



The Lancaster County Democrat

June 2025

Saying Good-Byes are Hard to Do

By Barbara A. Baier

Twenty years ago, I started my Lincoln Board of Education service. At that time, Kathy Danek and Don Mayhew had already served a term. They were seasoned veterans full of knowledge. Their service then and throughout the intervening years exemplified the values of Civility, Decision-making Based on Facts and Data, Consensus Building, for the Common Good, and Respecting the Board's Decisions. Then, as now, each Board member brought their own unique skill set, life experience, and priorities. Our differences made us a better Board able to make good decisions based on a range of information and resources. Throughout, we all shared a common value: We are here for the kids. We're not here to grandstand, to grind axes of old pet peeves, or make certain supporters happy. We are here for children and their families. Kathy and Don have never wavered in that commitment!

Kathy Danek started as a stay-at-home mom who was never home. Instead, she was the PTO mom, the do-gooder down the street making cinnamon rolls at Christmas for her neighbors and friends, the lady who helped when someone was sick. After knocking on nearly every door in her sub-district, she rightfully earned the chance to lead. Her Board service has been informed by remembering the kid down the block who didn't have a winter coat, the teenager who had to make two bus transfers to get to class, often not on time, the single mom who couldn't make ends meet, and the young refugee couple with three kids studying hard to learn English. Kathy has always brought the heart to our grueling budget decision-making process. Kathy became the self-taught expert on State Aid and Nebraska Department of Education rules. She helped bring all-day kindergarten to Lincoln and the State. She's been a tireless advocate for teachers. The list is too long to recite here, but Kathy has made a mark on Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln as a community, and that mark is very positive!

Don Mayhew, self-described tech nerd, erstwhile chef and restauranter, and now real estate owner/manager, has provided insight from the beginning of the tech revolution's impact on K through 12th grade education. He has been ever mindful of

cyber-security while focused on the needs of students, particularly students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Don has been our consensus builder. The person who seeks the common ground between each of us. Don has been our glue as we work with the community to develop strategic plans, hire new superintendents, build support for bonds, and ensure that each bond successfully delivered the promises made to the community.

From both of these dedicated mentors, I have learned that political life works best when we retain our civility. This doesn't mean vigorous debate doesn't occur. It does mean when our passions run high, we do not burden the public with emotional discourse that leads only to hurt feelings and too often a lack of communication.

Instead of angry statements that may feel good in the moment, both Kathy and Don asked questions, sought data, and tried to sort out facts from a haystack of fiction. They answered their phones any time anywhere. They advocated for families in difficult places. They informed each of us that it isn't about who wins or loses, but rather it's about how do we do what is best for our community. In the end, if you win or lose a Board vote, remember we only function as a Board, together, in session, and once that vote is taken you respect the result and move on.

These simple political lessons in the public sphere may seem like business as usual. They are not. This is how self-governance, the act of democracy works. Unfortunately, in today's political climate, it seems one upping each other is more important than working toward the common good. It's been my immense pleasure and honor to serve and learn from Kathy Danek and Don Mayhew. We're very lucky to have them dedicate 24 years of their time and insight toward maintaining and improving Lincoln Public Schools.

Thank you for your service, Kathy and Don!

Diversion and Problem-Solving Court Shrinkage? Blame the County Attorney.

By Kristi Egger, Lancaster County Public Defender

Here in the Lancaster County Public Defender's Office, we work hard to assist our clients to get them the help they need. At the same time, we are striving for outcomes that serve the best interests of our clients and serve the best interests of our community as a whole. Oftentimes that involves applying our clients for Diversion, Problem-Solving Programs and Problem-Solving Courts. Diversion and Problem-Solving Courts are important programs that help accomplish both of those goals. How so? In a few important ways:

These programs place a strong emphasis on structured supervision and personal accountability, helping the person get the specific treatment they need. This more directly addresses what brought them into the court system to begin with, teaching them how to make better decisions in the future. The focus is on rehabilitation, not incarceration. This approach decreases recidivism and helps people build better lives. The alternative approach, jail and/or prison is far more costly to the county and more harmful to our citizens in the long run.

