



We celebrated the 38th Patriots Dinner during unprecedented times, the first in person Dinner since the start of the Global COVID-19 pandemic—a pandemic that gripped our nation and laid bare the difficulties we face in our nation.

We will be forever grateful for the leadership of our Democratic Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and our Democratic Lincoln City Councilors James Michael Bowers, Tammy Ward, Bennie Shobe, Tom Beckius, Sandra Washington, and Jane Raybould who bravely stood up for the safety and well-being of us all while leading us through this unprecedented time. Thanks to our City's leadership, we are able to gather safely once again.

With our upcoming Congressional District 1 Special Election and Midterm Elections, we have the opportunity to elect a Democratic Governor, Congressional Representative and State Senators who will work to help Nebraska families and continue the fight to protect Nebraskans' reproductive justice!

We celebrated our successes and rallied for the future. A future that, just days past our event, is in danger of falling fully into a fascist state as a fully Conservative Majority of Supreme Court Justices have voted to overturn the 1973 decision which guaranteed federal constitutional protections of abortion rights of *Roe V. Wade* and additionally *Planned Parenthood V. Casey*. This is an attack on the American people's right to privacy and the continued fallout of this horrendous decision has been the erosion of trust in the government and continued attacks from extremist GOP Governors stating they will challenge the rights to education.

We must be bold now, taking to heart our previous wins and steeling ourselves for a fight for our democracy and the continuation of our rights as American Citizens.

None of this would be possible without each of you, your sacrifices, your time and energy fighting to elect our Representatives who uphold our Democracy. You are the backbone of our party; you hold our courage and our hope for a better future.

The Lancaster County Democratic Party congratulates our 2022 Award Honorees and everything they do to improve our community and our Party.

Legacy Award Jim Garver

Jim Garver dedicated his life to making our public schools a better place and fighting for all of our students. He served on the Lincoln public school board for 20 years and then went on to serve on the southeast community college board of governors since 2007. Jim has been an active member of the Lancaster County Democrats and tirelessly supported Democratic candidates up and down the ballot for countless years. Lancaster County Democrats have truly lost a giant and we are forever grateful for his and Rachel Garver's dedication to our party. For our inaugural Legacy Award, there is no one more deserving than Jim Garver.

Outstanding Young Democrat Eric Reiter

Eric served as the Vice Chair of the Lancaster County Democratic Party and advocated for an expanded and inclusive LCDP. Prior, he had been a vital part of the county and state party by being a part of the Stonewall Caucus, Nebraska Young Democrats, and volunteering for countless campaigns. Lancaster County is better for the tireless work of Eric Reiter over the past few years. Eric is a model for uncompromisingly standing true to Democratic values and being steadfast to the work. He is an incredible human who has and will continue to make this city, county, state, and country a better place to live.

Volunteer of the Year Chris McCoy

Chris started volunteering during the pandemic. She started as most of us in phone banking but quickly she was recruiting and managing volunteers. Before she knew it, she became chair of the Membership Committee. Chris accepted each new responsibility with a smile and a great attitude. She displayed friendly professionalism and enthusiasm among volunteers and with each new responsibility.

Community Outreach Award Pastor Janet Goodman Banks

Pastor Janet Goodman Banks has phone banked for just about every campaign in Lancaster County. She has always represented our Democratic values while ensuring we continue outreach to every community. From serving the county and state party with grace, Pastor Banks has done it all while also continuing her education in nursing school.

Salute to Labor Award IBEW Local 265

In recognition of IBEW Local 265's dedication to ensure that every worker has their bread and roses while upholding our democratic values. From unionizing our State Party staff and fighting to organizing campaign workers, to always standing with our County Party, there is no local more deserving of this year's Salute to Labor Award than IBEW Local 265.

Chair's Award Sarah Cohen Walker

Sarah has been of service to many Lancaster County candidates over the years and served as President of the Nebraska Stonewall Democrats and as a board member for the Nebraska Young Democrats. She has also been part of organizing efforts for the Youth Mental Health Protection ordinance and anti-Voter ID efforts. Sarah has been an exemplary member of the party and is much deserving of this honor.

