

# The Lancaster County Democrat

LANCASTER COUNTY  
DEMOCRATS

December 2025

## Memories of Coleen Seng

By Jim Johnson



Church lady, activist, City Council member, and Mayor; Coleen Seng did it all.

I moved to Lincoln in the mid-1980s, and one of the things on my to-do list was to do some “church-shopping.” As a resident of northeast Lincoln, I decided to try out First United Methodist Church over next to Wesleyan University. I ultimately went a different direction on Sunday mornings, but First UMC has always had a special place in my heart. And one of the reasons was the friendly face of Coleen Seng, helping to make folks feel welcome in the coffee hour after the service.

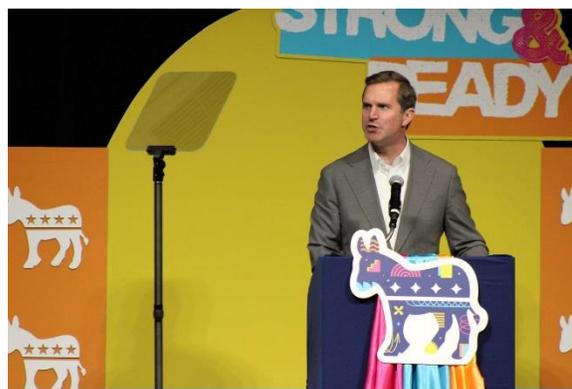
Somewhat later, it dawned on me that this same friendly person was running for City Council in my district. This was mind-expanding for me: can a church lady be a politician? (As I figured out later: yes they can; in fact, **more** politicians should be church ladies!) I think it was at that point that I started paying more attention to local politics, farther down the ballot than the top line that says “President” or “Mayor.”

Coleen had a good run with the City. Sixteen years on the City Council, followed by four years as Mayor. She started the Northeast City Council District tradition of monthly meetings with constituents to see what was on people’s minds. She worked with City staff, businesses, and neighborhoods to strengthen the ties between Lincoln’s city government and its citizens.

Rest in peace, Coleen; thanks for your service to Lincoln!

## Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear Is Impressive

By Dennis Crawford



*Beshear brought down the house in Omaha.*

I saw Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear address a Nebraska Democratic Party fundraiser on November 7. I was very impressed with what I saw and heard.

Beshear’s superb remarks were interrupted numerous times by applause. He is a rare political talent. I would vote for him if the Nebraska primary was today.

Andy Beshear is governor of Kentucky and incoming chair of the Democratic Governors Association. He is actively exploring a 2028 presidential bid.

You will find excerpts from an editorial piece he wrote for the *Washington Post* on November 24. It is similar to his remarks in Omaha. Enjoy.

The Kentucky governor began by reviewing the Democrats’ big victories in the 2025 elections and critiquing Trump and MAGA’s failed policies. And now for his positive message. It was very good.

“Tackling affordability is not enough. To truly lead again, Democrats must be the party of aspiration.

When I look at our country, what worries me is the widespread belief that the American Dream is unattainable, even dead. This is the same American Dream — the promise that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can get ahead — that has inspired generations and lifted America to great heights.

This concern transcends party lines. Families know how much their grocery and utility bills have gone up, and how unaffordable rent or the mortgage is getting. But they also know that the vacation they took as children has slipped out of reach.

Democrats should be the party that will make it possible to build a better life — one in which you're not just making ends meet but setting your family up for long-term success.

Trump's big ugly bill moves the American Dream even further out of reach. By focusing on reviving it, Democrats can win back voters who have been leaving the party in droves.

When I first ran for governor in 2019, I narrowly won Henderson County. Since then, we've opened the cleanest, greenest recycled paper mill there, with 320 jobs that start at almost \$40 an hour including benefits. This mill is in a former coal town that, like too many places in my state, had felt forgotten.

That paper mill resurrected the American Dream for 320 families. And in 2023, I won Henderson County by double-digits.

That's part of what Democrats can do to win in the areas that have been slipping away. Another is to start talking like normal human beings again. We're not going to win the messaging battle if we say that Trump's policies make people "food insecure." No, they make people hungry.

