



The Lancaster County Democrat

August 2025

Campaign Promises Made. Campaign Promises Kept.

By Kristi Egger, Lancaster County Public Defender

Hello friends and fellow advocates for rights for all, regardless of income. The purpose of this article is to update you on just some of the things that I've been doing since I was elected Lancaster County Public Defender in 2022. When I started back to work in the Office in 2023, there was a lot of work to be done to make up for the many things left undone during the previous 8 years.

One important area of concern was our case management system, which was in dire need of updating. In fact, it had been recommended as far back as 2014 that the system be upgraded. The old, outdated system caused ongoing and increasing glitches which the Office had to deal with on a daily basis. Neglecting this needed change had caused headaches for nearly a decade, and we needed a solution.

After exhaustive research, we vetted around a dozen different case management systems. After weighing the various pros and cons, we decided, in lieu of a completely *new* system, to implement a major upgrade to our *current* system. The idea was to maximize the efficiency of the system and bring it up to date with current standards and protocols. At the same time, I wanted to minimize the learning curve that would have come with a whole new product. We had a go-live date at the beginning of June, and the progress continues. Modernization, with an eye towards functionality and affordability, is a benefit to the Office, our clients, and taxpayers. I am thankful that I was able to work with the County Board and present them with a workable and cost-effective plan to help the Office.

When I ran for Public Defender, I promised to be a leader who would show up and work hard, and I have done that. Everyone in the Office works tirelessly. We don't need a political figurehead. We don't need someone who is in it for the glory or to feed their own *ego* or to assist in their own *social climbing*. We need someone who is a daily presence, taking cases, mentoring the younger attorneys, and managing the staff.

I campaigned on fiscal responsibility. It is extremely important to be cognizant of the realities of a budget, and to be a good steward of taxpayer money. One of my campaign promises was to maintain my own caseload as an attorney. Since I've been back in the Office, I've closed 145 cases, have 35 open cases, handle the vast majority of not responsible by reason of insanity reviews, assist with the Mental Health Board docket, and have taken over other attorneys' cases as needed. This not only assists the attorneys in the Office but saves the taxpayer money. Every case I take on is one less that other attorneys in the Office don't need to handle. By doing this, I help to decrease the need for our Office to file motions to withdraw due to exceeding caseload standards. (More on caseload standards in another article to come).

Being the Public Defender is more than a full-time job. It is not an easy job. As my partner can attest, I routinely work well beyond 40 hours a week. There are nearly 50 employees, from myriad backgrounds, who all work hard, often under stressful conditions. It is a constant challenge to serve our clients while making sure that the staff and attorneys have what they need. Every day, I draw upon my decades of experience to make policies that are fair and equitable to all staff and that best serve the people of Lancaster County.

The things that keep me going are first, my love of the Office and the people who serve in it, and my unwavering belief in our mission to serve. No, it's not an easy job, but I knew that already when I decided to run for Public Defender. It keeps me busy, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

As always, my door is open, and I thank you for your support.

Seward County panel rejects big chicken farm after opponents flock to meeting

By McKenzie Johnson

Reprinted with permission.

The Seward County Planning Commission shot down a chicken barn proposal on Monday night.

The proposal ruffled the feathers of some who lived nearby, who said the barns would have brought health and environmental risks.

A Seward County couple wanted to put up eight barns that would have held more than 200,000 chickens.

That's called a concentrated animal feeding operations — or CAFO — facility.

Those in favor of the chicken farm said it would boost the local economy.

"I'm kind of disappointed; I was hoping this room would be empty," Adam Hldaky, a poultry farm owner in Seward County, said at Monday's meeting. "We all live in Nebraska. Everyone knows where our food comes from; we should be proud of where our food comes from."

But one couple who live less than a mile away begged the commissioners to deny the project.

"Why should we be forced to leave the home that we have built our lives in?" Lindsey Schwan asked. "As responsible and loving parents, we wouldn't be able to stay. Realizing now about the increased health risks to our children and their grandparents, it would go against our values."

The meeting stretched on for more than two hours, and in the end, the commissioners voted to reject the plan.

Those against the proposal said it feels like a big victory.

Surf's Up! Blue Wave 2026!

By Dennis Crawford



The Democratic over performance in the 2025 elections is the most under reported political story this year.

