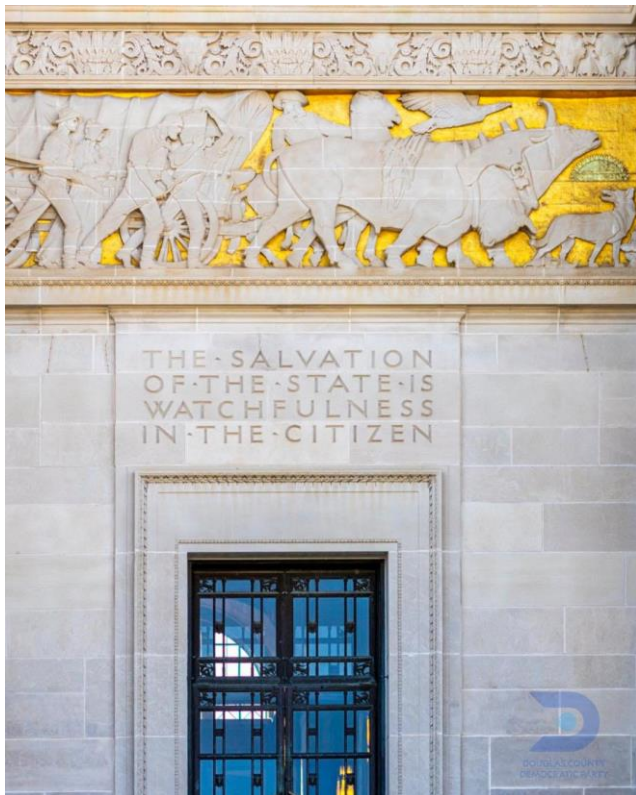


Nebraska Legislature 2025: "The will of the people is overrated."

By Dennis Crawford



The Republicans are treating the actual vote of the people as an advisory panel.

At a town hall on May 31, Republican Senator Tony Sorrentino told his constituents that the "The will of the people is overrated." That typified the attitude of Jim Pillen and the Republican majority in the Nebraska legislature in 2025. Beginning in 2014, Nebraska voters have done an end run around the Republican majority and passed progressive ballot initiatives on the Medicaid expansion, medical marijuana, paid family medical leave and minimum wage increases. In response, the Republicans in the legislature have done everything they can to slow down or ignore the will of the voters.

In 2024, Nebraska voters legalized medical marijuana by an overwhelming 71% to 29% margin and approved a companion regulatory law 67% to

33%. Nonetheless, Nebraska Republicans have a weird hatred of marijuana and have done everything they can to prevent the implementation of this law. Senator Pete Ricketts once even claimed that marijuana will kill your kids. You can't make this stuff up.

Unfortunately, a bill aimed at implementing the will of the voters failed to get past a Republican filibuster. In Nebraska it takes 33 votes in the 49-member unicameral to end a filibuster and allow an up or down vote. Despite bi-partisan support for medical marijuana, the Republicans successfully blocked the bill. Nebraska is now in a situation where medical marijuana is technically legal, but it can't be prescribed by doctors due to the lack of an implementing statute.

Nebraska voters approved a paid sick leave ballot initiative by a 74.5% to 24.5% margin in November 2024. This law would have required Nebraska businesses to offer earned paid sick leave for employees — up to seven days for businesses of at least 20 employees and five days for fewer than 20 employees. Approximately 250,000 workers would have been guaranteed paid sick leave. However, the Republicans stepped in and watered down the law in defiance of the voters' wishes.

A law passed by the legislature eliminated the voter-approved law's blanket sick leave requirements, letting employers offer no paid sick leave to young teens, ages 14 and 15, and none to temporary workers, seasonal agricultural workers and workers at the state's smallest businesses, those with 10 or fewer employees. This bill ended paid sick leave protections for 140,000 employees.

The Republicans tried (and failed for now) to gut a minimum wage increase approved by the voters 59% to 41% in 2022. If the Republicans are thwarted in their efforts to water down the law, the minimum wage will increase to \$15 next year. Subsequently, the minimum wage would be increased every year by the amount of the consumer price index.