In 2024, the Public Defender's Office closed approximately 175 cases where people participated in various diversion/problem solving programs and treatment courts. This does not include the cases that are still open, with people currently involved in diversion/program/court. The largest number of case dismissals (which is the desired end result) occurred in the Pretrial Diversion Program, a program available only for misdemeanor cases. Approximately 108 people successfully completed PTD. The next highest amount of participation was in the Mental Health Problem-Solving Program, followed by Drug Court, the fairly new DUI Court, Treatment Problem-Solving Program, and last, Veteran's Court.

Also last year, the Public Defender's Office had 36 clients admitted to the Adult Drug Court program. Of those, 13 clients had their cases dismissed, and 11 clients were transferred back to the regular criminal court for unsuccessful participation. In 2023, the numbers were 23 admitted, 7 dismissed, and 6 transferred, respectively. In 2022, those numbers were 20, 3, and 4, respectively.

In 2024, the number of participants admitted to the various programs/courts increased, and we had hoped that this trend would continue in the future. *However*, it may not, due to the County Attorney's decision in April 2025, to **prohibit** people with domestic assault (DV) charges from applying for diversion and other problem-solving programs. This is **in spite** of the fact that Community Corrections, the

County agency in charge of running the diversion and problem-solving programs, has been very successful helping people with DV cases in the general diversion and the applicable problem-solving programs.

Mr. Condon was interviewed in March by 10/11 News. He was then asked about whether or not a problem-solving court dedicated specifically to helping perpetrators of domestic violence could be created in Lancaster County, modelled after one functioning in Scott County, Tennessee. Condon responded:

"I think there's a cost associated with it, so you know, we would have to figure out how we would pay those costs, but there's a cost because the county would probably be paying it if it's a diversion program," . . . "I would say that, you know, probably be worthwhile to take a look at it, see what the, you know what the recidivism rate is... You know if it's successful, then yeah, we could look into doing something like that."

<https://www.1011now.com/2025/03/29/digging-deeper-into-domestic-violence-how-can-we-solve-problem-domestic-violence-nebraska/>

The irony is that Lancaster County already had programs where perpetrators of domestic violence could be helped, and the County Attorney *stopped admitting them into those programs* the very next month. Those programs were the general diversion, the intensive supervision problem-solving, and mental health problem-solving programs. Although the eligibility criteria on the website

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/1015/Problem-Solving-Programs> still includes domestic assault as an eligible offense for pre-trial diversion and applicable problem-solving programs, our Public Defender's Office has been told that clients "need not apply" as they will *not* be accepted, as of the end of April, 2025. <https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21518/2024-Pre-Trial-Diversion-Eligibility-Criteria?bidId=>

Several clients with pending DV cases for whom we applied for admittance into problem-solving programs and diversion were told they were no longer eligible, their applications were removed, and they were denied admission into programs that would help them, their families, *and* our community.

This is **not** fair, you might say. Why can the County Attorney arbitrarily do this?! Unfortunately, the Nebraska Legislature has given him sole discretion to do so, although he is supposed to make these determinations taking into consideration the input of other community officials and stakeholders.

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=29-3602>
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=29-3603>

And, although Section 29-3603 says “(a) pretrial diversion plan for criminal offenses shall include, but not be limited to: 1) (f)ormal eligibility guidelines established following consultation with criminal justice officials and program representatives. The guidelines shall be written and made available and routinely disseminated to all interested parties.”

That may have been the reality when the diversion program was initially created, but it exists no longer. Changes are made despite the protestations of my Office, private attorneys, clients and other community stakeholders. And if defense attorneys fuss too much, what we hear from the County Attorney is a dismissive, “well, I can just shut down the programs completely.” In other words, the County Attorney giveth, and the County Attorney taketh away.

So, what can you do? Make your voice heard. You can ask County Attorney Condon to change course and let people with DV cases back into the programs, so they can get the help they need to reduce recidivism. You can tell Judges and County Commissioners and City Council members how important these programs are, so that the programs cannot be eliminated and can continue to be funded. You can talk to people who may have criminal charges pending, and promote the programs, so people will be more encouraged to gain the benefits of the programs and not “just take a fine or jail” and be done with it. Education, training, guidance, and breaking bad habits and learning new good ones helps us all.