Chair's Award Tom Green

Not only has Tom Green proudly represented the Lancaster County Democrats as a board member of the NRD Lower Platte South but he's also been an active member of our county party for years. Tom serves as our Bylaws Chair and always does a phenomenal job of ensuring our County Party never stops running. We would be nothing without our forever Bylaws Chair, the one and only, Tom Green.

Patriots' Award Senators Adam Morfeld and Anna Wishart

Senator Morfeld has truly made a lifelong effort to fulfill the ideals of LCDP. Senator Morfeld founded Civic Nebraska while he was an undergrad at UNL, a civics group that aims to advance civic education, health and voting rights. Senator Morfeld has worked to advance voting rights, as well as another number of other civil rights, in his capacity as an attorney and Senator in the Nebraska legislature. Senator Morfeld also has made a considerable contribution in legalizing medical marijuana in Nebraska. The State legislature will be at a loss upon the completion of Senator Morfeld's tenure.

Senator Wishart began her political career volunteering on campaigns. She worked as a part time coordinator for LCDP before running for Airport Authority, beating out a well-known incumbent. She has now served one full term on the legislature and was re-elected for a second term during the pandemic. She maintains her Democratic values in the legislation she champions and in her leadership in the legislature.

Our Patriots event could not be possible without the volunteer efforts of our Fundraising team and all the volunteers who made this night a success.

Thank you to all of our award winners and volunteers who make up our party. We will continue to ask for your involvement and your support as we, *once again*, face the most important election of our lives.

In solidarity,

Hannah Wroblewski (she/her)
Chair | Lancaster County Democratic Party



The Patty Pansing Brooks Congressional campaign has raised over \$620,000 to date! She has recently received endorsements from former governor and U.S. senator Ben Nelson, as well as former governor and U.S. senator Bob Kerrey. She has also received the sole Congressional District 1 endorsement from the Nebraska State Education Association and has also been endorsed by the AFL-CIO, IBEW and the Sierra Club, among other groups.

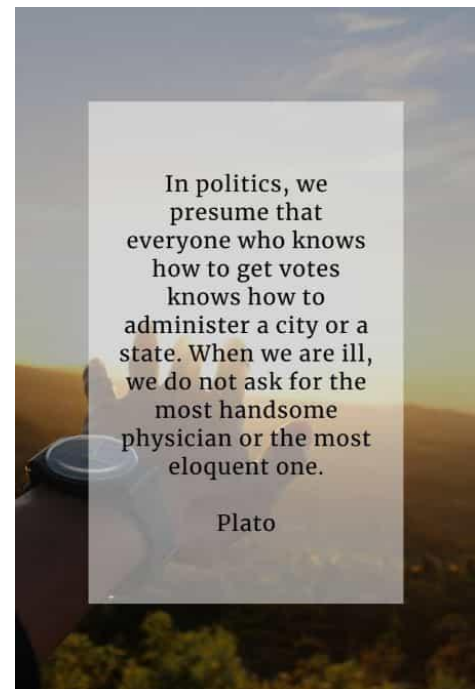
In Congress, Patty wants to expand our workforce, improve and expand infrastructure, including high-speed Internet for rural areas. Patty will work to bring down the cost of living and bring a stop to the detrimental effects of inflation on Americans. In addition, Patty will work to bring down prescription drug prices and premiums under the Affordable Care Act. Following the devastating news of the leaked Supreme Court opinion that would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Patty will work to ensure reproductive rights are protected for everyone. Following this, she will continue to fight for LGBTQIA+ rights, as well as voting rights for all.

Patty Pansing Brooks is a representative for everyone of all backgrounds. She believes in working together with people of all political persuasions, and she believes everyone deserves a place at the table, regardless of gender, income, education, race and

ethnicity, religion, and politics. Patty is a compassionate leader willing to listen to everyone. She has integrity and character, and she's willing to make big changes in Congress to better the lives of all Americans. Her experience in leadership and community involvement put her in a perfect place to lead our country in the right direction.

With the primary election coming up, Patty would like to encourage voters to vote in all three elections: the primary election, May 10; the special election, June 28; and the general election, November 8.

Vote for Patty three times!



