



# The Lancaster County Democrat

September 2022

**Democrats Running for Office-Lancaster County  
2022 General Election  
November 8, 2022**

**Representative in Congress, District 1**  
Patty Pansing Brooks

**Governor/Lieutenant Governor**  
Carol Blood/Al Davis

**Legislature, District 2**  
Sarah Slattery

**Legislature, District 26**  
George C Dungan III

**Legislature, District 28**  
Jane Raybould

**Legislature, District 46**  
*(Vote for one)*  
James Michael Bowers  
Danielle Conrad

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 3 (2 yr term)**  
Kenneth Vogel

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 3 (4 yr term)**  
*(Vote for one)*  
Melissa Baker  
Annette Thompson

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 5**  
Stacie Sinclair

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 6**  
Deborah Eagan

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 7**  
Luke Peterson

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 8**  
Tom Green

**Lower Platte South NRD, Subdistrict 10**  
Susan Seacrest

**Lower Platte South NRD, At-Large**  
David Landis

**Lancaster County Commissioner, District 1**  
Sean Flowerday

**Lancaster County Commissioner, District 5**  
Rick Vest

**Southeast Community College Bd of Governors,  
District 1**  
Sandra Hoffman

**Southeast Community College Bd of Governors,  
District 5**  
*(Vote for one)*  
Megan Neiles-Brasch  
Joann Marie Herrington

**Lancaster County Assessor/Register of Deeds**  
Dan Nolte

**Lancaster County Attorney**  
Adam Morfeld

**Lancaster County Clerk**  
Matt Hansen

**Lancaster County Clerk of District Court**  
Lin Quenzer

**Lancaster County Public Defender**  
Kristi Egger

**Lancaster County Sheriff**  
Jay Pitts

**Lancaster County Treasurer**  
Rachel Garver

**Norris Public School Board of Education Ward 2**  
Patty Bentzinger

**Norris Public School Board of Education Ward 4**  
Jim B. Craig

**Palmyra Public School Board of Education**  
Dean Busch

**Village of Denton Board of Trustees**  
Douglas R. Rosekrans

**Village of Malcolm Board of Trustees**  
Jerad Little

**Village of Malcolm Board of Trustees**  
Jeff Schweitzer

**Village of Roca Board of Trustees**  
Robert C. Green



There is so much hope for the general election, but we need everyone's help to get there. Come pick up postcards, make phone calls, go door-to-door, and come to our community events. Most importantly, **vote one more time on November 8th!** Let's get Patty to the House!

**Perseverance** is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The Patty for Congress campaign is ecstatic about the November election. With the recent successes Democrats are seeing across the country, from New York to Alaska, and with the momentum we started here in Nebraska in the Special Congressional Election, there is nothing we can't do. Americans are saying "no" to the extremism threatening our freedoms and daily lives. Nebraskans have shown that they are ready for new leadership, new ideas, and more compassion in politics, and that's why Patty is the best candidate for the job.

As summer is winding down, the Patty for Congress campaign is finished with parade season and is focused on "Conversations with Patty" events, community visits and other events - and, of course, Nebraska football games! Patty is visiting tailgates before kickoff, and there will be visibility events around the University of Nebraska's campus before the games for which we will need volunteers. Our team still needs volunteers for canvassing, phone banking and writing postcards, so please help when you can!

Looking ahead to November, our confidence is extremely high. Patty Pansing Brooks had a historical showing for the Special Election, where Mike Flood won CD1 by just 5 points. Following the Dobbs decision, a blue wave is on the rise. Democrats are fired up, and we need to continue this passion.



Freedom of expression is not an absolute, it comes with responsibility.  
But violence is not the answer.

Unknown

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.

Martin Luther King Jr

# KRISTI EGGER

PUBLIC DEFENDER



## So You Want To Be A Public Defender?

By Kristi Egger

I'm Kristi Egger, and I'm running for Lancaster County Public Defender. As you can probably gather from my previous articles in the LCDP Newsletter, I continue to canvass, fundraise, and spread the word about this important office.

My opponent's lack of experience, as he has never worked in a public defender's office, led me to post the following quote on my Facebook page:

*"So you want to be a Public Defender?  
Don't do it for the money, there isn't enough.  
Don't do it for prestige, you won't get any.  
Don't do it for the thrill of victory, victory  
rarely comes. Do it for love. Do it for justice."*

*Do it for self-respect. Do it for the satisfaction of knowing you are serving others, defending the Constitution, living your ideals." - Carol A. Brook*

Being a public defender takes experience, dedication, and a heart for serving our clients in need. I have spent 32 years serving the people of Lancaster County.