Kentucky was hit hard by the opioid epidemic. I didn't lose friends and acquaintances to "substance use disorder;" I lost them to addiction. Addiction is hard, it's mean, and it kills people. So when people triumph over it, we should give them the credit they deserve by calling it what it is.

Finally, we have to start communicating our "why." For me, it's my faith. I vetoed the nastiest piece of anti-LGBTQ legislation in the country knowing full well that the Republicans in the Kentucky legislature passed it to use in an election year. But tens of millions of dollars of misleading attack ads against me didn't work. Why?

Because I gave Kentuckians the respect of explaining my veto — that I believe all children are children of God and that I didn't think the legislature should be picking on vulnerable kids.

Democrats are good at explaining our "what." Let's get good at explaining our "why."

That's how we will win back the American people. We have to do the hard work of convincing American families that Democrats are the party committed to addressing their day-to-day concerns, that we believe in a brighter future for their children and that we will always give them straight talk. That

we will do, in other words, what Donald Trump and the Republicans have shown they will not."

Beshear has an impressive record of achievement in ruby red Kentucky, where he won three statewide races. When he was elected governor in 2019 and 2023, he defeated Trump endorsed candidates.

His most impressive accomplishments as governor are as follows:

- Made Kentucky the electric vehicle battery capital of the United States.
- The best 5-year period in state history for economic growth.
- Record low unemployment in Kentucky.
- Expanded health care to over 400,000 additional Kentuckians.
- Double digit wage growth.
- Projected to have four largest budget surpluses in Kentucky history.
- Led the way on passage and decriminalization of medical cannabis.
- Restored voting rights for more than 198,000 Kentuckians.
- Signed 941 bipartisan bills.
- A \$15,000 across the board raise for Kentucky State Police.
- Expanded early voting.
- Middle class tax relief.

When Democrats win, we do what Republicans can't — we govern well," Beshear recently told CBS News.

The Democrats won big in the 2025 elections. There was a blue wave across the entire nation. Currently, the Democrats have a double-digit lead in the race for Congress. We are the prohibitive favorites to win the House and the Senate is in play.

Trump and the MAGA Republicans are failing and have broken numerous promises. There is no reason to expect things to get better. Trump will get crazier and the economy will get worse. We are set up for big victories in 2026 and 2028.

If we do the work, we will win. Let's be remembered as the generation that saved the country from fascism. Now let's get to work!

Sources:

Opinion: This slap in the face to rural America is a chance to turn it blue

Democrats should be the party of aspiration - and talk like normal human beings. [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)  
<https://governor.ky.gov/accomplishments>

## **Dedicated Service and Progress in the Public Defender's Office**

**By Kristi Eggers**

The last week has been an exciting one here at the Lancaster County Public Defender's Office. We celebrated with our long-time Investigator, who retired after serving here for 29 years. We also welcomed a new attorney to the Office.

Although our retiring Investigator leaves us in good hands with a lead Investigator he helped train, he also cares enough about the Office and our work that he is helping us pick his own replacement. Considering that we had 17 qualified applicants, interviewed 10, and have 4 more interviews scheduled to find just the right person and the right fit for the job, this shows what a nice guy he is and how dedicated to the Office he continues to be. The farewell email our Investigator wrote to us says it all:

"I can't say enough about how honored and appreciative I am to have worked for the Public Defender. The dedication, patience, commitment, and persistence of the office has always been incredible - serving clients - keeping up the good fight. I feel very fortunate to be someone who can say I loved my job and the people I worked with."

He will be missed, but we do have his address and phone number (*wink*).

And on Monday, December 1, we gained a very experienced felony attorney who is enthusiastic about working in the Office and who needs almost no training. He comes to us as an attorney with 25 years of experience in criminal law and a working knowledge of our case management system. He is an attorney who is already well-liked and well-regarded in the legal community. His positive attitude and good work ethic are definite bonuses, and he is a genuinely nice person, who gets along with everyone. We welcome him to our team!

As you may know, for a while now, our Office has been working on finding an upgraded, useful, and cost-effective evidence discovery platform to help streamline our processes. After saving the County some money on a subscription service that our Investigators use to help locate witnesses, I was able to use that savings to find and help pay for a discovery platform at a reasonable cost,

which will assist us in dealing with the copious amounts of digital evidence we get every day. After a 30-day free trial for 7 of us in the Office (you know I love a good deal), I convinced the County Commissioners to give the OK and sign a contract with a company called *Reduct*. Our Legal Secretary and a Paralegal will take requests from attorneys to get transcripts from audio and video evidence, do timelines, locate sections of videos and cut them for use at trial, and much more. It's exciting how quick and accurate it is, but of course, attorney eyes and ears are still needed, as always.