Nebraska Republicans in Disarray

By Dennis Crawford

The Nebraska Republican Party has a history of wild and divisive primary election contests. In the 1998 gubernatorial primary, Representative Jon Christensen ran around the state claiming that he and his fiancé were waiting until marriage to consummate their relationship. Christensen subsequently self-destructed when he falsely accused Mike Johanns of being a child pornographer.

The 2012 Senate primary was equally ugly. In the last few days of the campaign, Joe Ricketts funded a TV ad showing dollar bills falling like snowflakes on Jon Bruning. This ad crystallized how Bruning had made millions of dollars on a government salary and knocked him out of the race.

The 2022 gubernatorial primary is equally nasty and weird. UNL Regent Jim Pillen is running a television ad falsely claiming that Democrats hate the police and the U.S.A. Pillen also ran an ad in which he cocked his rifle when he mentioned Joe Biden and Anthony Fauci.

Chuck Herbster's campaign is even stranger. This Trump endorsed candidate has been credibly accused of sexually assaulting eight women. In all eight instances, there is a witness backing up the charge.

In response to the allegations of sexual assault, Herbster has sued State Senator Julie Slama for libel with the assistance of the Trump legal team. Chuck Herbster better be careful what he wishes for. Trump's lawyers went 1-61 in the 2020 election litigation and Herbster will have to testify under oath.

In sharp contrast, State Senator Brett Lindstrom is running as a normal person. Nonetheless, Lindstrom is every bit as extreme as his rivals. The Omaha state senator supports a near total abortion ban, which contains no exceptions for the victims of rape and incest. Moreover, Lindstrom's bill calls for criminal penalties for doctors who perform abortions and could expose physicians to felony charges.

James Carville did an excellent job in diagnosing what's wrong with today's GOP: "When you have Moscow Mitch saying, 'We need more sane people,' that means you got a lot of really crazy people...They are a weird political party," he added. "These are people that talk about testicle tanning."

Despite the dysfunction in the GOP, some Democrats are temporarily switching their registration to Republican to vote for the less insane but still radical Lindstrom. According to Nebraska Public Media and the *Nebraska Examiner*,

approximately 2,000 voters have switched. Veteran political campaign manager and consultant Kevin Cass called it a "Drop in the bucket."

It's important that Democrats don't switch their party registration — even on a temporary basis. Our candidates need your help on May 10.

The Lancaster County Democratic Party posted the following on their Facebook page:

"Nebraska Democrats

Pay ATTENTION:

Below is a Primary Ballot for Democrats. No GOP are listed for Congress or GOVERNOR. If you switch party to vote for "least harmful" GOP YOU WILL NOT SEE Carol Blood OR Patty Pansing Brooks' names on that GOP BALLOT.

Do you get it that doing this hurts your best candidates?"

Nebraska Democratic Party Chair Jane Kleeb posted the following on Twitter:

"Dear Dems in Nebraska — please don't fall for the GOP scam of switching your party to vote for the lesser of the 4 evils in GOP Gov's race. There are Dem races that need your primary votes to show strength out of primary going into the general. Do not give your power to the GOP. "

Democratic gubernatorial candidate and State Senator Carol Blood had a similar message:

"People who are changing parties to pick the "lesser" of the evils can't vote for me or for our congressional candidates. Those votes make a difference when it comes to like-minded organizations looking to help with funding if it doesn't look like we can bring folks to the polls."

Senator Blood made a very important point. There are many critical legislative races across the state. It is very important that the Democratic candidates finish first or a close second. Any candidate who finishes a distant second is frequently written off and can't raise any money for the general election.