“Public defenders stand alone, armed only with their wits, training and dedication. Inspired by their clients’ hope, faith and trust, they are the warriors and Valkyries of those desperately in need of a champion. Public defenders, by protecting the downtrodden and the poor, shield against the infringement of our protections, and in reality, protect us all.” *Hightower v. State*, 592 So.2d 689 (Fla. 3rd DCA 1991) .

Announcement from Kristi Egger, Lancaster County Public Defender

I am announcing that I am my running for a second term as your Lancaster County Public Defender. Please help me spread the word. I continue to work hard daily, leading the Office, so that we may better serve our clients and our community.

Check out our accomplishments, struggles, and goals in our annual report, which can be found by clicking on the link below, in the sections “About Us” and “Annual Reports.” <https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/556/Public-Defender>

More information is also available on my campaign website kristiegger.org

Annexing Canada would hand Democrats a powerful majority **By Jim Schaffer**

No one quite knows how many times the current occupant of the White House has called on the U.S. to annex Canada, but by now it’s plenty. What he doesn’t understand is that if his plan were to succeed, the Democratic Party would be in clover.

That’s because the most likely scenario would not have Canada join the U.S. as the 51st state, as the president imagines, but instead, it would join as states 51-60. Most of Canada’s ten provinces are larger than the average U.S. state; Quebec is almost three times the size of Texas and Ontario is nearly twice. British Columbia is larger than California. Even tiny Prince Edward Island, the smallest Canadian province, is twice as big as Rhode Island.

Canada probably isn’t as far north as you might think either. Parts of twenty-seven states are further north than Canada’s southern-most point. Seattle and Minneapolis, among major American cities, are both north of Toronto.

Talk about acquiring our friends to the north isn’t just empty rhetoric, but one problem with efforts to bully Canada is that Canadian tourism to the U.S. has dried up. More than one million Canadians visited New York City last year, for example, injecting hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy. Now, they are canceling trips in droves.

School groups have called off end-of-semester trips. So have busloads of retirees, as well as newlyweds planning honeymoons, and friends celebrating birthdays. Often, the reason cited is American hostility toward Canada, which has stirred

sweeping pledges to boycott American goods and abandon over-the-border vacations to the United States.

"We love the American people, but we are so anti-America when it comes to finances," Cindy Tobin, a manager of Travac Tours in Ottawa, said. "We are just not going to give them any money."

"The boycott is real, and it doesn't matter what happens with tariffs now, it's not going to be repaired," said Matthew Elliott, parent of a hockey player with a traveling team, adding "He pushed too far."

Yet the question keeps coming up: Is the president serious? Speaking with reporters in the Oval Office, Trump has mentioned his love for Canadians, including his "many friends" like hockey legend Wayne Gretzky.

"We don't need anything they have," Trump said recently. But, "as a state, it would be one of the great states anywhere. This would be the most incredible country, visually. If you look at a map, they drew an artificial line right through it, between Canada and the U.S. Just a straight, artificial line. Somebody did it a long time ago. Makes no sense. It's so perfect as a great and cherished state."

Canadian experts say there is very little chance that Canada would ever voluntarily join the U.S. and certainly not as one state given its geographical breadth (larger than the U.S.) and significant regional differences. But politically speaking, if this were to happen, it would be a bonanza for Democrats.

In many ways, Canada is a more socially progressive society than south of the border, with public healthcare being the leading example. Opinion polls consistently indicate that if Canadians were voting in American elections their preference would be for the Democrat (this is even true of most conservative voters in Canadian elections). Given the closeness of American elections, this would tilt the political scales decisively to the Democratic Party in most elections.

There would be regional variations in support for Democrats vs. Republicans of course, with Alberta being the most Republican, but according to John Shields, professor emeritus at Toronto Metropolitan University, even there the Democrat would likely come out on top.