So, as you can see, the work goes on in the Public Defender's Office, one client at a time and one day at a time, as we all strive to help those through what is likely the darkest period of their lives.

Now, go and help someone.

Kristi Egger, Lancaster County Public Defender  
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## **Bryan and the Scopes Trial Part 3**

**By Jim Schaffer**

In the summer of 1954, a teen-aged Dick Cavett, future television star, along with a few friends from Lincoln High vandalized a statue of William Jennings Bryan, standing just outside the state capitol.

The ten-foot bronze statue showed Bryan in full oratorical pose, arm in the air, perhaps giving his "Cross of Gold" speech. The statue had been placed there in 1947 and apparently caused a good deal of commotion. Cavett remembers fiery letters to the paper, such as one that read, "It looks like our great capitol building is dedicated to this mediocrity."

The controversy reflected how much Bryan's heroic reputation had fallen during the 1920s and '30s. Cavett's friends brought him up to speed. "They told me Bryan was a U.S. Congressman from Nebraska, thrice-failed candidate for president, ardent Prohibitionist and vehement enemy of Darwinism.

"My knowledge was limited to knowing there was a hospital named for him in Lincoln."

Nevertheless, Cavett and his buddies hatched a plot to create some mischief. "Because my friends had no access to dynamite or nitroglycerine, we settled on a less violent course. Whitewash."

After a short night's work, the famous orator had been robbed of his dignity. One white splotch covered his chest with paint dripping down his coat and trouser legs.

Happily for Cavett, he and his chums were never caught. "Lest you worry about my flawed character,"

he wrote, "I'm not proud of this dumb prank. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Soon Bryan's frock coat and trousers were clean, but after a while he was no longer there at all (the statue was moved to Fairview in 1967).

### **Silver wedding anniversary**

On October 1, 1909, the Bryans celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at Fairview together with six hundred relatives, neighbors, and friends. The party took place as Will and Mary were leaning into a life without the joys and anxieties of running for president. Now, Bryan was free to enjoy himself as the most popular orator in America.

But Bryan's best and worst days as a politician still lay ahead. He would become Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson, marking the pinnacle of his political career and soon after, begin a precipitous fall that would scatter his followers and shatter his reputation.

As an example of the veneration people felt toward him, thousands of parents named their children after Bryan. One was William Jennings Bryan Herman, born in Indiana, who grew up to star in the National League as Billy Herman; he is now enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

### **Staking out new positions**

One of Mary's favorite causes was prohibition, and in the spring of 1909, Bryan came out in support of it too, a position that turned an old ally against him, the attorney Clarence Darrow. Darrow had campaigned for Bryan in 1900, but now thought he had become self-righteous, convinced that only he could guide the nation along the path of virtue.

### **Wilson is the one**

During the 1912 Democratic convention, Bryan drafted most of the party's platform, marking the fifth consecutive time he had done so. More momentous, however, was Bryan switching his vote for the party's presidential nominee from Champ Clark to Woodrow Wilson. Eventually, enough Democrats followed Bryan's lead, supporting the idea of a moderate reformer, as Wilson was perceived. Wilson was able to capture the nomination—on a record forty-sixth ballot.

### **Wilson wins the election**

The result of the 1912 election was thrilling for Democrats who wondered if they would ever occupy the White House again. Wilson won over four hundred electoral votes; his party took more than two-thirds of the seats in the House. The victory meant that Bryan

could shed his image as a valiant loser and emerge as the president-elect's most indispensable ally.

Meanwhile, brother Charles Bryan, seven years younger than Will, began running for office himself. He was twice-elected mayor of Lincoln and three times governor of Nebraska; in 1924, he ran for vice president on the Democratic ticket.

