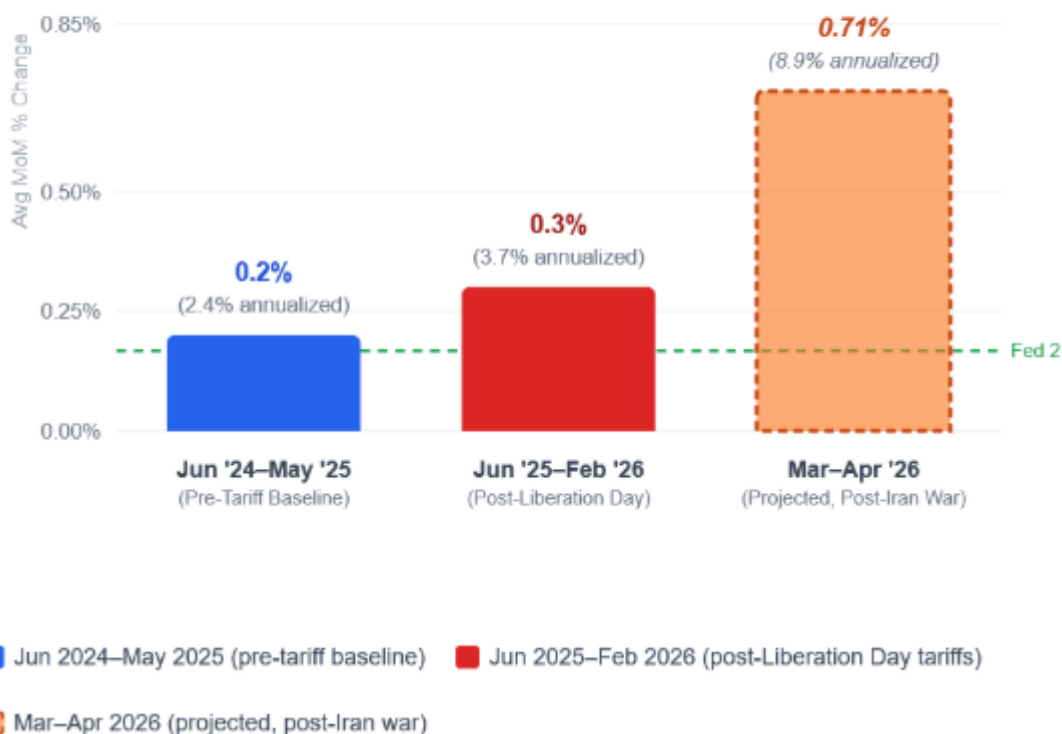
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Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

And using the Cleveland Fed's [Inflation Nowcast](#) for CPI and PCE in March and April this is what the nation is likely to see in the two main gauges of inflation in the next two months (the March reading of each will be released next week). Explosive growth:

Average Monthly CPI Change — Three Periods

Seasonally Adjusted CPI-U | Source: BLS / Wall Street projections | Hopium Chronicles