History teaches us that the party holding the White House usually sustains losses in the midterm elections. Exceptions to this historical pattern have been rare. The exceptions were 1934, 1962, 1998 and 2002. The common denominator in those election cycles was that we had an incumbent president who had an approval rating in the neighborhood of 60%. In contrast, Trump and MAGA are deeply unpopular. Trump has never been a popular president.

Trump's low approval ratings and unpopular policies have already spurred a backlash. Democrats are doing very well in the 2025 elections. The Washington Post recently committed journalism and reported on this very important trend. But for this lone, solitary story one would have no idea that this is happening. Is it even legal to report that the Democrats have been winning big since November 2024?

From the *Washington Post* on June 27:

"Beyond what the historical record suggests, there is an additional warning sign for Trump allies who want to continue single-party GOP rule in Washington: Democrats have made big gains in special elections since Trump took office in January 2025.

Among all special elections this year, Democrats have outperformed Kamala Harris's vote share in 2024 by 13 percentage points, based on Harris-Trump baselines. That's the largest shift toward any party in years. In fact, all but four of the 31 special elections have seen movement toward Democrats.

In special elections ahead of the 2018 midterms, Democrats beat Hillary Clinton's 2016 numbers by six points and preceded a nine-point win in the House popular vote.

When a party consistently outperforms its last presidential outcome in special elections, it usually does well in the next House cycle."

Another leading indicator of a wave election are retirements. Incumbents occupying swing states or districts facing a wave election tend to retire rather than get beat. Retirements usually make a wave election more likely.

Representative Don Bacon (R-NE) announced his retirement on June 30, 2025. Both Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball and the Cook Political Report have shifted Nebraska CD02 from lean Republican to lean Democratic. This is an excellent pickup opportunity for the Democrats.

During the debate over Trump's big ugly bill, Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) came out against the deep Medicaid cuts and announced his retirement. Popular former Democratic governor Roy Cooper will most likely toss his hat in the ring. The Cook Political Report changed the North Carolina senate race from lean Republican to toss up.

Behind closed doors on Capitol Hill, there's real anxiety amongst Republicans over the Medicaid cuts. They know it could come back to hurt them in the midterms. Said one Republican lawmaker: "The Democrats are rooting for us to f*** ourselves on Medicaid."

In the past, passage of controversial, big bills have triggered political earthquakes that reshaped the map. In 2010, Republican lies about the Affordable Care Act led to a red wave in which the GOP regained control of the House. Trump's deficit funded tax cuts for the rich and failed attempt to take away insurance from 20 million people led to the Democrats picking up 40 House seats in 2018. It was the Democrats' best performance in the House since 1974.

Right wing firebrand and former Trump adviser Steve Bannon alleged that the GOP could lose numerous House seats in the 2026 midterms over the Trump administration's handling of Jeffrey Epstein's client list. "You're going to lose 10 percent of the MAGA movement. If we lose 10 percent of the MAGA movement right now, we're gonna lose 40 seats in '26," he said.

At the present time, the Democrats are favorites to take the House, but the Senate has been considered just out of reach. Will the passage of the big ugly bill put the Senate up for grabs?

Without a doubt, Democrats have an uphill battle to win back control the Senate. Nonetheless, even the GOP aligned Wall Street Journal editorial page is of the belief that control of the Senate is in play in 2026. Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) has posted that the Senate is up for grabs in light of the extremism of MAGA.

The Democrats need to hold their competitive seats in New Hampshire, Michigan, Georgia, Michigan

and Minnesota. That's a likely scenario in light of the negative political environment for the Republicans.

The hard part is that the Democrats will need to at least flip four Republican seats. The Democrats' best opportunities are in North Carolina and Maine. Susan Collins is up for re-election in Maine, a state that Harris carried by six points. Collins has a miserly 42% approval rating while 51% disapprove.

There are some other plausible targets.

Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) imploded when she insulted her constituents who were concerned about the Medicaid cuts by saying: "We're all going to die." She has drawn two top tier Democratic challengers and there are rumors she won't run for re-election.

Texas is another possibility. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) is embroiled in a bloody primary battle with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Former Democratic U.S. House member Colin Allred has entered the race and will be a strong candidate.

Appointed incumbent Jon Husted (R-OH) who replaced J.D. Vance, is up. Former Senator Sherrod Brown may jump in the race. Brown is still popular and could pull off the upset in a blue wave environment.

