

The Delray Democrat

August 2023 (# 61)

Is It Fascism Yet? Part 2: DeSantis's Plan to "Make America Florida"

Michael K. Cantwell

"He alone, who owns the youth,
gains the future." [Moms for Liberty](#),
[quoting Adolf Hitler](#)

[Is It Fascism Yet? Part One](#) looked at America's two most recent brushes with fascism, during the failed administrations of George W. Bush and Donald Trump.

Unlike Bush and Trump, Ron DeSantis is smart, brutally focused, and ruthlessly ambitious. If DeSantis becomes president, there may be a different ending—for both our experiment in democracy and a sustainable life on our planet.

First, Fire All the Teachers

In William Shakespeare's *Henry VI, Part 2*, a rabble-rouser who is inciting a mob to rebellion shouts, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

This is commonly interpreted as a condemnation of lawyers. There's a diametrically opposed reading that, as a lawyer, I prefer, namely, that a civilized and democratic society depends upon lawyers. As Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens once wrote, "disposing of lawyers is a step in the direction of a totalitarian form of government."

This reading is supported by context. After all, the mob has already burned books and executed people who can read, as blogger Olivia Rutigliano has [noted](#): "The leaders of the rebellion know that it's easier take over an ignorant population than one in which people understand their rights."

Teachers are equally if not more important to the maintenance of a democracy. As FDR [wrote](#), "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

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Upcoming Meetings

September 21: Dave Aronberg, PBC State Attorney

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Are We Headed Toward Privatizing Florida's Public Education?

June Sandra Neal

Given Governor DeSantis' elimination of income restrictions for school voucher applicants, this just may be Florida's trajectory. Now, even wealthy families can get the state to pay for all or part of their children's private schooling. What was once a strategy to help poor children exit failing public schools is now a dark Republican scheme designed to destroy public education while supporting private, religious and home schools (PRH)—on the taxpayers' dime.

As of July 1, 2023, vouchers, officially titled the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, will siphon off thousands more students and hundreds of thousands of tax dollars needed for our public schools.

As one of the voucher agency reps told the *Delray Democrat*, "We're swamped with applicants."

The [Education Law Center](#) warns: "Already underfunded public school districts will be financially gutted. The potential for harm to local public-school districts, which serve most Florida students, is extreme."

Some families are responsive to PRH education because it evokes an image of an upscale milieu, or a student body minus the hoi-polloi. But Eton they ain't.

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Although DeSantis's malignant crusade against education hasn't inflamed mobs to commit murder (yet) or start burning books (yet), some 357 books have been removed from school shelves, frequently on the objection of a single parent. That's why Florida in the 2020s is starting to feel like England in the 1450s and Germany in the 1930s.

This is only the beginning. DeSantis's real goal is a Cultural Devolution, first in Florida and then in the rest of America. Chairman Mao would approve.

DeSantis can't kill all the teachers, but his racist, homophobic laws have made their lives a living hell. Only their devotion to the children has prevented a mass exodus. He has applauded efforts by the Orwellian-titled "Moms for Liberty" to harass teachers, school board members, and school administrators, sometimes with threats of violence, in a frenzied campaign to impose their hateful agenda on all of Florida. Not only has this group been labeled an [extremist](#) organization, but prominent members have alliances with neo-fascist groups like the Proud Boys, whose former leader Enrique Tarrio once [referred](#) to Moms for Liberty as "the gestapo with vaginas." Classy.

This is only the beginning. DeSantis's real goal is a Cultural Devolution, first in Florida and then in the rest of America. Chairman Mao would be proud.

The principal reason he's been successful is his ability to dupe a large portion of the electorate into believing that he is defending Floridians from an existing threat when in reality the real threat is the one he is creating. It's all about projection.

Projection Is an Unconscious Defense Mechanism and Also a Conscious Political Strategy

Psychologists define "defensive projection" as individuals displacing their own negative or socially unacceptable feelings, impulses, or desires onto someone or something else. Donald Trump is the poster child.

His favorite insult is to label someone a "loser," but his résumé is the one littered with failures and bankruptcies. Trump accuses Joe Biden of dementia, but Trump is the one who launches into stream of consciousness recitations of grievances like a lunatic off his meds on a New York City subway. Trump leads "lock her up chants," but it is he and not Hillary Clinton who has been indicted twice (and counting).

Projection is more a conscious political strategy than an unconscious defensive mechanism for DeSantis. The false claim that students are being indoctrinated in "woke" ideologies permits him to "pre-inoculate" his crusade to turn the schools into "de-education camps" in which to mold an army of White Supremacists. He knows that "he who owns the youth owns the future."

The claim that students were being brainwashed in Critical Race Theory is a brazen lie. CRT is taught only in post-graduate seminars and it is supported by decades of data that demonstrate systemic racism.

Grooming "Groomers"

As of last year, DeSantis's administration has spent nearly \$6 million to train public school teachers across the state on how to teach civics, an effort better referred to "grooming 'groomers.'"