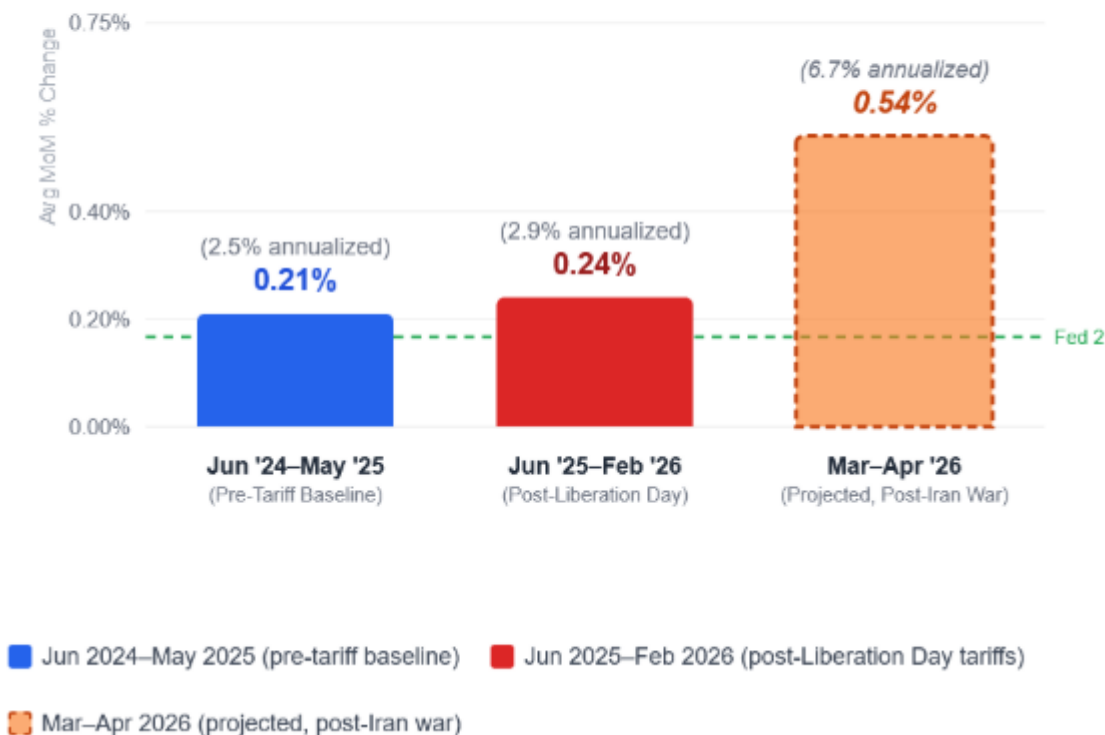
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Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

And this:

Average Monthly PCE Change — Three Periods

PCE Price Index, Seasonally Adjusted | Source: BEA / Wall Street projections



Adding to this deteriorating economic picture we need to anticipate a health care shock that will come later this year as the enormous cuts to the ACA and Medicaid start rippling through the health care system.

Donald Trump and his Republican allies have created a global geopolitical and economic crisis and a domestic economic crisis here at home. That they took a two week recess in the midst of all this shows that have not yet come to terms with the gravity of what Trump has done, the extraordinary mess he has created. But no amount of Fox News fluffing, magical and delusional thinking, Trumpian bluster and bullshit, can make these crises go away.

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Things are Bad for Trump (cont'd)

I think by the time Congress gets back a week from Monday we will be in a new place as a nation. It will be hard to conclude anything other than that Trump has failed us, and that Congress will need to step up and begin cleaning up the many messes he has created. While I think it is time for Democrats to announce an affirmative agenda along the lines of our Hopium agenda, I think we need to prioritize a few things now:

Work to find a painful diplomatic end to Trump's failed war

Rescind the tariffs, and immediately re-pay the money owed to businesses from his first round of illegal tariffs

Rescind Trump's tax cuts, and restore funding to ACA/Medicaid and the clean energy subsidies

Formally rein in ICE and end mass deportations

America now has a failed President. Trump and Trumpism have failed. Now the big fight is to replace it with something better, and that work begins today, not in January of 2027 when we formally take back power. We are in trouble as a nation, and our leaders must now step up and lead us out of these crises Trump and his allies have created. It is going to be hard, and painful, but it is the work that must get done now.

For time and space reasons our "Let's Get To Work" section can be found [here](#).

Keep working hard all. We have a country to save and an election to win, together! - Simon



Three keys to reclaiming democracy.

ROBERT B. HUBBELL

April 24, 2026

As we approach the midterms, many news outlets are touting the many ways Trump is interfering with the election. But we must be aware of every attempt he makes so we can either thwart them or change our behavior.

This is a long, but informative, article by attorney Robert Hubbell. We have chosen to share it with merely its link.