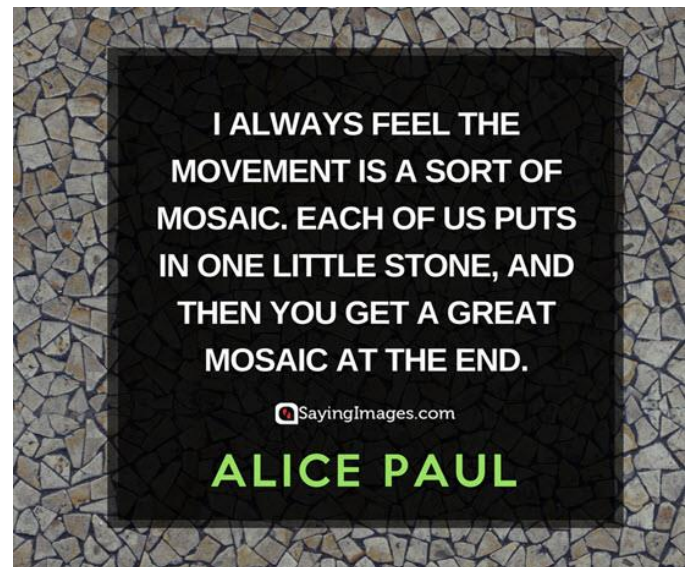
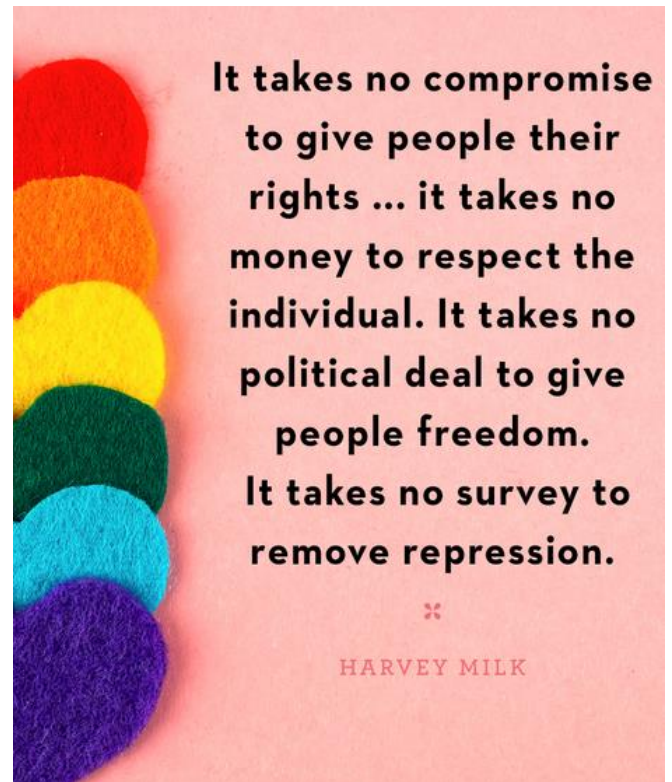
The legislative elections in 2022 are absolutely critical. The Republicans have a path to 33 seats — enough votes to break a filibuster. If the GOP gets a filibuster proof majority, they will wreck the state with their radical agenda. The GOP would try to ban abortions, pass punitive LGBTQ legislation and impose a regressive consumption tax.

Every Republican running for governor is an extremist who wants to turn the clock back in Nebraska. The only candidate offering any real solutions to our problems is State Senator Carol Blood. At a recent candidate forum, Blood said it best: "If you're unhappy with how things have been the last few decades, if you're unhappy with the fact that your property taxes are too high, then I'm going to ask you, "Why do you keep voting the same way?"

State Senator Carol Blood has the experience to actually tackle Nebraska's problems. She is the only candidate talking about genuine issues and solutions. If we are going to elect Carol Blood governor, we have to do more than vote for her. We have to contribute both our time and money to her campaign. We can do this! Let's get it done!

The Democratic primary ballot in LD 29 in Lincoln. Nebraska Democrats need your vote on May 10.

Democratic Party, Official Ballot, Primary Election, May 10, 2022		
Lancaster County, Nebraska	State of Nebraska	5 C-3
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER 1. TO VOTE, YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL COMPLETELY (●). 2. Use a black ink pen to mark the ballot. 3. To vote for a WRITE-IN candidate, write in the name on the line provided AND darken the oval completely. 4. DO NOT CROSS OUT OR ERASE. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.		
COUNTY TICKET For Public Defender Vote for ONE <input type="radio"/> Joe Nigro <input type="radio"/> Kristi Egger <input type="radio"/>		
CONGRESSIONAL TICKET For Representative in Congress District 1 - Two Year Term Vote for ONE <input type="radio"/> Jazari Kual Zakania <input type="radio"/> Patty Pansing Brooks <input type="radio"/>		
NONPARTISAN TICKET For Member of the Legislature District 28 Vote for ONE <input type="radio"/> Jane Raybould <input type="radio"/> Roy A. Christensen <input type="radio"/>		
STATE TICKET For Governor Vote for ONE <input type="radio"/> Roy A. Harris <input type="radio"/> Carol Blood <input type="radio"/>		
For Secretary of State Vote for ONE <input type="radio"/>		
For State Treasurer Vote for ONE <input type="radio"/>		