All things considered, Inauguration Day in 1913 was a fine day to be a Democrat. Woodrow Wilson took the oath of office before a huge crowd on the north side of the Capitol, the largest crowd in inaugural history. Bryan gloried in the moment. The last time a Democrat sat in the White House he'd been a young congressman; now, nearing age 53, he had returned to Washington as the designated secretary of state and was sitting directly behind Wilson on the speaker's platform.

Bryan seemed like a good choice for that position. He had traveled the world more widely and more recently than Wilson. For the most part, Bryan and Wilson shared a broad view of how the United States should act in the world. Bryan, for example, had confidence that well-meaning Christians could transform the world into a polite, even brotherly place. But as the era of Victorian optimism began to wane, that view would come to seem quaint and unpractical.

### **World War I Arrives**

The onset of World War I made Bryan's hopes for universal peace seem irrelevant. Hoping to stay neutral in the growing conflict, Bryan faced a dilemma: his anti-war position would soon be at odds with the President's decision to defend American lives abroad. Bryan's twenty-seven months in Wilson's cabinet marked both the high point of his career and the end.

But in the spring of 1913, Bryan could celebrate the ratification of several constitutional changes he had been advocating since the 1890s — the Sixteenth Amendment which created the income tax, and the Seventeenth, which provided for the popular election of senators. Bryan's most significant piece of legislation, the Federal Reserve Act, put the U.S. government in charge of issuing money and regulating the banks. Bryan also supported the creation of the Federal Trade Commission, to be a watchdog over the trusts.

### **A falling out with Wilson**

At the end of April, not long after a German U-boat sank a small British steamer, killing an American citizen, the president thanked Bryan for voicing his anti-war opinions, and then quickly rejected them. On May 7, 1915, a U-boat torpedoed the *Lusitania*, a British-owned passenger liner, just off the coast of

Ireland. One hundred twenty-eight of the victims were American citizens.

Bryan's doom as secretary of state was now clear. While Wilson was not quite ready to call for war, he knew that Bryan's neutrality was no longer tenable. It was time for the secretary of state to accept defeat. Full of anguish and unable to sleep, Bryan made up his mind to quit. On June 8, a courier delivered his letter of resignation to the White House. "I believe I can do more on the outside to prevent war than I can on the inside," Bryan said.

### **Off to Florida**

In 1916, Will and Mary left Nebraska for the soothing breezes of southern Florida. The couple built a Spanish-style mansion in Miami they called Villa Serena. Will stayed there whenever his schedule allowed; until 1921, for voting purposes, he remained a citizen of Nebraska.

He and Mary opened Villa Serena to the public every Friday afternoon, and hundreds of people came to chat over tea, fruit punch, and sandwiches. Bryan also taught an outdoor Bible class in an oceanfront park to thousands of tourists and locals. Bryan was as comfortable preaching about "eternal truths" as crusading for the latest political reform. Now a second career as an evangelist was dawning. But the idea of a Christian left, so vital to Bryan's appeal, would soon sound rather quaint. The times were changing.

### **Turning to religion**

In the 1920s, Bryan was in his sixties and faced a few health problems. Still, he mustered the energy to become chief spokesman for a ban on teaching Darwinian theory in public schools. The climax of his life took place in 1925 at the trial of *State of Tennessee v John Thomas Scopes*.

*Inherit the Wind*, the fictionalized 1955 play about the trial and then 1960 movie, remains a lightning rod for Bryan's fans and critics—even though its scriptwriters meant their story to serve as a metaphor for McCarthyism and not evolution. Bryan preferred to say simply that he was defending Christianity. He spent little time talking about the "truth" of the Bible and most of his time hailing its power to fix human flaws and solve social problems. "Christ went about doing good," he said in a 1922 lecture.

### **Eve of the trial**

At the time of the trial, laws against teaching evolution had only passed in a few places. Whenever a new law was proposed, however, Bryan was nearly always at hand. As he made his case, Bryan tried to avoid the image of intolerance. There was no harm in

describing Darwinism to students as a mere "hypothesis," he said, just don't teach it "as true."

In the spring of 1925, Bryan received an invitation to join prosecutors in upholding Tennessee's new law against the teaching of evolution. He immediately agreed. Bryan persuaded his son, William Junior, to come from Los Angeles to work alongside him, predicting this would "become one of the greatest trials in history."