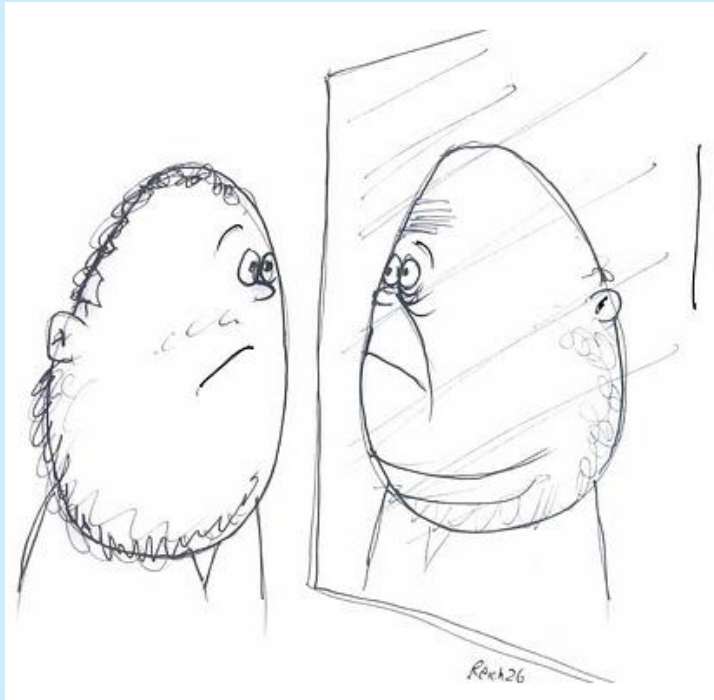
How to Live Beyond 80

How to Live Beyond 80

My Problem with Aging

ROBERT REICH

April 7



Friends,

Let me be very candid with you. I'll be 80 in June.

Eighty!

When I was a boy, my grandmother had a friend named Jack who was 80. He was the oldest person I'd ever met. I was amazed he was still standing. And still able to walk and talk. I thought he was Methuselah. I regarded him as a fossil from a different time.

Now *I'm* about to become a fossil from a different time.

Trump will reach 80 10 days before me, but that's small comfort. He's not just a fossil. He's a neanderthal with a reptilian brain. I'm embarrassed he and I are of the same generation.

But there are a lot of us, all hitting 80 this year. More babies were born in 1946 than in any other year in American history up until that time: 3.4 million of us little darlings, 20 percent more than the year before.

This postwar baby boom is about to hit an actuarial wall. We're going to croak. Over the next dozen years or so, the boom will go bust.

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How to Live Beyond 80 (cont'd)

Some of us are aging gracefully, with gratitude for how long we've lasted and compassion for ourselves. I wish I could say I was one of them.

I'm getting grumpy. When he first came on the political scene, Trump made me angry. Now he makes me want to puke.

And I have less patience than ever with other people, perhaps because of an unconscious "use by" timer that's now clicking away. Increasingly I wonder why I'm wasting time with this or that buffoon. I'm less tolerant of long waiting lines, automated phone menus, and Republicans.

At my 50th college reunion (in 2018, already eight years ago!) my classmates and I were asked if we wanted to march at commencement behind the soon-to-be graduates of the class of 2018. It had been something of a tradition — the 50-year age gap eliciting laughter and applause from the audience.

I was eager to march until my mind wandered back to my own graduation in 1968 and I remembered the surviving members of the class of 1918 hobbling along behind us with hunched backs and canes, barely able to hear the applause or raise their arms to wave in acknowledgment. And they were only in their early 70s at the time!

Well, of course I marched behind the soon-to-be graduates in 2018, but the memory of the last march of the class of 1918 made it feel less like a celebration than a dirge.

Yes, I know, medical science has come a long way since then. Instead of canes, we now have artificial hips. We hear through high-tech hearing aids. Our failing memories are supplemented by artificial intelligence accessible through our iPhones. Some of us have facelifts, botox injections, colored hair, and buff exteriors.

But we're still falling apart, like old cars or washing machines whose parts can be replaced only so many times before they give out.

When I get together with old friends, our first ritual is often an "organ recital" — How's your back? Knee? Heart? Hip? Shoulder? Eyesight? Hearing? Prostate? Hemorrhoids? Digestion? The recital can run (and ruin) an entire lunch.

The question we jokingly (and brutishly) asked one other in college — "getting much?" — now refers not to sex but to sleep.

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How to Live Beyond 80 (cont'd)

I don't know anyone my age who sleeps through the night. When he was president, Bill Clinton prided himself on getting only about four hours. But he was in his 40s then. (I also recall Cabinet meetings where he dozed off.)

How many years do I have left? It's now thought a bit disappointing if a person dies before 85. Three score and 10 is the number of years set out in the Bible. Modern technology and Big Pharma have added about a decade.