I recently attended a meeting with other Lancaster County Democrats where I was asked what my message was when I canvass, as this race is an important one. Hopefully, I answered to their satisfaction, pointing out my vast amount of experience as compared to my opponent and my career as a public servant. If I did not have a passion to make the Office better, I would not have run in the Primary. Had I been quicker on my feet, I would have followed up with this question: "What are you doing to promote my race to others?" I am but one person. I cannot do this by myself. We, together, are many and mighty. We must all speak out while we yet have voices.

As always, thanks for your support and your vote.

Kristi Egger

[www.kristiegger.org](http://www.kristiegger.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/EggerForPublicDefender>

"Lawyers have a license to practice law, a monopoly on certain services. But for that privilege and status, lawyers have an obligation to provide legal services to those without the wherewithal to pay, to respond to needs outside themselves, to help repair tears in their communities." – U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (March 2014)



# Democrats Deliver While the GOP Is In Disarray

By Dennis Crawford

- Tackling the climate crisis
  - Lowering energy costs
  - Creating good-paying jobs”
- President Biden Tweet.

## BIDEN WINS:

- Inflation Reduction Act
- CHIPS & Science Act
- PACT Act for veterans
- First major gun safety legislation in decades
- Took out the leader of al Qaeda
- Historic job growth
- Historically low unemployment
- Expanded the NATO alliance
- American Rescue Plan led to fastest jobs recovery in history
- Confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson
- Rallied our allies in support of Ukraine
- Once-in-a-generation infrastructure investments

President Biden has the best legislative record since Lyndon Johnson.

The contrast between the Democratic and Republican parties has been on display the last few weeks, putting the voters’ choice this fall into sharp relief. While the Democrats passed landmark legislation that will help millions of Americans, the GOP attacked law enforcement and pursued unhinged conspiracy theories.

In Washington, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress delivered while the D.C. Republicans obstructed and lied.

“Biden’s 2022 summer:

- gas prices cratering
- Zawahiri dead
- unemployment at historic low
- 86% drop in COVID deaths
- gun safety bill passed
- clean energy bill passed
- veterans bill passed
- drug price cap bill passed”

Senator Chris Murphy Tweet.

Every Nebraska Republican in D.C. opposed this progress.

“Every single Republican who voted against the Inflation Reduction Act voted against:

- Lower prescription drug prices
- Lower health care costs
- A fairer tax system

The D.C. Republicans are already talking about repealing Biden’s reforms with a government shutdown if they regain power. Representative Chip Roy (R-TX) said the Republicans should shut down government on day one of the new Congress next January to force Democrats to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act.

“Elect Republicans, and they will immediately shut down the government to:

- cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy
- make prescription drugs more expensive
- raise health care premiums.”

Dan Pfeiffer Tweet.

At the same time, prominent D.C. Republicans are discussing cutting Social Security if they win in 2022. Republican senators Lindsey Graham, Rick Scott and Ron Johnson are all openly talking about cutting America’s greatest anti-poverty program. Usually, Republicans wait until after the election to talk about gutting retirement programs.

While Nebraska’s all Republican Congressional delegation voted for higher costs for their constituents, their party melted down in Nebraska.

The new look, super radical Nebraska GOP posted a pornographic image on Twitter and left it up for 10 hours. Finally, the Nebraska GOP took down this sick tweet, apologized for it and threw their communications director under the bus.

Former Nebraska Democratic Party chair and attorney Vince Powers contended that the Nebraska GOP’s post violated Nebraska law and advised them to hire a good lawyer.

At the same time that the Nebraska GOP was breaking the law, Pete Ricketts came out in favor of defunding law enforcement in response to the execution of the search warrant at Trump’s Florida estate. On August 16, Ricketts was recorded by The Undercurrent’s Lauren Windsor discussing defunding the FBI.

“What about defunding the FBI though?” said Windsor.

“We could do that. Well, if we get control of congress we can control the house, so you know,” said Ricketts.

While the likes of Mike Bacon, Mike Flood and Pete Ricketts showed up for work and did stupid things, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert took yet another vacation. Stothert will have been on vacation in 2022 for 8.5 weeks by mid-September. Should City of Omaha employees get similar paid time off?