Right to Work Explained

By John Markey

With John Kretzschmar retired, I'm going to try to contribute articles on labor. I'm a long-time member of the IBEW and enjoy union history.

Right to work seems to be the most misunderstood concept in labor law. It is often mistaken for the doctrine of at will employment, which simply means that an employee can be fired for any reason that is not specifically prohibited by state or federal law.

Right to work is much different than at will employment. To make sense of it, we must go to the core of the issue, the security clause.

The origin of the security clause in the United States dates back to the early 1790s, shortly after the ratification of the Bill of Rights. A group of Philadelphia shoemakers had grown tired of starting work before sunrise and finishing after dark. Struggling to care for their families, they saw their employers grew wealthy.

These shoemakers formed the Federal Society of Journeyman Cordwainers, the first union in American history. Though there was no written security clause, the solidarity among these shoemakers was so strong that their union functioned as if they had one. Members simply refused to work in a shop that employed a non-member. With all shoemakers in the union, the negotiating power of the shoemakers was as strong as the employers. This negotiating power resulted in much improved living conditions for the shoemakers while still allowing good profits for the employers.

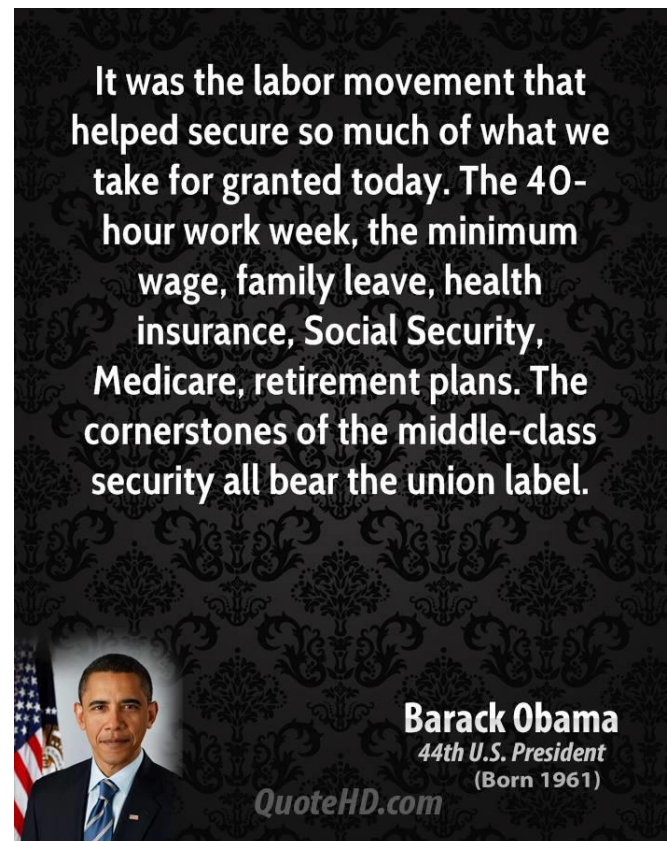
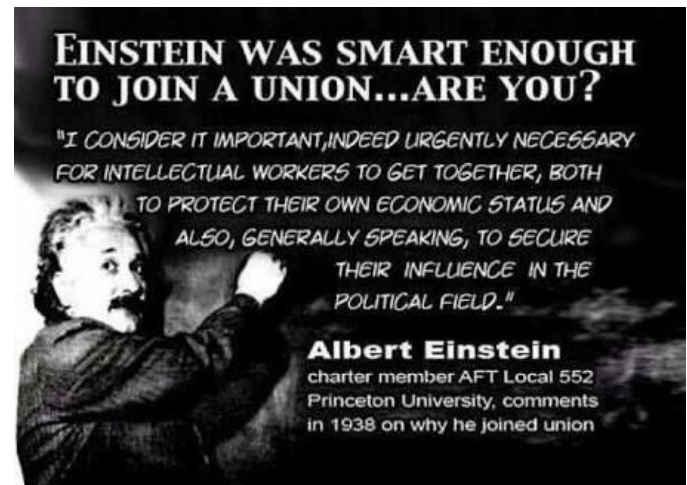
A security clause is a provision contained in many union agreements that generally requires, as a condition of employment, that all employees maintain membership in the union representing them. Security clauses are not automatic, they must be negotiated and agreed upon by both the employer and the union. There is no law in the United States that compels union membership.