It was an apparent failure, according to a [report](#) in the *Miami Herald*. Florida high school teachers were paid \$700 to be trained to teach DeSantis's new "Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative" and were eligible for \$3,000 bonus if they completed a 60-hour course on the new civics standards. While attendees didn't object to the new standards per se, many complained that the training was "infused with Christian and conservative ideology" and that it whitewashed the history of slavery in America. One teacher summed it up best: "There was this Christian nationalism philosophy that was just baked into everything that was there."

The same distortions and disinformation that suffused the civics training have apparently been regurgitated into the widely and rightly condemned social studies standards just released by the Florida Department of Education. Here are some examples:

Instruction includes how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit. *When criticized for its attempt to thus sugarcoat what was a crime against humanity, the Florida Department of Education offered 16 historical figures who had benefitted from being enslaved. It turned out that [nearly half](#) had never been enslaved, and the professions of others were misstated.*

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Compare the living conditions of slaves in British North American colonies, the Caribbean, Central America and South America, including infant mortality rates.” Think for a minute what pathetic excuse for a human being would seek to justify the crime against humanity that is the institution of slavery by arguing that the conditions of the enslaved were worse in other countries. On the subject of infant mortality, consider that infants born to [Black women are more than twice as likely to die relative to those born to White women](#) and that maternal mortality for Black women is closer to triple the rate for White women. If DeSantis and his

It also ignores the fact that the condition of White indentured servants improved following Bacon’s Rebellion. That pivotal event, which essentially led to the invention of race and racism in America, is not mentioned once in the guidelines.

In 1675, a white property owner, Nathaniel Bacon, untied poor Whites, indentured servants, and the enslaved in a revolt against plantation owners. It was suppressed, but plantation owners immediately took steps to prevent any such future alliances by providing poor Whites with some slight privileges. As Michelle Alexander wrote in The New Jim Crow, “Their own plight had not improved by much, but at

By falsely claiming that teachers are indoctrinating students in “woke” ideologies, he “pre-inoculates” his crusade to mold an army of White Supremacists.

minions were interested in education rather than indoctrination, these figures would be presented as examples of systemic racism.

Instruction [on Reconstruction] includes acts of violence perpetrated against and by African Americans but is not limited to 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, 1919 Washington, D.C. Race Riot, 1920 Ocoee Massacre, 1921 Tulsa Massacre and the 1923 Rosewood Massacre. Not a single one of the cited “massacres” and “riots” was perpetrated by Blacks—all involved White Mobs murdering African Americans.. That is why real historians use the term “White Terrorism” to refer to the violence that occurred in the post-Reconstruction Era.

Examine the evolution of the labor force in the use of indentured servitude contracts. Instruction includes the comparative treatment of indentured servants of European and African extraction. Once again the guidelines seek to justify the atrocity of slavery. It is true that indentured servants were treated almost as badly as the enslaved, but only a monster could fail to see the difference between someone who enters into a labor agreement (however uneven) for a specified period of time and a person who has been kidnapped into permanent bondage.

least they were not slaves.”

This pitting of poor Whites against Blacks was repeated during the Populist Era in the late Nineteenth Century after poor Whites and Blacks united. Once again the White ruling class played “divide and conquer.” That was the origin of the Jim Crow laws, which did little to improve the lot of poor Whites but mollified them with the assurance that they were at least better off than Blacks.

Instruction includes the transition from an indentured to a slave-based economy. As Heather Cox Richardson points out, “this presents human enslavement as simply one of a number of labor systems, a system that does not, in this telling, involve racism or violence.”

This Was Our Fault

A recent New York Times poll found respondents evenly split in a Biden-Trump rematch. A total of 2.5 million Florida Democrats were too lazy, too uniformed, or “too clever by half” to vote in 2022 Unless they come out in 2024, the question posed in the title of this article may well be answered in the affirmative.

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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Char Lane (Managing Editor), Sandra Elaiszen-Cantwell, David Kulick, and June Neal.

Got Inflation? *Michael K. Cantwell*

Florida does. In fact, we're No. 1! The metropolitan areas with the greatest increases in year-over-year inflation are both in Florida. See the top chart below

Ron DeSantis wouldn't shut up about U.S. inflation when it was spiking in 2021 and 2022. Republicans claimed that Biden caused decades-high levels of inflation by "flooding the economy with money."