All of this is good news for Nebraska Democrats. Patty Pansing Brooks, Tony Vargas and Carol Blood all support lower prescription drug prices and insurance premiums. They will stand up to the special interests and the radical right.

It's progress v. radicalism in 2022. Freedom is on the ballot in 2022. Vote for Carol Blood for governor! Vote for Patty Pansing Brooks in Nebraska CD01! Vote for Tony Vargas in Nebraska CD02! Vote for David Elise Nebraska CD03!

## On organized capital and organized labor

By John Markey

"It is essential that there should be organization of labor. This is an era of organization. Capital organizes and therefore labor must organize."

These words from Teddy Roosevelt's speech in 1912, as presidential candidate of the Bull Moose, or Progressive Party, are as true today as they ever were. Yes, I know, Teddy was a Republican most of his career, but he was a progressive who did some great things while in office.

Capital is often organized into corporations. The modern American corporation really began in New York in 1811 with an act by its legislature. The act allowed investors in manufacturing ventures to bypass the arduous process of pushing a corporate charter through the legislature and instead allowed them to register the corporation as is routinely done now. Prior to this, corporations were heavily regulated with limits on capitalization, length of time they could exist and business they could conduct, and that was only if the legislature would even consider giving it a corporate charter.

This act was also the first use of limited liability in the United States. Limited liability protects shareholders of a corporation by limiting any potential losses to only that money which is invested in the corporation. This is a great benefit to corporate shareholders when you consider that all assets—a house, savings, retirement, etc.—of the owner(s) of an unincorporated business are at risk from lawsuits for injury or debt. Today, every state offers limited liability to registered corporations and LLCs.

I write this not to condemn corporate law and the advantages it gives to businesses, but merely pointing it out. These concessions we offer corporations aren't just a gift, they are a way to encourage investment and innovation and to build industry. As much as we do to promote the organization of capital, we do so little to promote the organization of labor.

This leads me to the other President Roosevelt—Franklin Roosevelt—a Democrat who said, "No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. . . By living wages I

mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living."

Recent efforts to organize unions at Amazon, Apple, Starbucks and Chipotle have been met with fierce resistance and illegal tactics such as firing union activists and closing locations. These illegal acts are rarely, if ever, enforced. At the same time, some of labor's most powerful tools in organizing, the solidarity strike and hot cargo clauses are prohibited by federal law and would be met with swift legal action if their use is attempted.

The Protect the Right to Organize Act, or PRO Act, would go a long way in encouraging the organization of labor and give it a footing closer to that of capital. It has been passed in the House and referred over to the Senate. It would need 60 votes to get past the expected Republican filibuster. Only by electing more Democrats is the advancement of labor possible.

## Costco's inflation-proof \$4.99 rotisserie chicken, explained

By Kenny Torrella

Picking apart what the retail giant's poultry staple says about the present and future of factory farming. Reprinted with permission.

In 2019, Costco became the first US retailer to set up its own chicken business, contracting farmers in Nebraska and Iowa to raise 100 million birds and building a feed mill, hatchery, and slaughter plant. Costco has instituted some practices that are more humane and fair than most conventional chicken companies, but some residents are unhappy with the company's presence.

Americans love their chicken, eating some 7.5 billion of them every year. That's enough for about 23 birds for every man, woman, and child in the country. So the fact that inflation has hit poultry prices particularly hard — chicken prices increased 18.6 percent between June 2021 and June 2022, outpacing inflation for food as a whole — has been tough for Americans to swallow.

But throughout the year of inflation — and for 11 years before that — one poultry product has remained at the same bargain-basement price: Costco's \$4.99 rotisserie chicken.

The roasted birds have been hailed as an economic lifeline — most rotisserie chickens will run you \$6 to \$10 — but the chicken isn't cheap because of corporate benevolence. In 2015, Costco said it was able to maintain its low price because the company considers the rotisserie chicken a "loss leader." That means its purpose isn't to bring in profits, but rather to bring in customers to buy more of the wholesale retailer's bulk toilet paper and five-

packs of deodorant. And it works. The item is so popular among Costco members that it has its own [Facebook fan page](#) with 19,000 followers.