That's because Canadian political values align more closely with those of the Democratic Party. In fact, according to Joel Westheimer, professor of democracy at the University of Ottawa, many policy positions of Canada's Conservative party fall to the left of American Democrats. Overall, more than two-thirds of Canadians vote for progressive political parties including the Liberals, the New Democratic Party (NDP), and the Green Party.

Polls show that in the 2024 U.S. election, about 64 percent of Canadians reported that they would have voted Democratic while 21 percent said Republican. Certain rural regions outside of urban centers such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal still might lean Republican.

Here is a final example. Jeffrey Ayres, Director of the Institute for Global Engagement at Saint Michaels College, also in Toronto, says that if Canada were annexed by the U.S. and became the 51st state, it would be blue and solidly Democratic.

"Just the two most populous provinces in Canada alone—Ontario and Quebec—would shift this state solidly blue," he said, "but most certainly the majority of the populations of the Atlantic provinces (Newfoundland, New Brunswick, PEI, and Nova Scotia) would also vote Democratic as would the urban populations in Winnipeg, Manitoba and greater Vancouver, BC."

Canada's population, he added, is more heavily urban and diverse, and Canadian political culture is more centrist and open to government playing a more substantive role in providing basic public goods.

If Canada joined the U.S., it would all but ensure perpetual Democratic majorities in the House of Representatives and a Democratic president with a blue electoral college majority. So, go forward Republicans with the annexation plan!

Nebraska Democrats In Array

By Dennis Crawford



The Democrats are winning big in 2025. This is the most under reported story in American politics.

The 2024 election was very close. A change of 115,000 votes in three battleground states would have changed the outcome of the presidential election. The Republicans won their very narrow majority in the House by a mere 7,309 votes across America. Nevertheless, the pundits, the GOP and even some Democrats wrote the premature political obituary of the Democratic Party.

Then elections started happening that proved the so-called “conventional wisdom” was wrong. Democrats flipped two Republican held legislative seats in Iowa in districts that had been carried by Trump by a wide margin. The most significant result occurred in the Wisconsin Supreme Court race where the Democratic candidate won by 10 points after Elon Musk spent a whopping \$25 million. Overall, the Democrats have outperformed Harris by 10 to 20 points in 2025. The backlash to Trump has begun early.

The Trump backlash has carried over to the elections in Lincoln and Omaha. In both cities, the Democrats won sweeping, landslide victories. It wasn't even close.

The first big win was in Lincoln on May 6. Here's how I described it in a post on Facebook on May 7: “We came. We saw. We conquered!”

Lancaster County Democrats won a landslide election last night! All three City Council incumbents were easily re-elected: Bennie Shobe, Tom Beckius, Sandra Washington.

We re-elected Barb Baier to the School Board. John Goodwin, Maria Krivohlavek and Marilyn Johnson were elected to the School Board.

Vanessa Emlich was elected to the Airport Authority.

We won EVERY election! The Republicans won ZERO elections!

The Democrats control all of the local governmental units. Lincoln is a blue city!”

Now Republicans have told me that Lincoln is a blue city and the Democrats were always a lock. My rebuttal to that talking point is that the Republicans before that election result claimed that the Democrats were a dead party and the GOP had a permanent governing majority. If the Democrats were truly going the way of the Whigs, the Republicans would have won some elections in Lincoln. Instead, the Republicans lost every election. Every one of them.

We then had a political earthquake in Omaha on May 13 that shocked the world. Democrat John Ewing defeated three term incumbent GOP mayor Jean Stothert by a 57% to 43% margin. It was an epic upset that has received national attention. Stothert had never had a close race in her three previous runs for mayor.

She won her 2021 election with 65% of the vote. That is an amazing 21 point swing from four years ago.

“Don't sleep on how massive the upset in Omaha was last night. Jean Stothert wasn't just any mayor — she was seen as unbeatable. She won her last race with 65% of the vote. Last night, she got thumped by the Democrats. That's a political shock-wave. Republicans are panicking.” Mike Nellis post.

Stothert outspent Ewing 2–1 and lied shamelessly about his record on transgender issues. From the *Omaha World Herald*: “Stothert was turned out of office in spite of the city's significant development and progress on her watch, including a revitalized riverfront, an altered downtown skyline and strong growth. She had made continuing that energy and momentum the centerpiece of her campaign.