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) voted for the big ugly bill after Murkowski's corrupt bargain that exempted Alaska from the Medicaid and SNAP cuts. Current Representative Mary Peltola has already won two statewide races in Alaska. She defeated Sarah Palin in 2022 to win her seat.

Nebraska is a long shot but Pete Ricketts is unpopular and independent Dan Osborn is running again. Nebraska Democratic Party chair Jane Kleeb said: "We just think that there is so much anger at what is happening with all of the cuts, in particular in rural communities, that if there was ever an opening to win statewide, [2026] is the year."

Another problem for the GOP is Trump's feud with Elon Musk. The former DOGE chief and corporate welfare queen has founded a new third party that will field Congressional candidates in 2026. Musk is the richest man in the world and his big bankroll could make a difference.

The Republicans are worried that Musk's America Party is likely to peel off more Republicans than Democratic voters in key races. Musk is still popular with Republicans while most Democrats loathe him. Musk-backed, third-party candidates could play spoiler roles and swing close races to Democrats.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) warned that Musk could cost Republicans unified control of the White House and Congress, which they used this year to cut taxes for the rich, throw 17 million people off insurance and add \$6 trillion to the national debt, among other so-called "accomplishments."

The only response to this vote for the big ugly bill is to organize so that the Republicans lose their jobs and have to get the shitty health care they voted for.

"I think it's going to require a little bit less navel-gazing and a little less whining and being in fetal positions. And it's going to require Democrats to just toughen up. You know, don't tell me you're a Democrat, but you're kind of disappointed right now, so you're not doing anything. No, now is exactly the time that you get in there and do something." Former President Obama at a recent fundraiser.

The Democrats are winning big in the 2025 elections. This is the most under reported story in American politics. There is a huge backlash to Trump and MAGA. Nonetheless, 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.

If you are a Democrat with any ambition of running for office, you should immediately start planning your 2026 campaign. If this 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.

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:

What Democratic swings in special elections mean for 2026

Special elections have had significant shifts towards the Democrats since Trump returned to office, an indicator of...
www.washingtonpost.com

Republicans' 2026 midterm chances against Democrats surge in new poll. A new poll showed GOP support increasing significantly over the past month.
www.newsweek.com

Democrats Favored to Flip Nebraska House Race With Rep. Don Bacon's (R-NE) announcement that he won't run for re-election next year, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball says... politicalwire.com

<https://www.cookpolitical.com/analysis/house/nebraska-house/don-bacons-retirement-moves-nebraskas-2nd-district-lean-democrat-0>

Democrats Have a Shot at Winning the Senate

<https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5398104-steve-bannon-donald-trump-epstein-files-2026-midterms/>

Nebraska's remarkable Democrats: Ted Sorensen (1928-2010)

By Jim Schaffer

Nebraska might not have many Democrats with a national profile these days, but historically, Democrats from Nebraska have made an out-sized impact on the nation's prosperity and its very survival.

One of those was Ted Sorensen who helped John F. Kennedy step back from the abyss of a possible nuclear war. Where do you put that on your resume?

Sorensen is the presumed author (he would say collaborator) of some of the most memorable political rhetoric of the last fifty years. "Ask not what your country can do for you," JFK said in his famous inaugural speech. "Ask what you can do for your country." When asked again and again whether he had written those words, Sorensen's standard response was "Ask not."

The most momentous words Sorensen wrote probably came in the form of a letter he drafted to Soviet Chairman Nikita Khrushchev in 1962. Sorensen described his task this way: "No moment in my life has ever placed more pressure upon me, or ultimately given me greater satisfaction, than the moment late in the afternoon of Saturday, October 27, when the President of the United States asked me to draft, with guidance from his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, a letter for Khrushchev.

"It was the most fateful message I would ever draft. I was thirty-four years old."

October 27 was the twelfth day of what historians have called the most dangerous thirteen days in the history of mankind, the time of the first hostile confrontation between two nuclear superpowers, each possessing the capacity to incinerate the other, and as a by-product, the entire planet.

The crisis was precipitated by Khrushchev's reckless decision to build nine air bases in Cuba, ninety miles from Florida, where the Russians could place medium- and intermediate-range nuclear missiles capable of reaching, striking, and destroying perhaps hundreds of millions of people across the United States and Canada.