But there's another reason the birds have remained so affordable. In 2019, Costco made an unprecedented move to source its chicken at even lower margins: It set up its own feed mill, hatchery, and slaughter plant in Nebraska, and contracted nearby farmers to raise over [100 million](#) birds each year, all under the name Lincoln Premium Poultry (LPP). It could be saving the company up to [35 cents per bird](#).

It's a classic example of "[vertical integration](#)." That means owning each link in the supply chain, which enables companies to reduce operating costs and go bigger. It's how some of the country's largest chicken producers, like Tyson Foods, took over much of America's chicken business. Now, Costco is outdoing them all by being both the meat producer and the retailer.

The move worries industrialized animal farming critics, who say that over the last few decades, [meat industry consolidation](#) has worsened conditions for meat-processing workers, intensified largely unchecked air and water pollution, and weakened rural economies.

Lincoln Premium Poultry declined an interview request and Costco did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

To Costco's credit, the company has made some improvements when compared to most conventional chicken companies. That's not saying much, but it's something. The company uses a more humane slaughter method than the industry standard in its Nebraska plant, its contracts with independent farmers are more fair than average, and at \$4.99 per bird, no one could accuse the company of [price fixing](#).

But Costco still relies on nearly all of the same practices as the rest of Big Chicken, making it an important case study in the hard limits of trying to produce more equitable meat in America's consolidated, extractive food system, one where consumer price apparently still matters far more than farmer, worker, or animal welfare.

Picking apart Costco's chicken supply chain means picking apart America's paradoxical relationship with meat. We're eating as much of it as ever, praising a company for keeping a whole chicken as affordable as a pint of cheap beer, while also growing outraged at how people and animals are treated to put cheap chicken on our plates.

## The "death smell" of Big Chicken

Around two years ago, the North Carolina-based private equity firm Gallus Capital set up three 16-barn sites to raise chickens for Costco, all within 1.25 miles of Greg Lanc, a soybean and corn farmer in Butler County, Nebraska. Each barn is permitted to house 47,500 chickens, which translates into a total of around [2 million chickens](#) alive at any given time in the facilities. And the whole thing has been nightmarish for Lanc.

Lanc says the stench from the barns — a mix of ammonia-laden manure and what he calls "the death smell" from the pits of decomposing birds — has pervaded his home. "[The smell] tries to get inside anything it can."

The rotting birds attract swarms of flies, and the noise from trucks transporting feed and chickens is constant, beating up the roads and kicking up dust. Sometimes the traffic is heavy enough to knock pictures off the wall.

"When it's really bad, I've had times where I don't want to stay here," he says. "You wake up in the morning with a runny nose and your eyes just burning and there's no reason for it ... My A/C runs all the time. If you open a window for any reason — dust, flies, the smell, you're at the mercy of all of that. ... I have friends stop by and they want to gag."

Lanc says he and another Butler County resident met with Nebraska's governor, Pete Ricketts, in June of 2021, which prompted Ricketts's office to file a complaint about the Gallus-owned farms with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE). But Lanc says it didn't reduce the odors from the farms. "[NDEE] did an inspection ... and [said] everything's in compliance."

"I don't in any way want to interfere with someone's life," Jody Murphey, managing partner of Gallus Capital, which owns the farms, told me. "That's not our intention, by any means. ... There's no perfect answer here. When we build a farm, we have to build it somewhere. And it's virtually impossible to put it in a location that is free of an impact for everybody. I'm sensitive to that."

Murphey added that the farm contractors who live on-site haven't complained to him about the smell. "We do whatever we can to lessen that [odor] impact, and we'll continue to do so. And if we can consult with outside third parties, and if there are products on the market that will, I guess, reduce that impact, we're all for it," Murphey said.

Lanc says that despite the personal effect of the chicken farms on his life, he hopes local, independent farmers who contract with Costco succeed. But he's also worried about what the mega-operations that surround his home will do to his



health over the long term. A [2021 study](#) found that air pollution from chicken farms is linked to 1,300 premature deaths in the US each year.

“Everybody has said that these operations are going to be around for a long time,” Lanc said. “Well, I’m in my late 40s. ... Do I want to live here 20 years from now and deal with this same situation? I mean, will I be here? Will the health problems eventually catch up with me?”

### **The debt trap of modern-day chicken farming**

As bad as living close to an industrialized poultry operation can be, life may not be much better for some of the workers raising the chickens that will end up on Costco’s shelves.