The average lifespan in the U.S. is now 81.4 years for females and 76.5 for males. Why do women get almost five more years than we stupid, fragile, pot-bellied, gun-toting, cigarette-smoking, couch-potatoed, drunken, stressed-out men?

"After 80, it's gravy," my father used to say. But how to get on the gravy train? Is there a formula for prolonging the remaining years and living them with more energy than ache?

I find myself reading the obituary pages with ever greater curiosity about how long people lasted and what brought them down. I remember a *New Yorker* cartoon in which an older reader of the obituaries sees headlines that read only "Older Than Me" or "Younger Than Me."

They say you need to exercise, eat well, avoid cigarettes and alcohol, have good friends. But I've known health fanatics who croaked in their 60s, and someone with so many friends he was the life of every party but keeled over at 55 (maybe too much partying?)

Who the hell knows? My doctor, who's young enough to be my granddaughter, tells me that longevity after 80 mostly depends on your genes. She smiles and nods when I tell her that I'm hoping for the best, genetically speaking. My mother passed at 86; my father, two weeks before his 102nd birthday.

But my lovely young smiling doc has no idea what it's like to be on the cusp of 80.

When the nonagenarian actor and director Clint Eastwood was asked about his secret to longevity, he said: "Every day when I wake up, I don't let the old man in. My secret has been the same since 1959: staying busy."

Well, if that's the secret, I may be here for quite a while yet. Writing to you every day is keeping me busy as hell. Thank you!



Trump Has Become A Loser

**THE NEW
REPUBLIC
Weekly**

"Trump Has Become What He Most Despises: A Loser"



Trump Is Waging One Big War Against the Rest of the World

The bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings that have defined much of Trump's second term make more sense understood together, rather than as disparate events.

By Jonathan Guyer

April 18

Trump Has Become A Loser (cont'd)

Before Donald Trump's recent military campaigns, Iran and Venezuela weren't often spoken of in the same breath. But in fact, the countries share much in common. They've both been demonized as evil, as bad guys, formally designated as states that promote terrorism. They've both [suffered](#) under intensive [sanctions](#) that have damaged life for civilians. And influential advocates from both places have been gunning for regime change for decades. Although recently their paths have diverged, with Iran's battered regime hanging on even after a month of American and Israeli fire, and Venezuela's government left intact but co-opted, their fates may yet converge again, thanks to a recently rebranded "Department of War" directed by a president who has heedlessly started confrontations around the globe without much of a plan. As the retired career diplomat Chas Freeman [put it in](#) January, "The United States now unabashedly presents itself as an untrustworthy expansionist power that substitutes unilateral diktats, intimidation, and the use of force for diplomacy."

Trump's foreign policy has long been misunderstood because of its inherent incoherence. He came to power in 2016 by telling Americans what they wanted to hear. He had little interest in laying out a grand strategy or a bigger worldview beyond his promise to "Make America Great Again," itself a slogan in which voters could hear what they wanted. His forceful criticism of the Iraq War, however, differentiated him from Hillary Clinton, who voted for it when she was in the Senate in 2002. But it was never all too clear whether Trump had opposed George W. Bush's invasion or just thought his Republican predecessor should have taken the oil.

The president's more recent turn to militarism has led to immense changes in U.S. statecraft. In the first months of his second term, he enlisted Elon Musk and the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency to dismantle America's soft-power infrastructure, notably the humanitarian and development arm USAID, but also government-funded think tanks, media organizations, and other Cold War legacy programs. In Trump's world, soft power apparently has little value. At the same time, Trump has dismantled the global alliance system. He has slowly chipped away at NATO, built a "Board of Peace" to counter the United Nations, and levied tariffs in contradiction of the global economic order.

Trump is known to cut bait on unpopular policies, but his war continues. The risk-averse president who turned away the jets from striking Iran [in June 2019](#), much to the chagrin of John Bolton, the national security adviser at the time, is gone. In his place is a careless, casual warmonger, a leader who thinks that he can recklessly use force whenever and practically wherever he wants—and that his past track record of avoiding quagmires and entanglements means he can do so with few long-term consequences.