The Republicans would like to shrink that annual increase and cap it at 1.75%. The bill would establish a youth minimum wage for employees aged 16 to 19 at \$11.25 per hour. The lower minimum wage would be in place for the young worker's first 90 days on the job.

The minimum wage law failed to pass when a Republican state senator failed to appear for a crucial vote. It will be voted on next year and if nothing changes, the Republicans most likely will have the votes to pass the bill.

"They are treating the actual vote of the people as an advisory opinion instead of a co-equal authority," said Lincoln Sen. Danielle Conrad. "The proponents think, 'Because we have 33 votes, we can do whatever we want. It doesn't matter if we should.'"

The Republicans' effort to comfort the already comfortable extended to the passage of the state budget. The State began the session over \$400 million in the hole due to excessive tax cuts for the rich and corporations passed in 2023. Efforts to repeal these reckless tax cuts were thwarted by the GOP majority.

The budget was balanced by raiding the state's rainy day fund and by increasing fees on working families. This is a temporary fix that can come easily unglued if the country goes into a recession or the Republicans in Washington pass Medicaid cuts.

Senator Danielle Conrad blasted the Republicans on that score. "The governor touted the fact that we balanced the budget. We are constitutionally required to do so, and in fact, we did; however, what the governor neglected to mention is that we balanced the budget on the backs of low-income working families," she said. Conrad said families will pay more for everything from visiting state parks, higher tuition at state colleges and disposing of garbage.

It wasn't all bad. Some of the Democratic state senators had some genuine accomplishments. Senator George Dungan's bill to expand Medicaid services for young mother and babies passed by a unanimous 47-0 vote. Dungan said the bill represents "another step forward in ensuring that we have healthy moms and healthy babies in Nebraska."

Omaha Senator Megan Hunt passed a bill that increased Social Security benefits for foster children. Senator Terrel McKinney's bill aimed at keeping youths out of the criminal justice system also became law. He said he was pleased to see it unobstructed by a veto, and proud of the achievement. "It's good legislation that's going to help a lot of families and juveniles, keeping them out of the system," McKinney said.

If you are a Democrat with any ambition of running for office, you should immediately start planning your 2026 campaign. If this MAGA Republican disaster continues, it will (unfortunately) be the best political environment for you to run in for the rest of your life. The environment will most likely resemble 1932 when Roosevelt and the Democratic Party won a landslide victory across the board.

I currently have nothing to offer you but toil, tears and sweat. We have hard days ahead of us. If we do the work, we will win and take back our country. Let's go!

Sources consulted:

<https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/05/20/absolute-failure-medical-cannabis-regulatory-bill-stalls-in-nebraska-legislature/>

<https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/05/28/bill-weakening-nebraska-paid-sick-leave-passes-but-dems-stall-effort-to-slow-minimum-wage-growth/>

<https://nebraskaexaminer.com/2025/05/22/law-makers-will-reconsider-slowne-braskas-minimum-wage-increases-but-likely-vote-next-year/>

Swallowing the soap:

Words that your mother and Uncle Sam say you can't use

By Jim Schaffer

When I was young, it was common practice for mothers to wash their child's mouth out with soap if he or she happened to let loose with an expletive or two. Whether parents still do this or not, I can't say, but the idea persists under the current federal administration which is seeking to purge "woke" language from all government documents.

According to several *New York Times* reporters, federal officials have ordered the removal of a list of about 250 words from all government memos, documents and web sites. Some of the banned words include *accessible, advocates, at risk, bias, Black, climate science, cultural differences, discrimination, diverse, ethnicity, gender, inclusion, inequality, marginalize, minority, Native American, pollution, race, racism, transgender, underserved, victim*, and of course many, many more.

This is apparently good news for some financial types who imagined freedom from regulations, taxes and unfamiliar pronouns after the 2024 election. "Bankers and financiers say Trump's victory has emboldened those who chafed at 'woke doctrine' and felt they had to self-censor or change their language to avoid offending younger colleagues, women, minorities or disabled people," reported the *Financial Times* a few days before Trump's inauguration. It quoted one leading banker crowing about finally being able to use slurs like "retard" again.