Chicken farming in the US is a little like driving for Uber, but with much, much higher stakes. Farmers are typically contractors and take on much of the liability in raising chickens: They need to secure loans worth hundreds of thousands, or millions, of dollars to build out barns, in much the same way an Uber driver supplies their own car. The farmer also relinquishes control over the quality of the inputs — the birds and the feed — and that quality, in part, affects how much they get paid, in the same way Uber attracts customers of varying quality, cordiality, and generosity.

Poultry contract farmers are often paid via a zero-sum “tournament system” which critics say effectively pits [farmer against farmer](#). Those who convert feed to meat more efficiently are rewarded handsomely at the expense of lower-performing farmers who earn a below-average payout. (The spread of chicken farmer income is [enormous](#), with the 20th percentile of earners making around \$19,000 per year in 2011 and the 80th percentile making around \$143,000.)

In a plus for the retailer, Costco says it’s [done away](#) with the tournament system. Still, John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, which advocates for independent farmers in the state, says that while Costco’s contracts are better than average, “that doesn’t mean that they’re good — that just means they’re better than average.”

The environmental nonprofit Food and Water Watch [found](#) that areas of Iowa with industrialized pig farming, which has become increasingly contract-based, have experienced higher rates of economic and population decline than those that haven’t. The Pew Research Center has drawn [similar conclusions](#), which goes against a common meat industry [talking point](#) that contract farming boosts local economies and helps to [keep struggling farm families on their land](#).

“The state of Nebraska might get a few taxes off of Costco, but all the profit is in a hermetically sealed tube that shoots it back to [Costco in] Seattle,” says Randy Ruppert of Nebraska Communities United, a nonprofit that advocates against industrialized animal farming. (Costco is headquartered in the Seattle suburb of Issaquah.)

Costco counters that its slaughter plant alone has brought around [1,100 jobs](#) to Nebraska. But US poultry slaughter plant jobs are some of the [most dangerous](#) and grueling jobs in the US. Slaughter lines move at a dizzying pace — 140 birds per minute — and chicken processing plant employees, working quickly with knives, suffer cuts and [hand and wrist injuries](#) as they try to keep up.

Since Costco sells its birds whole, it requires less processing and thus less knifework, which could result in fewer injuries than the average plant. And at its Nebraska slaughter plant, it uses a [slaughter method](#) called controlled atmosphere stunning. That method reduces workers’ contact with chickens and reduces the likelihood of injury. But Darcy Tromanhauser of Nebraska Appleseed, a nonprofit that advocates for worker protections, said, “The combination of speed, slippery floors, some knives, and heavy machinery is still a worrisome combination anywhere.”

Earlier this year, a [chemical leak](#) at Costco’s poultry processing plant injured three workers.

### **“This is just what you find when you walk into an industrial chicken barn”**

In 2020, an investigator with the animal rights group Mercy For Animals worked at a Costco chicken farm wearing a hidden camera and [documented](#) birds bred to grow so fast they had trouble walking, chickens with ammonia burns caused by lying in their waste, and piles of rotting dead birds. (Disclosure: I worked at Mercy For Animals prior to Vox.)

Costco’s treatment of chickens gained national attention when former New York Times opinion columnist Nicholas Kristof [wrote](#) about the investigation; even the creator of the Costco rotisserie chicken Facebook fan page was mortified enough to film a [video](#) calling for change.

As unappetizing as the conditions were, Leah Garcés, Mercy For Animals’ president, said they were typical across US poultry farms: “I have been into many, many chicken barns and this is just what you find when you walk into an industrial chicken barn.”

Months later, Costco [stated](#) it would explore giving birds more space and requiring its third-party, non-organic chicken suppliers to use the more humane slaughter method that it already uses at its

Nebraska plant. Nothing committal, no timelines, but progress nonetheless, Garcés said. Critically, she says, the company acknowledged some of the health issues caused by fast-growing chickens, a top priority for animal welfare advocates, and said it's speaking with chick suppliers about breeding chickens to have fewer leg issues.