But it appeared a number of other political currents played into the race: a tumultuous national political climate driven by President Donald Trump that weighed on fellow Republican Stothert.

With the unpopularity of many of Trump's policies, Democratic enthusiasm to vote appeared higher. During the campaign, Ewing sought to link Stothert to the Trump “chaos” — an understandable strategy in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans.

Stothert late in the race seemed concerned about Republican turnout, putting out an ad featuring the issue of gender in youth sports and bathrooms — an issue that fires up the GOP conservative base.”

A statement from the Nebraska Democratic Party: *“Tonight's victory comes on the heels of Nebraska Democrats' sweeping local elections last week in Lincoln and proves what we already know: voters are sick of Republicans' one-party rule and endless attacks on working families. Nebraskans are demanding change. As a public servant for 43 years, Mayor-elect Ewing's commitment to the people of the great state of Nebraska speaks for itself, and I have no doubt that Omaha's future is bright under his leadership. My fellow Nebraskans: We made historic progress tonight, and tomorrow, the hard work continues on as we look to 2026. Democrats are here to do the work for the people.”* — Chair Jane Kleeb

Trump's political brand has become so politically radioactive that the Republican Mayor of Omaha lost her race for a fourth term, in part because she had endorsed him in 2024. It's only 100 days in and the voters have already had enough.

“Jean Stothert's internal polling had her down by single digits, so they called in the Ricketts team, who insisted on having Jessica Flanagan/Axiom take over the campaign and go all in on anti-trans hate. She

ended up losing by an even greater margin.” Tim Royers post.

Ewing’s win signals a rejection of Stothert’s hateful anti-trans messaging — which was a center piece of GOP campaigns during the 2024 election cycle. Ewing called the controversy a “made-up issue by Jean Stothert and the Republican Party.”

The Nebraska Democratic Party fought back by arguing that Stothert was focused on potties and Ewing was focused on potholes. The Nebraska Democratic Party’s response to Stothert’s anti-trans hate should be a template for Democrats going forward. “The response to “That guy thinks boys should be in girls’ sports” isn’t “No I don’t,” it’s “Why does that right-wing pervert want to do genital inspections on your daughter?” Talking about issues is good, but you have to lead with identity.” Paul Waldman.

The Democrats also maintained their 4–3 majority on the Omaha City Council.

Worse for Nebraska Republicans, Stothert’s loss is bad news for Representative Don Bacon, a Republican whose district includes all of the city of Omaha as well as some suburbs. Bacon is one of only three Republicans in the house from districts both Biden and Harris won. The incumbent GOP House member is considering retirement and says he will make an announcement of his intentions later this year.

It’s been fashionable since November 2024 for the mainstream press to crap on the Democratic Party. Beltway reporters can demonstrate their alleged savvy and independence by trashing Democrats, while simultaneously grading Trump and MAGA on a curve. It’s high time that the Democrats get some credit for turning things around. That’s why I post. If we don’t defend our party, nobody else will do it for us.

The Democrats are winning big in 2025. This is the most under reported story in American politics. The mainstream press is addicted to a “Democrats in disarray narrative.” Despite our divisions, we keep winning elections. We are united against the threat to freedom and democracy posed by Trump and MAGA.

The tide is turning. Be confident going forward. Take nothing for granted. Keep working hard. Blue wave 2026!
Blue wave 2026! Let’s go!

Sources consulted:

Republicans Hate You

That’s it — that’s the message.
paulwaldman.substack.com

John Ewing wins decisive victory over Jean Stothert in race for Omaha mayor

In an election both history-making and stunning, John Ewing knocked off three-term incumbent Jean Stothert on Tuesday...
omaha.com

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2025/5/14/2322256/-Why-Democrats-flipping-Omaha-s-mayorship-spells-trouble-for-the-GOP>

House Bill Accelerates Phaseout of Clean Energy Tax Credits and Restricts Leasing and Transferability

By Michael Haun, Auburn Wise, Lena Son and Elaine Lee

On May 22, 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Bill 1, officially titled the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA). This budget reconciliation bill includes significant energy-related provisions that would accelerate the phaseout of clean energy tax credits and impose new limitations on certain renewable energy project financing arrangements. In particular, the OBBBA shortens the window for new wind, solar and other clean electricity projects to qualify for federal tax incentives, and it denies tax credits for certain residential and community projects structured as wind or solar leasing arrangements. Below is a summary of the key energy provisions included in the OBBBA.