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Trump Has Become A Loser (cont'd)

Bolton, the perennial hawk, has transformed himself [into a critic of](#) Trump's latest misadventures. One recalls his [candid admonition](#) from 2022: "As somebody who has helped plan coups d'etat—not here but, you know, other places—it takes a lot of work." In his second term, Trump has embraced the coup—but not the work.

The president's tendency to jump from conflict to conflict has made it difficult to understand where one war ends and another begins. But Iran and Venezuela are part of the same war—and that war is at the center of America's foreign policy under Trump.

The first act of the Iran war, it must be noted, was the strike [on a girls' school](#) in Minab that killed at least 175 people, most of them children. The fact that Trump can launch a war on a whim that has already killed thousands and is sending the global economy into shock is not so much an indictment of him—although it is that, too—but of the security state he presides over. It's remarkable that decades after the Cold War, it's still possible to stumble into war without guardrails or stopgap measures to get in the way. The national security infrastructure cobbled together in the paranoid, red-baiting moments at the end of World War II gave the American president the capacity to launch shadow wars; after the September 11 attacks, those powers were further consolidated. There has been no real accountability for war on terrorism part one, and so here we are barreling into part two, with terrorism even more vaguely defined.

There has been no real accountability for war on terrorism part one, and so here we are barreling into part two, with terrorism even more vaguely defined.

Trump is also breaking conventions and laws from the era before that. Political assassinations have technically been banned since 1976, but [Executive Order 11905](#) was not enough to stop Trump (along with Israel) from killing Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the same day bombs killed the students in Minab.

The [War Powers Resolution of 1973](#), enacted in the midst of Nixon and Kissinger's endless Vietnam folly to prevent the prospect of secret campaigns, like the bombing of Cambodia and Laos, is no match for Trump either. Congress has long undermined its coequal foreign policy-making powers. Democratic members [failed to assert](#) themselves over Venezuela and did little in response to Trump's [strikes on Iran](#) last June. The most Democratic leadership has offered is procedural criticisms of the warpath-president. As Hakeem Jeffries said [in a statement](#) released on February 28, the day Trump launched the first airstrikes, "House Democrats remain committed to compelling a vote on this resolution upon our return."

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Trump Has Become A Loser (cont'd)

The multitude of [U.S. military bases](#) in the Middle East and environs makes them far too easy to use—and to become targets for adversaries in counterstrikes that lead to Gulf of Tonkin-level flubs. More than a month into the war, 13 American troops have been killed and [nearly 400 injured](#). In late March, Iran showed further capacity to cause havoc by reportedly launching its first intermediate-range ballistic missile toward Diego Garcia, a joint U.S.-U.K. military base in the Indian Ocean. In Washington, however, the policy discussion rarely considers the deeper question of how and why the United States has a base on the island territory and other far-flung places to begin with.

And so a military budget exceeding a trillion dollars for the first time in global history can all too easily be augmented with a supplemental \$200 billion for a new war. Republicans who are cautious about government spending can't curb their appetite for military spending, which only serves as encouragement for the president's militarism.

And the architecture of the disastrous war on terrorism had never been dismantled, including the potential surveillance mechanisms in place since the Patriot Act, the militarization of the police, and congressional authorizations for the use of force abroad. These all sit ready for new enemies, with an attendant domestic network of law enforcement powers that can be used to threaten critics of the war.

Meanwhile, the functional experts—in this case, apparently, [the energy eggheads](#) at the State Department, who may have warned that the Strait of Hormuz was kinda important—have been DOGE'd. And even if they were there, would the president have listened?

[Nate Swanson](#), a career government official who worked on Iran policy in the State Department and most recently on the U.S. negotiating team, warned in essays that [Iran would escalate](#). Since the United States attacked, he has warned that the war [would backfire](#). Sage counsel. Too bad it appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, not in the Situation Room. Swanson was [Loomer-ed last year](#).

One of the few constraints holding back the president's war seems to be a shortage of weapons. When the undersecretary of defense (war) for policy, [Elbridge Colby](#), spoke at the [Council on Foreign Relations](#) in early March, everyone came armed with their own questions and were listening for different things. Several investors and private-sector leaders I spoke with beforehand said they were there to hear about magazine depth—the stockpiles of munitions and the weapons production capability of the country. Stocks are low. This has major implications for Americans' ability to fight multiple wars at once, or even this one.