### **Scopes trial**

The final public event of Bryan's career has long overshadowed his political campaigns and causes. The famous trial over teaching evolution in school made for an unlikely courtroom drama. Both sides agreed that the defendant, John Scopes, a 24-year-old substitute teacher, was guilty of violating a state statute. Scopes was ultimately convicted but never suffered for his "crime." In fact, he basked in the renown of the case for the rest of his life.

Yet his trial drew over a hundred reporters, a huge radio audience, and seized the attention of the nation. "Here has been fought out a case of little consequence," Bryan said, "but the world is interested because it raises an issue, and that issue will someday be settled whether it is settled on our side or the other side."

The apparent issue in the case was a Tennessee law that questioned whether a teacher in a public school was free to teach as he chose. But what people cared about was a much larger question: could the Bible be reconciled with the writings of Charles Darwin? The famous attorney Clarence Darrow agreed to lead Scopes' defense only after he learned that Bryan would be joining the other side.

The prosecution began the trial by proving the obvious: several of Scopes' students told the court he had indeed reviewed a lesson about evolution in class. Bryan took center stage on Friday, July 16. For almost an hour, he summarized his case, defending the right of parents to control what their children learned in school. Over the following weekend, spectators and participants were confident that nothing remained except closing arguments and a certain verdict.

### **Bryan's last stand**

On July 20, the next to last day of the trial, the judge announced that the proceedings would move to the lawn outside the courthouse, where a platform and wooden seats had been placed. He wanted to allow as many people as possible to hear the closing arguments.

Soon after court reconvened, one of the defense attorneys delighted the crowd of about three thousand with a big surprise: "The defense desires to call Mr.

Bryan as a witness.” Now the trial could finally become the great contest of faith the press had expected. Darrow would conduct the cross-examination.

“You have given considerable study to the Bible, haven’t you, Mr. Bryan?” Darrow began. “Yes sir, I have tried to,” Bryan replied. For the next two hours, the celebrated duo discussed the trustworthiness of Scripture. “Do you believe a whale swallowed Jonah?” “Do you believe Joshua made the sun stand still? “Do you take the story of the flood to be a literal interpretation?”

Bryan refused to concede any of Darrow’s questions. The whale, he supposed, was only ‘a large fish,’ and perhaps God had not told it to swallow a man. But when Darrow asked for the date of the Flood, Bryan said that “I do not think about things I don’t think about.” That gave Darrow all the room he needed: “Do you think about things you do think about?” “Well, sometimes.”

Laughter ensued in the courtyard. It was the seventh day of the trial, and as author Michael Kazin writes, Bryan should have rested. It soon became clear that Bryan was no match for a shrewd opponent who asked sharp questions and would not let up. The next morning, the judge ordered Bryan’s testimony stricken from the record because it could “shed no light upon any issues that will be pending before the higher courts.”

Judge Raulston fined Scopes the minimum of \$100, which a newspaper immediately offered to pay. Despite the verdict, the *New York Times* called the confrontation “a pathetic performance, with a famous American the butt of a crowd’s rude laughter.” On Sunday morning, July 26, Bryan attended a local church service. Then he had lunch with Mary and to save his strength for an evening sermon, Bryan went to his bedroom for an afternoon nap. He never woke up.

### **Bryan’s legacy**

In recent times, some evangelical leaders have praised Bryan. In 1994, Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, hailed him as “the most consequential evangelical politician of the twentieth century.” But historians seem to have forgotten how central he was to so many issues—the rights of working men and women, the regulation of big business, the reform of campaign finance, progressive taxation, and more. In the long shadow of the Scopes trial, other memories of Bryan gradually faded from public consciousness.

Yet thanks largely to Bryan, the Democrats ceased being the more conservative of the two major parties. His rhetoric, preaching both for God and the welfare of the common American, helped create a new style of politics. John Scopes, of all people, regretted

that Bryan hadn’t survived into the age of television, when “he could have projected his personality to millions” and had a better chance of being elected president.

Perhaps the final word on the subject should go to three-time Nebraska Governor Frank Morrison: “Out of the bastion of conservatism emerged a 36-year-old lawyer who stamped the Democratic National Convention of 1896 with an electrifying speech. William Jennings Bryan was an ultra-conservative fundamentalist Christian who led the liberal forces of the nation for economic justice.”