This situation got me thinking about our national parks and monuments. Would their messages and explanations still be acceptable? What about the Stonewall National Monument in Greenwich Village, a

park and exhibit space that tells the story of the fight for gay rights?

It turns out that current messaging runs far afoul of the new federal guidelines. Illustrative panels on the fence surrounding the monument, for example, explain the story of Stonewall and the modern fight for LGBTQ civil rights. At present, this is how the language reads, with the soon-to-be-deleted words in bold:

“The 1960s was a tumultuous era in American history as different groups came together to fight for **rights**. Events from the **anti-war** demonstrations against involvement in Vietnam to the **Civil Rights** and **women’s rights** movements defined the period as one of change. Similarly, the modern movement **for gay and lesbian** rights organized near the end of the decade at Stonewall, galvanized and led by many who had previously marched for the rights of others and who were now demanding rights of their own.

The uprisings at Stonewall Inn and the surrounding area, which took place from June 28 to July 3 in 1969, were a major catalyst in the fight for **gay rights**. During this time, **homosexuality** was illegal in many states and bars in New York were prohibited from serving alcohol to **homosexuals**.

Many members of the **gay and lesbian** community kept their identities secret due to fear of social and legal repercussions. Nevertheless, **gay and lesbian** bars, such as the Stonewall Inn, existed. Owned and operated by the mafia who paid off the police to prevent raids and closures, these bars were lively places where patrons were free to mingle and be themselves.

Despite bribes from the mafia, the police still occasionally raided the bars, which usually prompted patrons to flee quickly to avoid arrest. Yet, on Saturday, June 28, 1969, when undercover police officers raided the popular Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, the reaction was different. This time, people fought back, making the Stonewall Monument nationally significant for its association with the start of the **modern LGB civil rights** movement.”

If the National Park Service were to follow the new federal guidelines, however, this is what those panels might look like with all the objectionable terms deleted:

The 1960s was a tumultuous era in American history as different groups came together to fight. Events from the demonstrations against involvement in Vietnam and other movements defined the period as one of change. Similarly, the modern movement for someone’s rights organized near the end of the decade at Stonewall, galvanized and led by many who had

previously marched for the rights of others and who were now demanding rights of their own.

The uprisings at Stonewall Inn and the surrounding area, which took place from June 28 to July 3 in 1969, were a major catalyst in the fight for something or other. During this time, something was illegal in many states and bars in New York were prohibited from serving alcohol to certain people.

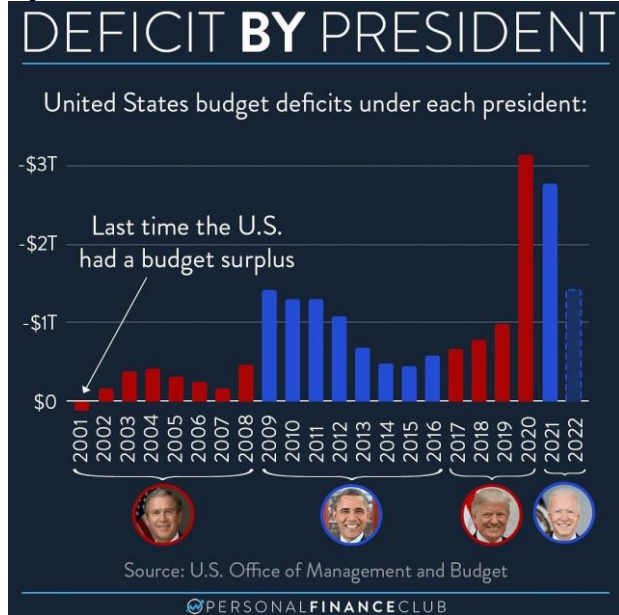
Many members of a particular community kept their identities secret due to fear of social and legal repercussions. Nevertheless, their bars, such as the Stonewall Inn, existed. Owned and operated by the mafia who paid off the police to prevent raids and closures, these bars were lively places where patrons were free to mingle and be themselves.