Nor is Costco alone in these changes. Perdue Farms, the fourth largest US poultry producer, has led the pack among the top 10 in experimenting with and implementing welfare changes, such as giving chickens a little more space, installing windows on barns to provide natural light, and researching better breeding practices. The changes are modest, but animal welfare groups have praised the company for being the first mover. Wayne Farms, the seventh largest producer, is also raising some of its chickens with similar requirements. Nor is Costco alone in these changes. Perdue Farms, the fourth largest US poultry producer, has led the pack among the top 10 in experimenting with and implementing welfare changes, such as giving chickens a little more space, installing windows on barns to provide natural light, and researching better breeding practices. The changes are modest, but animal welfare groups have praised the company for being the first mover. Wayne Farms, the seventh largest producer, is also raising some of its chickens with similar requirements. Both companies can meet some of the demand of the 200 restaurants and food companies that have signed on to the Better Chicken Commitment, a pledge to source higher-welfare chicken by 2024.

Costco hasn't signed on — doing so would likely make it difficult to maintain its \$4.99 price tag, something it has made clear it intends to do, inflation be damned.

Alene Anello, president and founder of the nonprofit Legal Impact for Chickens, hopes she can speed up change through the courts. Last month, Anello filed a lawsuit alleging that Costco is violating Nebraska and Iowa animal welfare laws that prohibit animal neglect. The lawsuit alleges that because Costco raises chickens to grow so quickly to the point they have trouble walking, some birds can't access water and feed, causing them to die from dehydration, starvation, and untreated injuries and illnesses. (Disclosure: Anello and I both interned in separate departments at the Humane Society of the United States in 2009. I also worked with a plaintiff in the lawsuit, Krystil Smith, at the Humane Society of the United States in 2013.)

"The main relief we want is just an injunction ... saying Costco needs to treat birds better and make

sure each of the birds has food and water," Anello says. It's an attempt to force a chicken company to address alleged long-standing health issues wrought by chicken breeding — that is, if they can win.

Though Costco's business model has been controversial to some, it could be the future. Wingstop, a chicken chain with over 1,500 US locations, said in May that it's considering setting up its own supply.

As for Nebraskans unhappy with Costco's move into the Cornhusker state, it's unlikely they'll see much redress in the coming years. Jim Pillen, the Republican candidate for Nebraska governor, is expected to win this November. He was also the country's 16th largest pork producer as of 2016, and has made it clear he's unlikely to step in to regulate Nebraska's chicken industry.

Some change could come from the White House, though. In late May, President Joe Biden announced the first in a suite of regulatory updates to give contract farmers a little more power in their relationship with meat companies. But given persistent inflation and the fear of a recession, the drive for consumers to tighten budgets wherever possible will remain strong, especially for necessities like groceries. That means for now, the \$4.99 rotisserie chicken likely isn't going anywhere but into more shopping carts.





# Nebraska U.S. House Reps Enable Semi-Fascism

By Dennis Crawford



The GOP is furious that Biden called out the MAGA Republicans because they expect Democrats to be wimps.

In the last few weeks, President Biden has given two high profile speeches warning of the threat to democracy and freedom posed by the extreme right wing of the Republican Party or the MAGA Republicans.

On August 25, Biden accurately labeled MAGA Republicans as "semi-fascists." "The MAGA Republicans don't just threaten our personal rights and economic security. They're a threat to our very democracy. They refuse to accept the will of the people. They embrace—embrace—political violence. They don't believe in democracy," Biden said.

In his August 25 speech, Biden called on "mainstream Republicans" to join in rejecting that philosophy. He added: "The data shows that a significant portion of Republican Party agrees with us. They agree with the fact that the MAGA crowd has gone much too far—much too far in their view of what the role of government is. I want to be very clear up front," Biden said. "Not every Republican—not even a majority of Republicans—are MAGA Republicans. Not every Republican embraces their extreme ideology."

Biden followed up this speech on September 1 with another one in Philadelphia in which he correctly called out Trump and the MAGA Republicans as a threat to democracy. "As I stand

here tonight, equality and democracy are under assault. We do ourselves no favor to pretend otherwise. Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the foundations of our very republic. . . For a long time, we've reassured ourselves that American democracy is guaranteed. But it is not," Biden said. "We have to defend it. Protect it. Stand up for it. Each and every one of us."

The Republicans and the "liberal" mainstream media went into their faux outrage mode and condemned Biden's remarks. Representative Mike Flood (R-NE) falsely claimed that Biden demonized half of the country and divided the country. Representative Don Bacon (R-NE) re-tweeted similar remarks from former Trump U.N Ambassador Nikki Haley.