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Trump Has Become A Loser (cont'd)

Asked directly by the moderator, CFR president Michael Froman, about how depleted U.S. weapons are, [Colby remarked](#), “Well, I just say up front that our armed forces have the necessary equipment to take on anyone and pursue the president’s goals and objectives. And nobody should have the impression that we’re somehow, you know, behind the curve.” The answer may have calmed some nerves, but the data suggests a more complicated picture. One study shows that the United States fired more than [5,000 munitions](#) in the first four days of its war on Iran, a quantity it could take up to \$16 billion and years to replace. What’s even more frightening is that supercharging weapons production, as most of Washington’s defense planners have been pushing for, would further enable more wars of choice. Rebuilding the [defense industrial base](#) was a major priority, for example, of Joe Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, and now presumably those bombs are a-flying.

Colby, who calls himself a “flexible realist,” is the Pentagon’s number three official and the author of the National Defense Strategy that was released in January. He argued in his widely read 2021 book, [The Strategy of Denial](#), that the United States ought to focus on countering China in Asia and dispense with its Middle East delusions. Yet here he was, a day after being grilled by senators on the Hill, presenting to the Washington establishment his staunch support for Trump’s war of choice. Colby took great caution to not make news or get ahead of the remarks of Secretary of Defense (War) Pete Hegseth; he regularly deferred to the president’s statements.

Critics speculated that he was holding back because of the immense contradiction between Trump’s war and Colby’s worldview. Or as [Adam Tooze](#), the Columbia [historian put it](#), “Resign, man. Have some self-respect. Resign!”

A simpler yet persistent constraint on the president seems to be his attention span. Early in the interview, Froman [asked Colby](#), “Is Cuba next?” The council members in the audience laughed. Colby carefully explained how the president’s actions in Venezuela fit in with the published security strategy. Then he added, “One thing that people should calculate on and should factor is that the president ... is not going to be bound by the sort of shibboleths of the past, if those are not consistent with Americans’ interests.”

When President Biden followed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into a ruthless war against Palestinians that many international organizations have documented as a genocide, not enough Democrats spoke up. Now, however, some are drawing a red line about Iran. “The

Trump Has Become A Loser (cont'd)

Democrats are way better than they have been in the past,” [Matt Duss](#), the former adviser to Senator Bernie Sanders who’s now at the Center for International Policy, told me on the podcast I host, [None of the Above](#). Duss cited Senator Chris Murphy as “a real standout here”: He has been sharing his (unclassified) takeaways from closed-door briefings, educating voters, and “making public the fact that this war does not make sense. It’s obviously illegal. It’s strategically stupid.”

The “No Kings” protests that involved [millions of people](#) in thousands of locations across the United States were motivated in part by opposition to the Iran war—but how much can a peace movement achieve? The students who fought against Gaza were silenced by law enforcement and university administrators, and Duss points out that historic protests in recent years, from Black Lives Matter to Palestine, had little effect on legislation. “Did it manage to move the needle on the policy? No, unfortunately not. And I think this goes to a bigger problem of just Americans having so few opportunities and ways and channels and levers with which to impact foreign policy decisions,” Duss explained.

A large majority of [Trump voters \(79 percent\)](#), meanwhile, favor declaring the Iran war a victory and getting out, according to a Quincy Institute/American Conservative survey fielded [by Ipsos](#). Although the war is [broadly unpopular](#), there is some reason to believe that little will shift public opinion unless its character changes substantially via the presence of thousands of U.S. ground troops. Until that happens, it is likely that the public will broadly disapprove of it, but that Trump’s base will back it—which is not a recipe for change in this administration, at least.

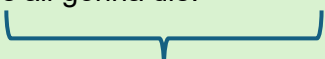
That has not always been the case. Nixon was much more influenced by pushback from the peace movement, mass protests, and public opinion than was previously understood, Carolyn Woods Eisenberg argues in her authoritative history of the Vietnam War, [Fire and Rain: Nixon, Kissinger, and the Wars in Southeast Asia](#), which draws on newly unclassified documents.