States that adopt right to work laws prohibit the use of security clauses in union agreements. This allows employees to refuse to join the union that represents them and reap the union negotiated wages, benefits and working conditions without making their fair contribution to the effort.

The National Right to Work Committee likes to claim they are looking out for worker's rights. In truth, they are only about weakening unions and stifling their ability to negotiate fair wages and good working conditions for their members. Workers in right to work states make less money on average and

are much less likely to have health insurance or retirement plans. If the committee truly cared about worker's rights, they would take positions on the many issues concerning the rights and the welfare of working people.

I consider it not only a privilege, but an investment to pay dues to my union. I know I get back more in the form of better wages and benefits and safer working conditions. Union membership doesn't cost, it pays!



Regenerative agriculture gaining steam in Nebraska

By George Haws

Reprinted with permission from The North Platte Telegraph

For the last generation, sustainability has been the buzzword around agriculture. Now, a growing chorus is calling for a focus on “agricultural regeneration.” It’s about reclaiming the health of the soil, making our regions more food independent, and keeping our young people on the land, said Graham Christensen, the president of GC Resolve who lives near Oakland.

GC Resolve is a communication and consulting company that is working to build resilient communities. Its focus is on environmentally and economically sound principles related to agricultural production.

They emphasize erosion control, on-farm fertility, re-establishment of local and regional markets for increased food security, soil health and reduction of carbon dioxide and nitrate greenhouse gas emissions.

“It’s also about generating greater opportunities for young people to get into farming. As the average age of farm operators increases, and land is auctioned to the highest bidder, more and more ownership is transitioning to large corporations, including foreign investors,” Christensen said. “That is not in the best interest of our national security, or of the younger generation,” he said.

“The best way to protect us, is to make sure the next generation has a chance to get on the farm,” Christensen said. “There’s some state protection but foreign investment is happening more and more.”

Another concern is heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. That has implications for the environment, farm profitability and sustainability, he said. That is particularly evident now. Nitrogen and other fertilizers have become substantially more expensive as the price of the main ingredient, natural gas, has shot up. Reliance on foreign sources of fertilizers and raw materials can also be troubling.

Christensen said GC Resolve is working with other agriculture organizations across the country and members of Congress to develop policy recommendations for inclusion in the 2023 Farm Bill, legislation enacted every five years that spells out ag-related funding and policy priorities.

“We surveyed farmers a couple of years ago ... which was the right way to start,” Christensen said. Their responses influenced the development of the proposals.

Some “monumental pieces we’re exploring,” include creation of a land bank and other policies that would “enable land access” by “young people with the heart to be in agriculture,” he said.

Other proposals would facilitate updated training for U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service technicians, with a focus on working within the parameters of local climate, soil and environmental conditions. NRCS technicians would work with farmers to incorporate regenerative practices into a farm profitability plan. This would “enable more of the business mindset,” said Christensen, while going beyond current conservation set-aside programs.

Christensen said he would like to see policies that promote greater use of cover crops and practices such as relay cropping (seeding covers directly into growing crops). Proposed policies would also support congruent crop and livestock systems. Livestock, providing fertilizer nutrients and organic matter through their manure, will always be “front and center” to regenerative agriculture, Christensen said.

“Food independence is another goal of regenerative agriculture,” Christensen said. “About 90% of our food in Nebraska is imported from other states or countries,” he said.

One solution can be growing crops such as aronia berries and hazelnuts, both highly nutritious and native to Nebraska, along with apples and Chinese chestnuts.