Sixty-Day Window and 2028 Placed-in-Service Deadline for Clean Energy Projects

The OBBBA dramatically tightens the timelines for developers to begin and complete clean energy projects in order to receive federal tax credits. Under the bill, the new technology-neutral clean electricity Production Tax Credit (PTC) (45Y) and Investment Tax Credit (ITC) (48E) established by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) would only remain available to projects completed within a very short timeline. Specifically, to qualify for these credits, a project’s construction must begin within 60 days of the bill’s enactment, **and** the project must be placed in service (operational) by December 31, 2028. Projects that miss either of these deadlines would no longer be eligible for either the clean electricity PTC or ITC under the House proposal. This compressed timeframe represents a drastically accelerated phaseout of the clean energy PTC and ITC. The IRA had originally authorized these tech-neutral credits through 2032 with a gradual step-down period, but the OBBBA would eliminate the previously planned 2029-2031 credit phasedown entirely.

Nuclear projects carve-out.

On a more positive note, the OBBBA provides a narrow exception for advanced nuclear energy facilities. The OBBBA would allow qualifying nuclear projects to remain eligible for the tech-neutral credits without meeting the 60-day beginning-of-construction rule, so long as the nuclear facility's construction begins by December 31, 2028. In effect, nuclear power projects are exempted from the extremely short 60-day window requirement. The OBBBA also provides for an earlier phaseout of the credit by requiring projects to be placed in service by December 31, 2031. Aside from this nuclear carve-out, however, most other clean energy technologies (e.g., wind, solar, storage, etc.) would be subject to the 60-day beginning-of-construction requirement and 2028 placed-in-service deadline under the OBBBA's provisions.

Expansion of Foreign Entity of Concern Restrictions

The OBBBA also includes expanded restrictions on projects with ties to "foreign entities of concern" (FEOCs), intended to reduce foreign influence over U.S. clean energy infrastructure and supply chains. The concept of a FEOC, originally defined under the CHIPS and Science Act and referenced in the Department of Energy's implementation of Section 30D and Section 45X, generally includes entities owned or controlled by countries such as China, Russia, North Korea and Iran. The OBBBA would prohibit any project with ownership, control or critical components linked to a FEOC from claiming energy tax credits, including the PTC and ITC. Notably, the restriction is not limited to ownership interests; the OBBBA would also disqualify projects that procure key equipment or services from a FEOC, potentially sweeping in a wide range of project participants. These FEOC restrictions would apply to all taxable years beginning after the date of enactment and without a grandfathering provision for existing contracts or partnerships.

This change could introduce significant diligence and supply chain compliance obligations for developers, investors and tax equity partners alike and require more transparency. Sponsors may need to reevaluate vendor relationships, ownership structures and procurement practices to avoid unintentionally triggering FEOC-related disqualification.

No Tax Credits for Residential Wind and Solar Leasing Arrangements

Another notable energy provision in the OBBBA is a new restriction on tax credits for certain project ownership structures, targeting the prevalent model of third party-owned renewable installations for residential and community solar. The OBBBA would deny tax credit eligibility for wind and solar projects that are financed through leasing arrangements in the

residential sector. In practical terms, this means no federal credit could be claimed for a solar or small wind system that is owned by a company and leased to a homeowner or business user, a structure that often allows the lessor company to claim or monetize the ITC while providing the customer the benefits of a leased system. The OBBBA specifies that any leasing arrangements where the Residential Clean Energy Credit (25D) would be available to the lessee will no longer qualify for credits for any taxable year beginning after the bill's enactment. This leasing restriction will significantly impact the common third-party ownership model for rooftop solar installations (and similarly structured small wind projects). By eliminating credits for leased residential solar systems going forward, the OBBBA would effectively remove the tax incentive for many solar leasing and power purchase agreement deals. If enacted, this change could result in forcing the residential solar industry to reevaluate its entire business model.