Despite bribes from the mafia, the police still occasionally raided the bars, which usually prompted patrons to flee quickly to avoid arrest. Yet, on Saturday, June 28, 1969, when undercover police officers raided the popular Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, the reaction was different. This time, people fought back, making the Stonewall Monument nationally significant for its association with the start of some sort of movement.

In some cases, censorship might make sense. Teachers who use a great American standard, *Huckleberry Finn*, for example, are probably wise to avoid Twain’s use of the N-word or at least use its presence as a basis for a class discussion. But the current administration is not aiming to avoid demeaning depictions of groups of people. They want to change the way people think: to prevent the idea that some groups of people might be disadvantaged by our social, cultural and political values. You think?

The Deficit Has Exploded Under GOP Presidents

By Dennis Crawford



The deficit has exploded under Republican Presidents. It's just a fact that cannot be deflected, ignored or covered up.

One of the biggest myths in American politics today is that Republicans are fiscal conservatives and Democrats are big spenders. The reality is that the deficit has exploded under Republican presidents and deficits have declined under Democratic presidents. Let's take a little trip down memory lane to refresh voter memories. Republican propaganda depends upon voter amnesia.

Ronald Reagan tripled the national debt with his tax cuts and defense spending. Between the two of them Reagan and George H.W. Bush quadrupled the national debt. Bush, to his credit, took the first steps towards balancing the budget when he signed into law a tax increase on the wealthy in 1990. Every conservative Republican voted against it.

When Bill Clinton left office, we had an annual surplus of \$200 billion and a projected ten-year \$5 trillion surplus. If Al Gore had won the election in 2000, the national debt would've been paid off by 2009. Clinton laid the foundation for this surplus with a tax increase on the wealthy in 1993. Every Republican voted no and predicted that the tax increase would cause a recession.

George W. Bush squandered Clinton's hard won surplus on two tax cuts for the rich, two wars and the Medicare Part D program. Former GOP U.S. House representative and Ohio governor John Kasich blamed the Republicans for blowing Clinton's \$5 trillion surplus. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) candidly admitted

that Republicans got into the habit of not paying for things.

When Obama took office, he inherited an annual deficit of \$1.3 trillion and an economy that was losing 800,000 jobs per month. Obama made the tough choices and reduced the annual deficit to \$585 billion by 2016. The 44th president signed into law the 2011 Sequester Act and the 2013 Fiscal Cliff Act. A combination of tax cuts on the rich and spending cuts reduced the annual deficit by 67%.

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump promised that he would eliminate the national debt within eight years. Once he was in office, Trump added \$8 trillion to the national debt — a one term record. Republicans like to falsely blame it on the pandemic, but Trump added \$4.7 trillion to the national debt before the pandemic. The annual deficit was a staggering \$3 trillion in 2020.

One of Trump's most loyal allies in the House said this in 2017 about the deficit: "It's a great talking point when you have an administration that's Democrat-led," said Representative Mark Walker, Republican of North Carolina and the chairman of the Republican Study Committee, a group of about 150 conservative House members. "It's a little different now that Republicans have both houses and the administration."

Like Clinton and Obama, Biden inherited a mess from his Republican predecessor. By 2024, Biden had cut Trump's annual deficits in half and the deficit in his final year in office was \$1.36 trillion. Biden got no credit for reducing the deficit — or anything for that matter even though he was a good president.

Trump is now poised to substantially increase the deficit. The House recently passed on a straight party line vote, a budget that will increase the debt ceiling by \$4 trillion and will result in massive multi-trillion deficits for as far as the eye can see. It was an astounding act of fiscal recklessness.

The markets aren't responding well to the Trump/GOP budget. The international market for U.S. debt has been shaken by the House passage of the bill, with the yield on the 20-year and 30-year bonds spiking above 5.1 percent. Mortgage rates are also increasing due to the expectation of massive federal borrowing. Credit rating agency Moody's, the last major credit rater to preserve triple-A status for U.S. sovereign debt, dropped its rating down to double-A after the cost of the bill was released.

Peter Orszag, who previously led the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget during the Obama administration, commented on the anxiety surrounding America's deteriorating fiscal situation.