“We have attracted the attention of lawmakers who are considering ways to divert some of the money in the (current) Farm Bill, that favors corn and soybean production, to promote diversity and greater emphasis on agricultural entrepreneurship and environmental stewardship,” Christiansen said.

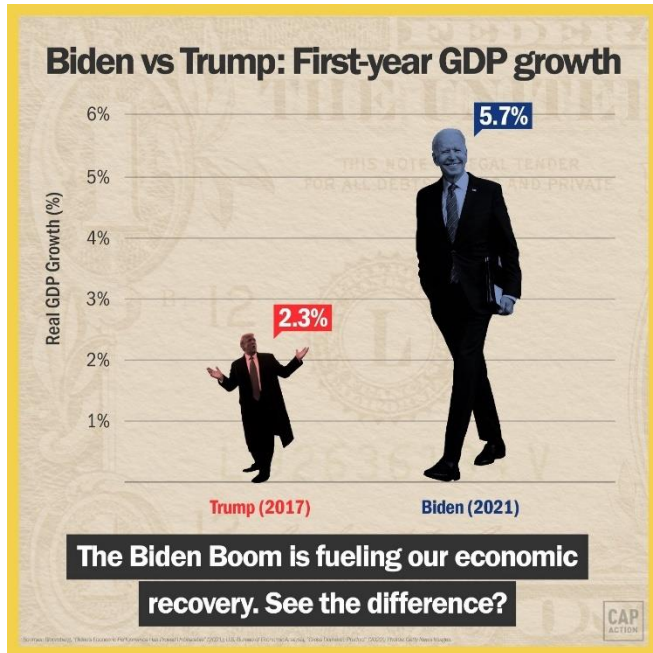
The regenerative agriculture movement is “gaining steam nationwide. I’m encouraged,” he said.



A Nebraska pheasant's dilemma. Is it grain grown for food or specifically for alcohol production?

Rebutting Right Wing Zombie Lies

By Dennis Crawford



President Biden is presiding over the biggest economic boom in nearly forty years.

There are numerous pernicious lies in American politics regarding the Republican Party and the conservative movement. Unfortunately, millions of voters and the “liberal” mainstream media have bought into these myths. It is our duty as Democrats to rebut right wing zombie lies and set the record straight. I plan here to go through some of the biggest lies and rebut them.

1. The Republican Party is fiscally conservative.

The reality is that every Democratic president since Jimmy Carter has reduced the deficit he inherited from his Republican predecessor and every GOP president has increased the size of the deficit (or blown the surplus) he inherited from his Democratic predecessor. The last Republican president to reduce the deficit and balance the budget was Dwight Eisenhower.

Ronald Reagan tripled the national debt and ran up then record peacetime deficits. (Trump broke Reagan’s dubious record.) Between the two of them, Reagan and Bush 41 quadrupled the national debt.

Bush 43 squandered Bill Clinton’s projected ten-year national surplus of \$5 trillion and doubled the national debt. In his last year, Clinton racked up a \$200 billion surplus and Bush turned that into a then record annual deficit of \$1.3 trillion by the time he left office. (Trump broke Bush’s record.)

Trump increased the annual deficit he inherited from President Obama from \$585 billion to \$3.1 trillion. Trump added \$7.8 trillion to the national

debt in just four years. Biden has reduced the deficit by \$360 billion in 2021 and is on track to reduce it by over \$1 trillion this year.

2. Republicans are better for the economy.

This is a common lie that is widely believed by the voters. Polling has indicated for years that the voters believe that Republicans are better for the economy. This represents a major failure of Democratic messaging.

During Bill Clinton’s 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. This was the best job creation record since the Franklin Roosevelt Administration.

George W. Bush squandered the inheritance he received from President Clinton. By the time Bush left office, the economy had collapsed and was hemorrhaging 800,000 jobs per month. According to Ron Brownstein: “While Bush was in office, the median household income declined, poverty increased, childhood poverty increased even more, and the number of Americans without health insurance spiked.”

Bush was the only two term president in American history to preside over a decline in middle class incomes during his two terms as president. Moreover, Bush had the worst job creation record since Herbert Hoover. Trump subsequently broke Bush’s dubious jobs record.