Growing up in Lincoln

Ted didn't start life as a Democrat. His father, C.A. Sorensen, a Republican was making his first run for office the year Ted was born (1928). "Our family was increased this morning by another son," he wrote. "I am going to have a Republican club of my own." C.A. would change his own political views later in life, but fortunately for Democrats, Ted's mother was a more immediate influence.

Annis Chaikin Sorensen, a Jew whose family had emigrated from Russia, was an early feminist who

insisted that each of her five children receive her maiden name in addition to their father's last name—thus, Ted became Theodore Chaikin Sorensen. “As a Danish Russian Jewish Unitarian,” Ted noted, “I am surely a member of the smallest minority among the many small minorities that made this country great.

“I was raised by parents who were college educated,” Ted wrote in his autobiography, “and determined to see their children be the same. I was also fortunate to have been born in Nebraska. The city of Lincoln in my youth was small, lovely, and quaint, full of parks, stone churches, small shops, and shaded streets. Lincoln was the kind of small-town environment now seemingly gone forever.”

In 1908, not yet twenty, Annis Chaikin received her undergraduate degree in classics, with honors in Greek and Latin, at the University of Nebraska and went on to earn a master's degree in both subjects the following year.

In 1911 she moved to New York, a “spirited redhead” as one businessman called her, where she began work for the Ladies Committee of the Jewish Aid Society. The organization sought to provide assistance for the growing number of delinquent Jewish girls appearing in New York Children's Court. Five years later, upon learning that her mother was ill, she returned to Nebraska. The University's Alumni Society selected her to be its executive secretary and editor of its *University Journal*.

Another five years later, she married C.A. Sorensen and during life as an active mother of five children, she found time to help organize his political campaigns—all five of them—temporarily shifting her registration from Democratic to Republican, an inconvenient requirement. “Lincoln,” she wrote in a letter late in her life, “is too Republican for me to enjoy a campaign.”

C.A.'s election as attorney general in 1928 was viewed as a victory for the cause of low-cost public electric power for the people of Nebraska, particularly those in rural areas. Within months of his election, a conference on municipal ownership of electric power was held in Lincoln. The movement spread to the farms; rural public power districts were established during his tenure as Nebraska's attorney general from 1929-1933.

The Sorensens

At a dinner honoring Ted in 2003, former governor Frank Morrison paid a lengthy tribute to his family, but added, “Early in my political career, I was advised by a friend: ‘Better stay away from those Sorensens—they are a little pinko.’” Not true, wrote Sorensen, “but I suppose our family did stand out in those years, when FDR's successful farm programs

were making many once-radical poor farmers more prosperous, giving them a stake in the status quo, and turning them into conservative Republicans.” As the state became more conservative, the Sorensens were becoming Democrats.

“Upon reaching the age of twenty-two in 1950, I registered as a Democrat,” Ted wrote. “In 1951 I had my first federal civil service background check. One of my law school classmates told the FBI: ‘Ted is a real liberal, but he's a loyal American.’ I will settle for that. I am still a loyal American, and I am still a real liberal.”

Nearly twenty years ago, in his book *Counselor*, Sorensen spoke to our current dissatisfaction with presidential politics: “Disillusioned American citizens today are filled with cynicism and mistrust; most young people assume that all modern presidents have deceived or disappointed the American people. Perhaps it is worth reminding them that it is *possible* to have a president who is honest, idealistic, and devoted to the best values of this country. It happened at least once—I was there.”

In 1953 Sorensen interviewed for a job with newly elected Senator John Kennedy. Kennedy had not yet moved into his new Senate office, and his House office at the time was being vacated, so the young senator-elect moved two chairs into the hall. “That's where we perched,” Sorensen said, “and spoke for little more than five minutes. In that brief exchange, I was struck by this unpretentious, even ordinary man with his extraordinary background—a wealthy family, a Harvard education, and a heroic war record. He did not try to impress me with his importance.” Sorensen would work for Kennedy for the next ten years.

The Cuban missile crisis

The Cuban missile crisis was perhaps the greatest test of President Kennedy's character and political skill. “Nothing we had tried,” Sorensen wrote, “had succeeded in persuading Khrushchev to remove the missiles—not pressure from the United Nations or world opinion, not our military blockade of Cuba, or other warnings. There was no reason to believe that another letter from JFK would help, and every reason to believe that we were on the brink of nuclear war.”