Previously, Orszag said, he had tended to filter out “all the Chicken Little, kind of, ‘the sky is falling’ fiscal stuff, because all of the dire predictions were not happening.” “But if you compare where we are now to where we were a decade ago, it’s a lot different. The deficit is twice as high. Interest rates are dramatically higher,” Orszag argued, adding: “I think it’s time to worry again about this trajectory.”

“The modern American right doesn’t care about deficits and never did. All that talk about debt was just an excuse for attacking Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and food stamps.” Paul Krugman. The Republican have never offered to cut one of their own priorities to reduce the deficit.

What is never mentioned by the mainstream press and the GOP is that in the absence of the failed Bush 43 and Trump tax cuts, we would have a balanced budget.

According to the Center For American Progress on March 27, 2023:

“Tax cuts initially enacted during Republican trifectas in the past 25 years slashed taxes disproportionately for the wealthy and profitable corporations, severely reducing federal revenues. In fact, relative to earlier projections, spending is down, not up. But revenues are down significantly more. If not for the Bush tax cuts and their extensions — as well as the Trump tax cuts — revenues would be on track to keep pace with spending indefinitely. . .

In other words, the current fiscal gap — the growing debt as a percentage of the economy — stems from legislation that cut taxes, disproportionately for the very rich . . . If Congress wants to decrease deficits, it should look first toward reversing tax cuts that largely benefited the wealthy, which were responsible for the United States’ current fiscal outlook.”

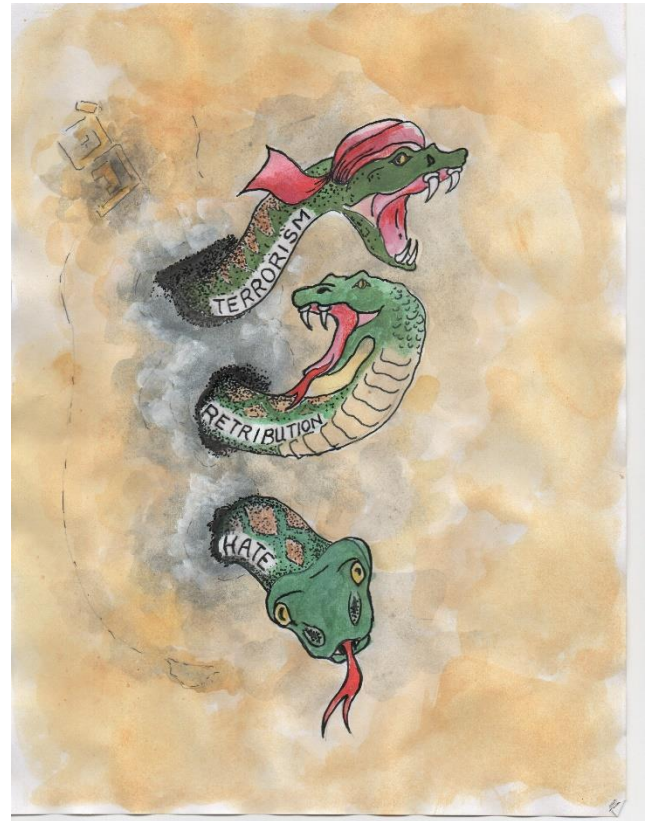
A backlash to Trump and MAGA has begun. The Democrats are winning big in 2025. This is the most under reported story in American politics. The main—stream press is addicted to a “Democrats in disarray narrative.” Despite our divisions, we keep winning elections. We are united against the threat to freedom 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:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-turmoil-or-triumph-donald-trump-stands-alone/2016/04/02/8c0619b6-f8d6-11e5-a3ce-f06b5ba21f33_story.html

<https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/nikki-haley-criticizes-donald-trump-for-increasing-national-debt-killing-border-security-bill/>



Trump’s ordered military bombing attack on Iran’s uranium enrichment facilities—inconclusive results at best. The effect on the Iranian terrorist regime completely predictable.