Barack Obama was the second consecutive Democratic president who had to clean up a Republican mess. Beginning with the end of the Bush recession in 2009, the unemployment rate was reduced from 10% to 4.7%. In 2016 alone, the economy added 2.15 million jobs. Moreover, since the end of the Bush recession, the economy added 15.6 million jobs. That was the best record of job creation since Bill Clinton’s second term.

Forbes recognized this historical pattern of Democratic presidents being better for the economy shortly before Obama left office. According to Forbes on November 7, 2016: “It is simply a fact that since World War II, Democratic presidents have seen 24.4 million more jobs created on their watch — an average of 78.6% more jobs created per year of Democratic administrations — than have Republican presidents. Ditto real GDP growth, 44% higher under Democratic presidents. On the flip side, unemployment has been 18% higher under GOP presidents.”

After Obama left office, once again, a Republican president squandered all of his predecessor’s progress. Trump’s failure to mitigate

the pandemic wrecked the good economy he inherited from President Obama. When Trump was in office, the unemployment rate increased from 4.7% to 6.7%, 12 million Americans lost insurance and 8 million Americans fell into poverty.

In 2020, the U.S. economy lost a net 10 million jobs. Weekly unemployment claims between March 2020 and January 2021 exceeded the worst week of the 2008–09 recession. Trump left office after nearly 50 straight weeks of the worst job losses in American history. Trump was the first president since Hoover to leave office with fewer jobs in the country than when he was inaugurated.

President Biden has already made amazing progress in cleaning up Trump's mess. Since the Democrats began to run Washington last year, a record 7.9 million jobs have been created. In contrast, in 2020, 9.4 million jobs were lost. Unemployment has dropped from 6.4% to 3.6%. In 2021, the U.S. experienced the strongest GDP growth since 1984.

3. Republicans are competent on national security.

The myth of GOP superiority on national security should've died in the sands of Iraq. In the run up to the Iraq War, Bush Administration officials told us we would be greeted as liberators, Iraqi oil would finance that country's reconstruction and that U.S. armed forces would find a vast arsenal of fearsome weapons of mass destruction.

Unfortunately, the Iraq War turned out to be one of the biggest foreign policy blunders in U.S. history. This war ground on for over eight years and according to Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, will eventually cost U.S. taxpayers \$3 trillion. Sadly, 4,424 American heroes died in this conflict and approximately 200,000 Iraqi civilians perished. No weapons of mass destruction were ever found.

After the Bush disaster, President Obama withdrew U.S. troops from Iraq and ended the Iranian nuclear weapon threat. Unfortunately, Trump wrecked all of that progress during his failed presidency.

Trump's decision to repudiate Obama's 2015 nuclear deal with Iran was a disaster. During the Trump Administration, Iran breached the deal's nuclear safeguards, and Iran increased its stockpile of enriched uranium by eight times! When Trump took office, Iran had 102kg of enriched uranium. That supply was increased to nearly 2.5 tons during the Trump years.

Like Iran, Trump's policies turned North Korea into a bigger threat in 2020 than when Obama left office. When Trump was president, North Korea developed an ICBM that could potentially reach all of the U.S. Kim Jong Un's nuclear arsenal most likely

expanded by about 15 warheads since his meetings with the former TV reality star. North Korea currently has 20 to 60 nuclear warheads.

The former TV reality star also left behind a house of cards in Afghanistan. Former Trump National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster described Trump's 2020 Doha agreement in scathing terms: "Our secretary of state (Mike Pompeo) signed a surrender agreement with the Taliban. This collapse goes back to the capitulation agreement of 2020. The Taliban didn't defeat us. We defeated ourselves."

Conclusion.

We Democrats need to raise our game on messaging. It is our duty to rebut right wing zombie lies on a regular basis. That's what I do on my social media accounts. The reality is that Democrats are much better for America than the Republicans.

Franklin Roosevelt said it best: "Once you build a house you always have it. On the other hand, a social or economic gain is a different matter. A social or an economic gain made by one Administration, for instance, may, and often does, evaporate into thin air under the next Administration. "

Let's get that message out! If we can get that out, we will win in 2022! Now let's leave it all out on the field!





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