Nonetheless, the two Kennedy brothers and a young lawyer from Nebraska decided to try some “letter diplomacy” to avert a catastrophe. In our age of instant communications, it's hard to imagine a time when the fastest, most secure way to send a message from one world leader to another was to write a letter (delivered by courier), but that was the reality in 1962.

“In the words of the old spiritual,” Sorensen tells us, “On that Saturday Kennedy and Khrushchev literally ‘held the whole world in their hands.’” The Russian's letter bristled with warnings, threats, and

repeated denials that he had placed any offensive weapons in Cuba, but it also contained hints of what a peaceful solution might look like—hints so vague that Defense Secretary Robert McNamara called the letter “12 pages of fluff.”

“My approach to drafting a response,” Sorensen wrote, “was borrowed from an old Lincoln High School debate technique: take the other side’s presentation and interpret it as supporting your own objectives. In my much shorter response, we described Khrushchev’s letter as offering a Soviet withdrawal from Cuba of all weapons capable of *offensive* use.” That wording carefully sidestepped Khrushchev’s insistence that the weapons he had placed in Cuba were for “defensive” use.

“It was a giant gamble on our part,” Sorensen noted. “We gambled that we could brazenly induce Khrushchev to accept our position as consistent with his own proposal. We succeeded. I later learned that the Joint Chiefs were discussing an airdrop by the 82nd Airborne, which would mop up Cuba in 72 hours with a loss of only 10,000 Americans more or less.”

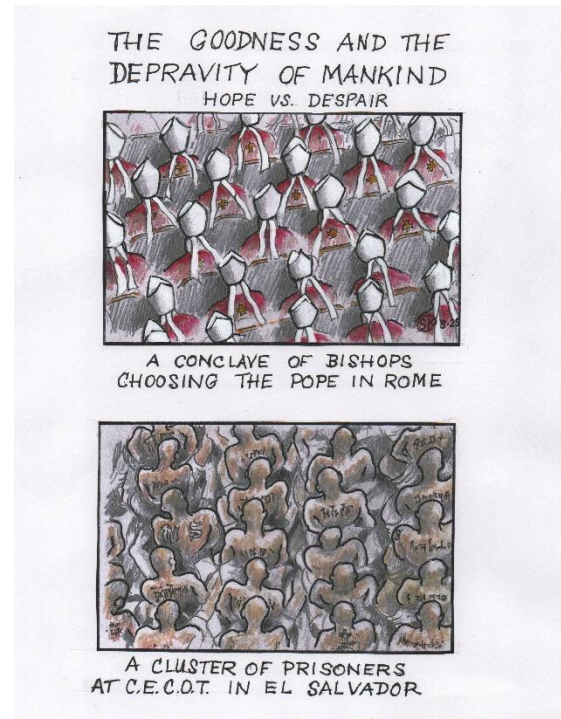
Looking back

“It was not until decades later,” Sorensen said, “that I learned just how close we had come to war. Unbeknownst to us at the time, a Soviet submarine armed with a nuclear-tipped torpedo was approaching the quarantine zone. The submarine commander had the authority to fire its nuclear torpedo if attacked, and his shaken and frightened crew pleaded with him to do so. He did not, largely because he was unable to communicate with Moscow. That slight delay may have prevented nuclear war and possibly global destruction.”

The missile crisis, and a few other developments, led to the first arms control agreement in the nuclear age, the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, signed in Moscow in the late summer of 1963. The crisis also led to the U.S.-Soviet “hotline.” Clearly, both countries needed a better, faster way to communicate.

No other test so starkly put the survival of our country at stake. “It was for that moment that Kennedy had been elected,” Sorensen wrote, “and it was for that moment that he will most be remembered.” And a good reason for us to remember Ted Sorensen too.