In the book, Eisenberg revisits an iconic moment at Woodstock, where 400,000 attendees joined Country Joe and the Fish to sing in protest:

*And it’s 1, 2, 3 ... What are we fighting for?
Don’t ask me, I don’t give a damn ... Next stop is Vietnam
And it’s 5, 6, 7 ... Open up the pearly gates
Ah, ain’t no time to wonder why ... Whoopee! We’re all gonna die*

In early March, when the United States was already in Iran and Venezuela, Country Joe [passed away](#) in Berkeley, California, at the age of 84.

Next stop is Cuba? Whoopee! We’re all gonna die.



Trump Has Become A Loser (cont'd)

Extra! Extra! 4/19

What a week of good news!

JESS CRAVEN April 19

Following are a few excerpts from Jess's article:

Welcome to the week in good news! The last seven days show that, while Trump and Republicans continue to destroy everything they touch, there is a parallel universe in which very good people are working very hard to make positive change *and succeeding!* You, in fact, are among them!

1. Los Angeles, the second-largest school district in the U.S., [avoided a historic strike by teachers](#), principals and staff hours before classes started on Tuesday, cutting deals that offer hefty raises across the board.
2. After being sued, the Trump administration agreed [to permanently return the Pride flag to Stonewall National Monument](#) in New York City.
3. [Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott gave an unrestricted \\$70 million donation to Meals on Wheels](#). I love this woman!
4. Memphis' Mason Temple, the historic Tennessee church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his final speech, [is getting \\$1.2 million in federal funding for renovations as a civil rights landmark](#).
5. During a speech in Cameroon, [Pope Leo criticized those who manipulate religion](#) "for their own military, economic or political gain."
6. Moms for Liberty [is imploding](#).
7. Barely two weeks before it was due to shut down, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette [announced it had found a last-minute buyer](#) — a successful nonprofit journalism operation that has agreed to keep the struggling newspaper open.
8. A federal court [issued a preliminary injunction](#) halting the Nexstar-TEGNA merger.
9. In a landmark ruling, [the Montana Supreme Court has declared that the constitution, one of the most progressive in the nation, entirely protects transgender people](#). The ruling is even insulated from SCOTUS decisions, due to how state constitutions work.

March to Ban Bribery



Announcement:

Pennsylvania communities are struggling. Groceries, rent, childcare, and utilities keep rising while paychecks barely move. Meanwhile, billionaires grow richer—showering politicians with gifts, campaign cash, and secretive Super PAC spending in one of the most corrupt states in the country.

We're marching on Harrisburg to demand lawmakers end billionaire influence and pass a Gift Ban. **Enough is enough.** Corporations are not people, and money is not speech. We're done with corruption and corporate greed—and we're taking action.

Join us for the full march, a day, or even an hour. Or meet us at the State Capitol on Monday, May 4th for nonviolent direct action to hold lawmakers accountable. Can't walk much or risk arrest? No problem—there are many ways to help power the march.. Sign up now! <https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-to-ban-bribery/> or contact nancyruthmorgan@gmail.com for more information.

Sample Ballot

2026 GENERAL PRIMARY

County of Lancaster, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Condado de Lancaster, Estado de Pennsylvania

May 19, 2026

19 de mayo del 2026

OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

PAPELETA OFICIAL DEMOCRATICO

2026 Primarias General

Precinct 5206 W Lamp-Lak

Precinto 5206 W Lamp-Lak

Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, mark the box provided to the left of your choice with a cross (X), checkmark, or by completely filling in the box. To vote for a write-in candidate, mark the box provided to the left of the words "Write-in" and write in the name of the candidate on the line provided. You may not write in a name for an office if the name already appears on the ballot for that office. If you make a mistake at the polling location, please see the Judge of Election. If you make a mistake on your mail ballot, please call the Board of Elections.

WARNING: If you receive an absentee or mail-in ballot and return your voted ballot by the deadline, you may not vote at your polling place on election day. If you are unable to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot by the deadline, you may only vote a provisional ballot at your polling place on election day, unless you surrender your absentee or mail-in ballot and envelope to the judge of election to be voided to vote by regular ballot.