## **Tyson’s Plant Closure Shows the Cost of Consolidation for Rural America**

**By Angela Huffman**



I grew up in rural Ohio where the closing of a plant, a school, or even a diner could shift the rhythm of a community overnight. In a small town, everything’s connected. So, when I read the news about Tyson closing its beef plant in Lexington, Nebraska, it hit me the way these stories always do. You feel it in your stomach before you even get to the numbers.

I’m starting this Substack to speak more directly and personally about what’s happening in our food system. I’ve spent years working on these issues, and this will be a place to dig into food, health, rural life, and the corporate and political forces shaping them. If you’d like to stay connected, you can subscribe for new posts.

### **A Warning for Rural America**

Tyson Foods’ decision to close its beef plant in Lexington is a major hit to a town of about 10,000 people. The plant employs 3,200 workers, and its loss will reshape the community. But the impact doesn’t stop there. When a handful of corporations dominate a market, their decisions send shockwaves

through entire regions and affect the stability of our food supply nationwide.

### **Workers Feel the Impact First**

The UFCW is right to call the closure “a devastating blow” to workers. When a single employer dominates a small town, thousands of families lose income at once. Next, businesses that depend directly on the plant feel the impact.

Nebraska Public Media reports that a sanitation contractor at the plant has announced it will lay off all 139 of its workers because of the closure.

From there, the strain spreads quickly. Local businesses see spending drop, and churches and community groups often step in with whatever support they can manage. A plant this size can define the local economy, and its sudden loss creates fear and instability for everyone.

But the story does not end there.

### **Ranchers Lose Their Market Next**

The Lexington plant could process about 5,000 head of cattle a day. With so few large plants left, there aren't many other places for that volume to go. Removing that demand weakens cattle markets across the country. The Associated Press reports that this closure, along with cuts at a Tyson plant in Texas, could shrink national processing capacity by 7 to 9 percent.

Ranchers were already dealing with high costs, drought, and years of uneven prices. Now they face even less competition for their cattle. When there are fewer packers active in the market, ranchers have less bargaining power, and cattle prices fall even as beef prices in grocery stores stay near record highs.

Some, including independent Nebraska Senate candidate Dan Osborn, argue that Tyson chose to close the plant instead of selling it in order to manipulate the market, which they say may violate federal antitrust law.

Just four corporations control almost all U.S. beef processing. Tyson and the other big packers can slow down or speed up processing with little cost to themselves. Ranchers, workers, and rural communities are the ones who pay the price.

### **Imports from Argentina Add More Pressure**

Domestic processing capacity is shrinking, and the United States already imports more beef than it exports. Shipments from Argentina are now increasing as well. Farm Action raised concerns about this recently when President Trump suggested relying on Argentinian beef to bring prices down.

More imported beef in an already consolidated market makes it harder for U.S. ranchers to stay afloat. Rebuilding the American cattle herd takes time and

money, and ranchers are less likely to invest when imported beef fills shelves instead of cattle raised here at home. And because we still do not have mandatory country of origin labeling, consumers cannot tell where their beef comes from. Multinational corporations benefit from that lack of transparency. U.S. ranchers and rural communities do not.

### **When a Town Depends on One Company**

Lexington's story shows what happens when a rural town depends on one large, distant corporation. A plant like this anchors the local tax base, the housing market, and the strength of schools and hospitals. When the corporation leaves, those supports start to erode. Families move, enrollment drops, staffing gets harder, and long-term investments stall.

This is the deeper risk of consolidation. Rural towns need diverse and stable economies, but decades of corporate concentration have left many communities with only one major employer. When that employer shuts a plant, the effects reach far beyond the immediate job losses and can strain an entire region for years.

### **There Is a Better Path Forward**

What happened in Lexington is not an accident. It reflects policy choices that concentrated power and weakened the position of workers, ranchers, and rural towns. We can make different choices.

Here are a few places to start:

- Rebuild competitive markets by enforcing antitrust laws and reducing the power of dominant meatpackers.
- Support local and regional processing so no community is left dependent on a single plant.
- Restore transparency by reinstating mandatory country of origin labeling for beef.
- Strengthen the U.S. cattle herd so we do not continue sliding toward greater reliance on foreign imports.