Steve Kemper

Female reproductive health adversely affected by glyphosate, research finds

First published in *The Organic & Non-GMO Report*
& *Regenerative food supply*



A recent *study* published in *Reproductive Sciences* found that exposure to glyphosate, a widely used herbicide and the active ingredient in Roundup, can cause damage to female fertility and reproductive health. The researchers advocate for a broader understanding of the *risks* glyphosate poses to human health to better shape public policy, and suggest finding less harmful alternatives.

Though the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) considers glyphosate safe, [studies](#) have suggested its neurotoxicity and carcinogenicity, linking it to Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Parkinson's disease, liver and kidney disease, lower birth weight, and a host of other health issues.

Now researchers are finding correlations between glyphosate exposure and harm to the female reproductive system. The toxic herbicide acts as an [endocrine disruptor](#), interfering with hormones in a way that impacts uterine structure, ovarian function, embryo implantation, and fetal development.

The *Reproductive Sciences* study also found that glyphosate may be linked to two reproductive disorders that are among the leading causes of infertility, [polycystic ovary syndrome \(PCOS\)](#) and [endometriosis](#). The conditions affect 6–13% and 10% of reproductive-aged women respectively, according to the World Health Organization, and often adversely impact a woman's quality of life in numerous ways, from irregular periods, weight gain, and acne with PCOS to severe period pain with endometriosis.

So how is one exposed to this toxic herbicide — and is there a way to lessen exposure? Over the last three decades, glyphosate use on U.S. farms has

[substantially increased](#), with about 240 million pounds sprayed per year. It reaches people via skin contact, airborne particles, or food and water ingestion. In 2022, a [survey](#) found that more than 80% of urine samples from U.S. adults and children contained glyphosate. While it's difficult to completely avoid, there are ways to limit your exposure. Buy organic rather than conventionally grown produce at your local grocery store or farmers' market. If possible, avoid using herbicides when gardening, and if you are going to handle pesticides, wear protective gear. On a broader scale, support your community's organic farms, advocate for local non-herbicide weed control, and vote for political candidates who champion sustainable agriculture.

Source: U.S. Right to Know

To view source article visit

https://usrtk.org/healthwire/glyphosate-risks-to-female-fertility-reproductive-health/?mc_cid=80d923d3aa&mc_eid=64d3d1b8fb



Pictures from the Waverly 4th of July Parade. Thanks to those who volunteered to ride on the float with us!



County Party Float – Waverly 4th of July Parade



Volunteers Decorating the Float



Kristi Egger, Lancaster County Public Defender



Hannah Wroblewski, Kris Kinzie, and Gina Frank



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1067
Lincoln, NE

Lancaster County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 83213
Lincoln NE 68501-3213
402-476-2268
<http://www.LancasterCountyDemocrats.org>

Printed In-House with Donated Labor

Return Service Requested

To contribute articles of interest to Democrats,
contact Jean Sanders, jsanders@neb.rr.com or
Jim Johnson, jimjohnson_1958@yahoo.com.

Support the Lancaster County Democrats today!

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
I would also like to volunteer: _____ Prepare Mailings _____ Phone Banking _____ GOTV
I prefer to get my newsletter (please check one): _____ via e-mail or _____ via US mail.

Please also consider a donation to the Lancaster County Democratic Party.
Your donation helps support party activities including Get Out The Vote efforts,
candidate support services, political forums and the *Lancaster County Democrat*.

_____ **Sustaining Donor (Monthly Donation - credit card authorization)**

I hereby authorize the Lancaster County Democratic Party to charge the credit card below \$_____ each month.

Signature _____

_____ **One-time Donation (credit card authorization)**

I hereby authorize the Lancaster County Democratic Party to charge the credit card below for a one-time donation of \$_____.

Signature _____

_____ **Electronic Donation via ActBlue**

I am sending a separate electronic donation via the County Party's ActBlue account:

<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/lancaster-county--ne--democrats-1>

_____ **Check or Money Order Enclosed, payable to Lancaster County Democratic Party**

Make check or money order payable to Lancaster County Democratic Party or charge to:

_____ VISA _____ MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Please return this form to the Lancaster County Democratic Party, PO Box 83213, Lincoln NE 68501-3213.