Por favor tinta negra o azul para marcar sus selecciones en la papeleta. Para votar por su candidato en cada puesto, marque la casilla al lado izquierdo de su selección con una equis (X), una cruz, o llene la casilla por completo. Para votar por un candidato por escrito, marque la casilla al lado izquierdo de las palabras "Escribir a mano" y escriba el nombre del candidato en la línea provista. No puede escribir un nombre para un cargo si se nombre ya aparece en la papeleta electoral para ese cargo. Si es equivoca en el centro de votación, consulte al juez electoral. Si se equivoca en su papeleta de voto por correo, llame a la Junta Electoral.

ADVERTENCIA: Si recibe una papeleta de voto en ausencia o papeleta de voto por correo y devuelve su papeleta votada antes de la fecha limite, no puede votar en su centro de votación el día de las elecciones. Si no puede devolver su papeleta de voto en ausencia o papeleta de voto por correo antes de la fecha limite, solo puede votar

GOVERNOR Gobernador

Vote for one
Vote por uno

☐ Josh Shapiro
Montgomery County

☐ _____
Write-in Escribir en

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vicegobernador

Vote for one
Vote por uno

☐ Austin Davis
Allegheny County

☐ _____
Write-in Escribir en

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 11TH District

Representante del Congreso Distrito 11

Vote for one
Vote por uno

☐ Nancy Mannion
Lancaster County

☐ _____
Write-in Escribir en

REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 97TH District

Representante en la Asamblea General
Distrito 97

Vote for one
Vote por uno

☐ Jess Branas
East Lampeter Township

☐ _____
Write-in Escribir en

MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

Miembro del comité estatal demócrata

Vote for 3 males, 3 females & 1 of either
gender

Vote por 3 hombres, 3 mujeres y 1 de
cualquiera de los dos

☐ David Ramos
Male - Lancaster Township

☐ Bob Hollister
Male - East Lampeter Township

☐ Beverly Malone
Female - East Petersburg Borough

☐ Stella Sexton
Female - Manheim Township

☐ Lizz Bender
Female - Lancaster City

☐ Nathaniel Dick
Male - Manheim Township

☐ Lois Herr
Female - West Donegal Township

☐ _____
Write-in Escribir en

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Sample Ballot (cont'd)

Two Committeepersons per district.

Roles:

- coordinate greeters for the semi-annual elections
- attend two Sunday evenings meetings a month
 - gathering of the democratic CPs for the 10 precincts
 - community at large in the Lampeter—Strasburg Voting district to discuss important issues related to our district.
- coordinate petition signing events
- communicate important issues, coordinate events such as post carding, literature drops and similar activities to for our registered voters in our precinct to be informed about our current candidates, etc.

Lakes ballot

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEEPERSON WEST LAMPETER TWP Lakes District <i>Persona del Comité Demócrata Oeste</i> <i>Lampeter TWP - Lakes Distrito</i>	
Vote for not more than two <i>Vote por no más de dos</i>	
☐	Jerry Henige
☐	

Locust ballot

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEEPERSON WEST LAMPETER TWP Locust District <i>Persona del Comité Demócrata Oeste</i> <i>Lampeter TWP - Locust Distrito</i>	
Vote for not more than two <i>Vote por no más de dos</i>	
☐	Susan Highfield
☐	

Consider writing-in
“Ross Fairweather”
for the Locust
Committeeperson

or a candidate of your
choosing

Coming Events

Understanding Our Democracy Series

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 1:00 - 2:30 pm

“An Introduction to the Patriotic Millionaires”

Inequality in America hasn't been this high since the Gilded Age, when robber barons like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller wielded massive wealth and influence. But the good news is that proposed solutions to the problem exist, and the Patriotic Millionaires have them in their legislative platform, The MONEY Agenda: America 250.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 1:00 - 2:30 pm

“Democracy for Sale? How Citizens Can Fight Back”

Are billionaires drowning out the voices of everyday voters? What can we do about it? Join us for an eye-opening and action-oriented discussion on the role of money in politics—and how you can be part of the solution. This event will explore how we got to this moment and what's at stake for our rights as citizens and our future.

All events will be in the Cultural Center Education Room

Dems Club General Meetings

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Jerry Henige will review the organizational structure of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party

Tuesday, June 30th 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Fair Districts with Tony Crocamo and Cindy Davidson

Events will be held in the Cultural Center Education Room

Meeting Minutes

Cont'd next page

Meeting Minutes