Workers, ranchers, and rural communities deserve better than this. They should not be left at the mercy of a few global corporations. A fair and resilient food system is possible, but only if we stand with the people who keep it going.

### **A Note Before You Go**

In the weeks ahead, I'll share more updates on what's happening across rural America and in our food system. If you know someone who would find this helpful, feel free to pass it along or subscribe. Thanks for being here.

# The Republicans' Hidden Insurance Tax

By Dennis Crawford



Don Old Trump's central promise in 2024 was to cut prices. At the Republican National Convention he announced, "Inflation will vanish completely." In August 2024, he said: "When I win, I will immediately bring prices down, starting on Day One."

He even promised to bring down soaring insurance premiums in August 2024: "Prices will come down. You just watch. They'll come down and they'll come down fast. Not only with insurance, with everything." He even promised to cut auto insurance premiums in half! Trump made the promise on Truth Social on September 17, 2024, when he posted: "Your Automobile Insurance is up 73% — VOTE FOR TRUMP, I'LL CUT THAT NUMBER IN HALF!"

Since Trump has taken office, he has broken his many promises of price cuts beginning on day one. In fact, many of his police have increased prices. Currently, inflation is higher than it was in 2024.

One of the areas where Trump has broken his promise is when it comes to climate change. Trump has slashed spending on renewable energy and supported dirty, fossil fuels. Climate change is jacking up property-casualty insurance rates and has the potential to destroy the insurance market.

Trump and the Republicans in Congress have gutted the landmark Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This law invested in renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions by roughly 40% by 2030. It also provided tax credits for clean energy and electric vehicles and supported renewable energy jobs.

The Republicans' Big Big Ugly Bill terminated tax credits for clean energy, solar and wind. The tax credit for electric vehicles was eliminated, potentially leading to fewer plug-in car sales. The bill also provided tax credits for the production of coal and expands tax credits for carbon capture technology.

At the same time, the regime has allowed more oil drilling in California and Alaska. Moreover, Trump

once again reneged on the 2015 Paris Agreement, whose goal was to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 26–28% below 2005 levels by 2025.

All of this will contribute to a warming world, which has many serious and negative consequences. One of those consequences is soaring insurance premiums for property and auto insurance. Extreme weather events are inflicting significant damage on autos and buildings all over the United States.

The insurance crisis is especially acute in deep red Nebraska. National Public Radio sent an intrepid reporter out to tiny Cozad, Nebraska to evaluate the impact of climate change on the weather and insurance rates. Cozad had the misfortune to get leveled in a hailstorm on June 29, 2024. This small town has still not recovered.

The pertinent excerpts from the NPR report of November 13, 2025 are as follows:

"But extremely costly hailstorms are getting more likely in the United States, researchers warn. Across the central and eastern U.S., the weather conditions that can produce hail that's at least the size of a pool ball have gotten more common, according to Deborah Bathke, Nebraska's state climatologist. And the Great Plains are expected to have more frequent hail as the planet warms up.

That risk is driving up the cost of home insurance in the middle of the country, saddling average Americans with huge bills. Areas with the most hail risk are seeing some of the fastest growing home insurance prices in the U.S.

That escalating damage is a reminder that, as climate change drives more extreme weather, geography is no longer a guarantee of protection from skyrocketing insurance rates.

The central United States is home to the worst hail risk on the planet. That has led to enormous bills for property insurance companies.

Last summer's hailstorm in Cozad caused an estimated \$100 million in property damage, according to local insurance agent Brian Messersmith — an enormous sum for a town of just 4,000 people.

And, in 2024, hail damage contributed to \$54 billion in insured losses from severe convective storms in the U.S., which include severe thunderstorms and other storms capable of producing large hail, according to the Insurance Information Institute, an industry-run think tank.

With losses mounting, insurance companies have raised prices in recent years. Nationwide, the cost of insurance rose about 8% faster than inflation between 2018 and 2022, according to a major report published by the Treasury Department in January.

The report found that the average price of property insurance in the Great Plains was

significantly higher than the national average, with consumers in the Northern Plains paying about 20% more than the national average, and consumers in the Southern Plains paying more than 45% more. In Nebraska, the average cost of homeowners insurance this year is nearly \$6,400, according to Bankrate. That's the highest in the country, and almost \$4,000 vvvvvabove the national average."