What Flood and Bacon failed to realize is that Biden only called out the most extreme Republicans. By condemning Biden's remarks, Flood and Bacon enabled MAGA Republicans and semi-fascism.

The reality is that Trump and the MAGA Republicans have been insulting Biden and other Democrats for years. The GOP must take some responsibility for uniting the country rather than just obstruct and hurl insults.

Just about every Democrat has been called a communist or socialist numerous times going back many years. I've been the targets of these epithets for years. The MAGA Republicans have also accused Democrats of being so-called "groomers." Yet Bacon and Flood have been silent about these smears.

Inflammatory Republican insults start at the top with their undisputed leader. In 2020, Donald Trump called Democrats "fascists" while he was surrounded by military officials. Similarly, Trump in speeches on July 3 and 4, 2020, alleged that "there is a new far-left fascism" whose ultimate goal is the "end of America." Bacon and Flood stood by and said nothing.

"For years, (Republicans) stood quietly by as Mr. Trump vilified and demonized anyone who disagreed with him—encouraging supporters to beat up protesters; demanding that his rivals be arrested; accusing critics of treason and even murder; calling opponents 'fascists'; and retweeting a supporter saying 'the only good Democrat is a dead Democrat.' But they rose up as one on Thursday night and Friday to complain that Mr. Biden was the one being divisive." *New York Times*.

The Republicans are freaking out because President Biden called out MAGA Republicans as "semi-fascists." Let's look at the facts. Were Biden's remarks accurate?

Biden's Philadelphia speech provoked calls for violence from Trump's thugs, including death threats against the President himself. Moreover, Biden's Philadelphia speech worried officials at the Department of Homeland Security who said they fear that calling out Trump's most unhinged followers would be viewed as a call to arms.

Upwards of 70 percent of Republicans say they don't believe Biden is the legitimately elected president.

Trump tried to steal the 2020 election through frivolous lawsuits, fraudulent electors and an armed coup that killed 9 people and wounded 140 others.

The Republican National Committee called January 6 "legitimate political discourse."

Trump has funded and offered pardons to the criminals who attacked the Capitol on January 6. These goons killed 9 people and wounded 140 others, including many police officers.

147 House Republicans voted to throw out the 2020 election and against certifying Biden's win. Representative Adrian Smith (R-NE) voted with those semi-fascists.

Red states have passed partisan voter suppression laws that Republicans have admitted are designed to help Republicans win elections.

Some red states have passed laws that give elected Republicans the power to throw out legally cast votes if the voter suppression should fail.

Republican officials or judges have blocked ballot proposals from the November elections, citing allegedly flawed wording, procedural shortcomings or insufficient petition signatures. In Michigan, the Republicans blocked a pro-choice referendum due a complaint about the spacing of the words.

Extreme Republicans want to force 10-year-old girls to give birth to their rapist's baby. Some red states allow the rapist to sue for child custody and visitation.

Radical Republicans are banning books. Anne Frank's diary has been banned by school districts in Texas, Florida, and Virginia.

Right wing darling Ron DeSantis has used the power of the Florida state government to punish businesses that speak out against his policies.

Hungarian strongman Viktor Orban addressed the influential CPAC convention. Orban has created a rigged system in Hungary in which his party will never lose another election. Orban gave a speech before the CPAC convention denouncing "race mixing" of European and non-Europeans.

The stakes couldn't be any higher in 2022. If the MAGA Republicans win in November, this could be the last free election in the history of the U.S. It's progress versus radicalism this year.

Freedom is on the ballot in 2022. Vote for Patty Pansing Brooks in Nebraska CD01! Vote for Tony Vargas in Nebraska CD02! Vote for David Else Nebraska CD03! Vote for Carol Blood for governor!

April 6, 1882:  
Rose Schneiderman,  
union organizer and  
leader of the  
Women's Trade  
Union League, is  
born. "I know from  
my experience it is  
up to the working  
people to save  
themselves. The  
only way they can  
save themselves is  
by a strong working-  
class movement."



**"THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT REPRESENTS  
THE ORGANIZED ECONOMIC POWER OF THE  
WORKERS... IT IS IN REALITY THE MOST POTENT  
AND THE MOST DIRECT SOCIAL INSURANCE THE  
WORKERS CAN ESTABLISH."**

SAMUEL GOMPERS

**VOTE  
BY  
MAIL**



**LANCASTER COUNTY  
DEMOCRATS**

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