The Goodness and The Depravity of Mankind



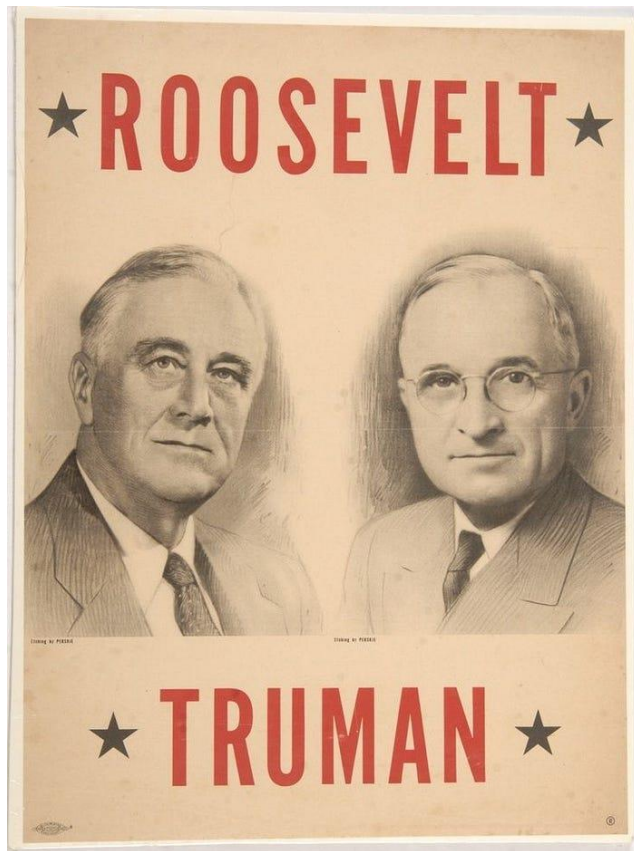
The one drawing I did (from a photo of the bishops) I saved some months ago after the Pope was chosen. Then, when the images of those miserable cecot prisoners were published, I was just taken with the similarity of the images, but when one considers the subject matter, the difference in what is occurring couldn't be greater and is just stunning to me. It is basically church bishops doing God's work compared to a strong-arm dictator following the devil's wishes.

Steve Kemper



Roosevelt and Truman Put On a Masterclass On How to Message

By Dennis Crawford



"There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know." Harry Truman.

The Republican Party is very good at messaging and winning elections — and is terrible at governing. Conversely, the Democrats are a mixed bag when it comes to messaging but we're very good at governing. What that means is we Democrats have lost elections that we should have won. We lost elections in 2000, 2016 and 2024 after very successful presidencies because — in part — we didn't take credit for our successes and didn't inform the voters about past Republican failures.

Republicans never mention the many failures of past Republican presidents. There used to be a cult of personality regarding George W. Bush among Republicans, but he went down the memory hole after his presidency collapsed. Few people remember that the economy was losing 800,000 jobs per month in 2008 and that there were over 200,000 casualties in the botched invasion of Iraq.

Similarly, the GOP never mentioned Trump's failed response to the pandemic during the 2024 campaign. Trump told us to shine a light up our fannies and inject disinfectants. According to *The Lancet*,

Trump's negligence caused approximately 180,000 unnecessary covid deaths.

We can't entirely blame the GOP for this cover up of recent history. The mainstream press never mentions past Republican failures. Moreover, we Democrats deserve a share of the blame. We didn't talk about Bush and Trump's failures during subsequent campaigns. The voters have short memories, and they have to be reminded of these catastrophic failures.

In sharp contrast to the Republicans, the last three Democratic presidents have been successful. You wouldn't know that from listening to the legacy media. The reality is that the "liberal" mainstream trashed Biden for four years and ran down the economy. In addition, the press never mentioned the successes of the Clinton, Obama and Biden presidencies.

During the Clinton Presidency, 22 million new jobs were created, unemployment declined from 7% to 4%, median family income rose, and poverty declined to its lowest rate in 20 years. The Clinton budget also converted what was then the largest budget deficit in American history to a projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion over the next ten years. Hillary Clinton worked with Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch to provide insurance coverage to more than 8 million children.

When Obama was president, the unemployment rate was reduced from 10% to 4.7%. In 2016 alone, the economy added 2.15 million jobs. Moreover, between 2009 and early 2017, the economy added 15.6 million jobs. That was the best record of job creation since Bill Clinton's second term.

During the Obama Administration, 20 million formerly uninsured Americans obtained insurance. The uninsured rate was reduced from 18% to a record low of 8.6%. Lifetime limits in policies were abolished, and insurance companies can no longer discriminate against the sick and the injured.

This is never mentioned by anyone but let's never forget that Joe Biden ended the worst pandemic in over a century. When he took office, there was no plan to distribute the life-saving vaccines. The American Rescue Act of 2021 funded the distribution of the vaccines. Every Republican voted no.

Biden also had an excellent record on the economy. Here are the highlights.