We are all paying significantly higher premiums on our homes and autos due to the Republicans' fealty to the fossil fuel industry. This is a hidden tax that affects all Americans. This "tax increase" is hurting Trump's own supporters the most. I suspect most of them don't even know it.

It is our jobs as Democrats to inform all Americans about the damage Trump and the MAGA Republicans are doing to the country. We don't have our own propaganda organ to get out the story. Moreover, we can't count on the Vichy, corporate media to properly inform the American people. It's up to us.

The last three Democratic presidents have all tried to address the climate crisis — only to see those policies reversed by subsequent Republican presidents. Bill Clinton negotiated the 1997 Kyoto climate agreement. Barack Obama attempted to limit coal fired electric plants only to see his plans thwarted by the Republicans on the Supreme Court.

It was Obama who entered into the 2015 Paris Agreement. Joe Biden renewed America's adherence to that agreement and passed the most far-reaching renewable energy bill in the nation's history.

If you want to do something about climate change, you have to vote for Democrats. We don't need any more infighting and purity tests. We need to unite behind our candidates. We may not be perfect, but they're nuts!

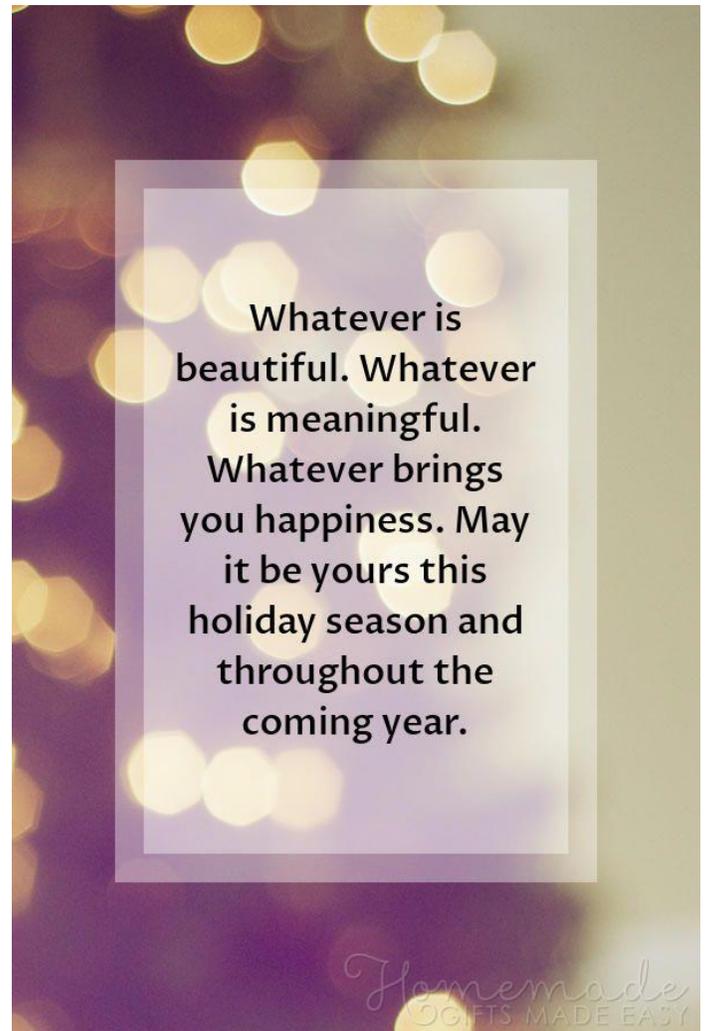
MAGA means Morons Are Governing America.  
Throw the bums out! Blue wave 2026!

**Sources:**

<https://doggett.house.gov/issues/trumps-economic-promises-timeline>

Donald Trump Says He'll Cut Your Insurance in Half.  
<https://e360.yale.edu/digest/big-beautiful-bill-renewable-energy-china>

Why home insurance is unaffordable, even in place without wildfires or hurricanes  
[https://journalstar.com/news/article\\_47c92366-b143-579b-a294-cea2534a7dd9.html](https://journalstar.com/news/article_47c92366-b143-579b-a294-cea2534a7dd9.html)





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