Narrowing of Transferability Under Section 6418

The OBBBA also proposes changes to the transferability of energy tax credits under Section 6418, which was added by the IRA. As enacted, Section 6418 allows eligible entities to elect to transfer all or a portion of certain energy tax credits to unrelated parties in a sale transaction. The intent behind the provision was to create liquidity and expanded access to tax equity financing for clean energy projects. Under the OBBBA, transferability would continue to be permitted, but with restrictions tied to the new eligibility timelines. Transferability of Section 48 ITC for geothermal projects would be repealed for projects that begin construction two years after the date of the bill's enactment. For the Section 45X Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit, transferability is repealed for components sold after December 31, 2027. For the Section 45Z Clean Fuel Production Credit, transferability is repealed for fuel produced after December 31, 2027. By coupling the availability of transferability with the significantly compressed construction and placed-in-service timeline, the proposed revisions would substantially limit the application of Section 6418. This would particularly impact developers who had planned to rely on monetizing credits over a longer horizon under the original IRA structure.

Additional Energy Tax Credit Changes and Outlook

The OBBBA contains a broader rollback of clean energy tax incentives enacted in recent years. The OBBBA would terminate the Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit (45V) after a shortened window (allowing a safe harbor only for projects that begin

construction by the end of 2025). It also calls for the expiration at the end of 2025 of various residential energy efficiency and clean energy credits (such as the energy-efficient home improvement credit Section 25C, the residential clean energy credit Section 25D and the new energy-efficient home credit Section 45L) that were otherwise available through 2032 under the IRA. The OBBBA leaves the Section 45X Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit in place (with a phaseout after 2028) and maintains the full Section 45U Zero-Emission Nuclear Production Credit through 2031.

The OBBBA's provisions are not yet law. The bill passed the House by a slim margin and will next move to the Senate, where substantial revisions to the proposed bill are expected. For now, the OBBBA sets the House priority of accelerating the phaseout and sunset of IRA-related renewable energy tax benefits. Energy project developers and investors should closely monitor the bill's progress and any revisions in the Senate, as the final form of the OBBBA (if enacted) will determine the available tax credit landscape for energy projects moving forward.

Trump's Culture of Corruption

By Dennis Crawford

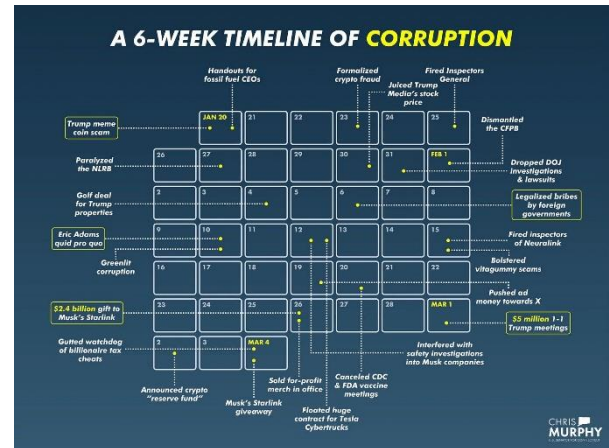


Image prepared by Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) depicts the extent of Trump's staggering corruption.

Donald Trump is the most corrupt president in U.S. history. The Grant, Harding and Nixon administrations were all marked by rampant corruption. However, those presidents didn't exploit the power of their office to make themselves, their families and their cronies wealthier.

The Trump I administration was the second most corrupt administration in history. Between 2017–21, Trump profited off special interests and foreign governments holding events at his hotel in Washington. In addition, Trump's hotels charged his Secret Service protectors exorbitant rates. Trump also made money off his supporters by holding political events at his hotels and golf courses. However, the extent of the corruption in Trump was pretty modest compared to what has occurred since January 20.

Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) has exposed the staggering level of corruption by Trump since he took office. What follow are excerpts from an opinion piece authored by him that was posted on the Fox "News" website on April 30: "A Tesla showroom on the White House Lawn. \$5 million for 1-on-1 meetings with the president. Illegally firing Inspectors General. Special tariff exemptions for friendly corporations. The first 100 days of the Trump administration have been filled with non-stop acts of brazen corruption, bribery, and favors for Trump's billionaire friends.

Let's take one example, which may be the most corrupt of them all: the Trump meme coin. For most people, the crypto industry is an enigma. That's what makes it a perfect vehicle for corruption.

Right before the inauguration, Trump launched a meme coin called \$TRUMP. It has no actual value — its value is simply related to how much demand exists, and as president of the most powerful country in the world, Trump is in a position to use his enormous

official power to generate demand for the coin, and in turn, profits for himself and his family.

Last week, the crypto coin scandal went nuclear. Trump posted on the coin's website: "HAVE DINNER WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP. The most EXCLUSIVE INVITATION in the World. Only for the TOP 220 \$TRUMP Meme Coin Holders." The price of the coin jumped more than 50%. Its market value soared to \$2.7 billion. To juice the price even more, they announced the top 25 coin holders would also be invited to "an Exclusive Reception" before dinner with Trump complete with a "Special VIP Tour" of the White House.

In just two days following the announcement of the dinner, Trump and his allies made nearly \$900,000 in trading fees alone. It's so brazen as to be hard to believe — the president selling access to the White House as a mechanism to enrich himself personally."

Another alarming feature of this corrupt pay for play scheme is that we don't know who is purchasing the meme coin and making Trump and his family even wealthier. The purchasers are all anonymous. It could be literally anybody, including foreigners from hostile countries like Russia.

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut said this about the scheme: "This isn't Trump just being Trump. The Trump coin scam is the most brazenly corrupt thing a President has ever done. Not close."

Murphy took the Senate floor on April 30 and delivered a blistering speech about Trump's corruption. The highlights are as follows:

"Trump ends enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, so that his staff can more easily get paid on the side by foreign governments and companies seeking to bribe the Trump Administration.

The most brazen abuse of prosecutorial power in a generation — the quid pro quo with Mayor Eric Adams.

Trump's new U.S. Attorney for Washington DC begins his campaign of harassment against Trump and Musk critics. DoJ is now just doing full time political enforcement for Trump.

Trump starts selling meetings with him to CEOs. For \$5 million.

Trump turns the White House into a Tesla showroom to make clear that he will boost the profit of any CEO who collaborates with him.

Trump launches a new private club in D.C. with a \$500,000 buy in to allow corporations the chance to pay money to have access to Trump's inner circle.

And this corruption is a big reason his approval ratings are cratering."

Trump's venture into crypto investments has increased the Trump family's wealth by billions of dollars since the 2024 election, according to a new report from the Group State Democracy Defenders Action.

This group estimated in a new report that the Trump's crypto holdings now represent nearly 40% of his net worth — or approximately \$2.9 billion. That increase is due in part to his release of the \$TRUMP and \$MELANIA meme coins, in addition to a large stake in World Liberty Financial, a crypto exchange affiliated with the Trump family that launched in October 2024.

Trump has done nothing to keep his promise of delivering rapid and fast price cuts beginning on day one. Trump and his family are investing a significant amount of time exploiting his presidency to makes themselves all richer. Trump's second term corruption far exceeds his self-dealing during his first term. The American people didn't elect Trump and his family to line their own pockets while they raise prices and tank the economy.

We have a big opportunity in the 2026 elections. Trump and the Republican Party are sinking like a stone in the polls since they are wrecking the country. I expect numerous good candidates to run for office across Nebraska and the country since there will be a huge backlash to the MAGA agenda. History shows that the party holding the White House gets blown out in the mid-term elections.

Let us forever be remembered as the generation that saved America from fascism.

Be confident going forward. Take nothing for granted. Keep working hard. If we do the work, we will win!

Sources consulted:

Murphy op/ed on the Fox News site

— <https://archive.ph/cBf73#selection-3069.4-3077.208>

<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/sen-chris-murphy-trumps-first-100-days-he-has-normalized-corruption-must-stop>

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