- New jobs were created every month. This was a first.
- 34 straight months of unemployment rate at or below 4.1 %.
- Wages up 4.1% over the past year, faster than 2.7% inflation.
- The lowest unemployment rate of any outgoing president since Lyndon Johnson in 1969.
- 16.6 million jobs created under Biden administration.

We Democrats need to get the message out every election cycle about the successes of the recent Democratic presidents and the failures of Bush 43 and Trump. Voters have short memories, and the Republicans rely upon voter amnesia. We need to refresh voter memories.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman put on a master class on how to message these themes.

In 1944, Roosevelt ran for an unprecedented fourth term during the height of World War II and in a time of full employment. By 1944, the economy had been steadily improving for eleven years, and the Great Depression was in the rearview window. In this cycle, the Republicans falsely presented themselves as moderates and blamed the Democrats for the Great Depression. You can't make this stuff up.

Roosevelt eviscerated these false GOP claims in his famous "Fala" speech of September 23, 1944:

"The whole purpose of Republican oratory these days seems to be to switch labels. The object is to persuade the American people that the Democratic Party was responsible for the 1929 crash and the depression, and that the Republican Party was responsible for all social progress under the New Deal.

Now, imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery — but I am afraid that in this case it is the most obvious common or garden variety of fraud.

Can the Old Guard pass itself off as the New Deal? I think not.

We have all seen many marvelous stunts in the circus, but no performing elephant could turn a handspring without falling flat on his back.

The opposition in this year has already imported into this campaign a very interesting thing, because it is foreign. They have imported the propaganda technique invented by the dictators abroad. Remember, a number of years ago, there was a book, **Mein Kampf**, written by Hitler himself. The technique was all set out in Hitler's book — and it was copied by the aggressors of Italy and Japan. According to that technique, you should never use a small falsehood; always a big one, for its very fantastic nature would make it more credible — if only you keep repeating it over and over and over again."

Harry Truman's 1948 speech to the Democratic Convention echoed similar themes. In this speech, Truman cited the economic progress the American people had made since 1933. At the same time — like Roosevelt — he blamed GOP policies for the Great Depression: "The situation in 1932 was due to the policies of the Republican Party control of the Government of the United States. The Republican Party, as I said a while ago, favors the privileged few and not the common everyday man. Ever since its

inception, that party has been under the control of special privilege."

Unfortunately, we Democrats sometimes have neglected to follow FDR and Truman's example, and we have all paid a price for it. When Al Gore ran for President in 2000, the economy was booming, and we were running our first budget surpluses in decades. Yet Gore ran away from Bill Clinton and his accomplishments — he almost pretended that Clinton didn't exist. Nor did Gore mention the mess that he and President Clinton inherited from the Republicans.

During the election cycles when Obama was president, we Democrats once again neglected to follow Roosevelt and Truman's game plan. In 2010, Obama was unfairly blamed for the Bush recession and bank bailout.

During the 2024 election, Democrats didn't talk about the mess that we inherited and how we cleaned it up in the face of near treasonous GOP obstruction. Most voters had no idea that Trump's first term ended in disaster. Many voters just had a vague sense that prices were lower in 2020 and foolishly gave Trump a second chance.

"Progressives are much too willing to cede history to the other side. Legends about the past matter. Really bad economics flourishes in part because Republicans constantly extol the Reagan record, while Democrats rarely mention how shabby that record was compared with the growth in jobs and incomes under Clinton. The combination of lies, incompetence, and corruption that made the Iraq venture the moral and policy disaster it was should not be allowed to slip into the mists. . . . There's a reason conservatives constantly publish books and articles glorifying Harding and Coolidge while sliming FDR; there's a reason they're still running against Jimmy Carter; and there's a reason they're doing their best to rehabilitate W. And progressives need to fight back." Paul Krugman

We as Democrats need to bring back Franklin Roosevelt's and Truman's game plan and remind the voters again and again that the Democrats are much Harry Truman said: "The only new thing in the world is the history you do not know."

Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Fala Speech, September 23, 1944.

<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/address-philadelphia-upon-accepting-the-nomination-the-democratic-national-convention>

Lancaster County Democrats at the Lancaster County Super Fair

Thanks to the volunteers and visitors at our County Party booth at the Lancaster County Fair!



Donna Bauer, Hannah Wroblewski



Jayden Speed and helper, with Hannah Wroblewski



Graham House and Kristi Egger



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.