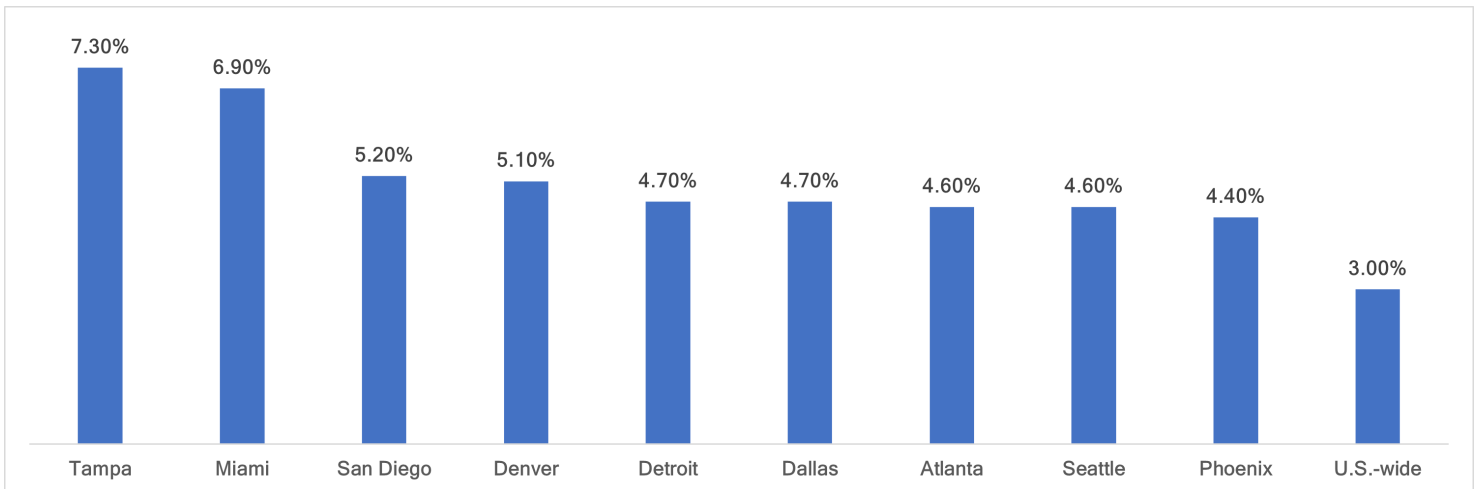
Of course, when 10 million of people are suddenly thrown out of work and the economy is collapsing, providing relief is what a government that is "for the people" does. The money from the American Rescue Plan Act was well spent. It saved lives and pulled children out of poverty.

It's true the money also contributed to inflation, but it was neither the only or even the most significant factor. Choked supply chains and the response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine reduced supply and an economy recovering from COVID increased demand. Together they caused the worldwide spike in prices.

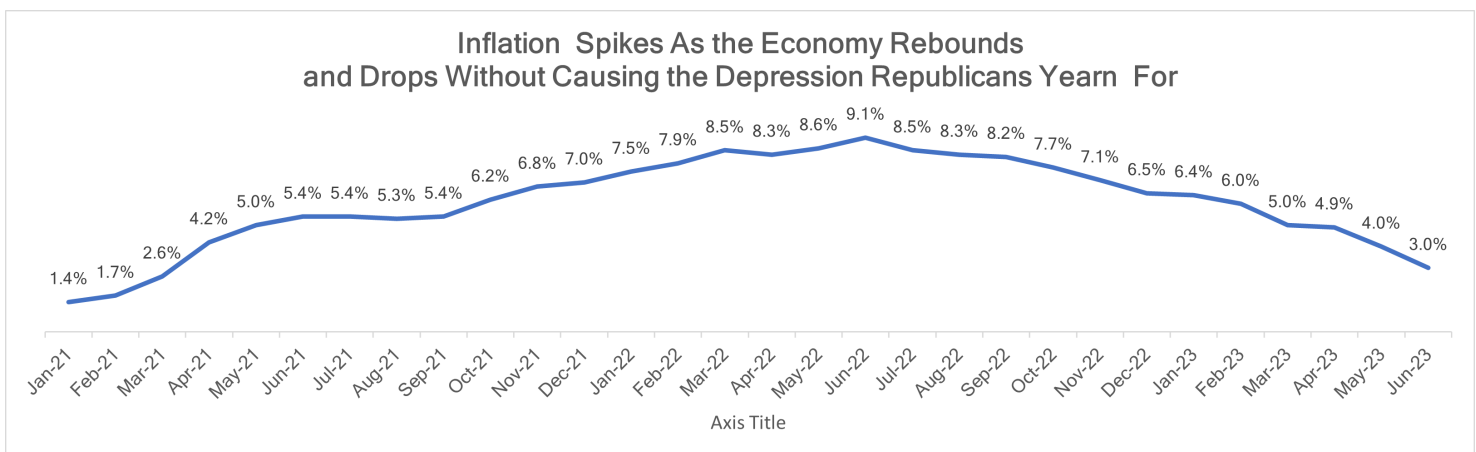
Once companies had a cover, they not only covered their extra costs but added a nice top-off to increase corporate profits. As the CEO of Hostess (quoted in a guest [essay](#) in *The Times* by Lindsey Owens) admitted to shareholders, "When all prices go up, it helps." According to an [analysis](#) from the Economic Policy Institute, also quoted in that essay:

[F]latter profit margins, not the rising costs of labor and materials, drove more than half of price increases in the nonfinancial corporate sector since the start of the Covid pandemic.

With inflation steadily dropping nationwide, the shoe is on the other foot. As shown in the bottom chart below, U.S. inflation fell by two-thirds (from 9.1% to 3%) between June 2022 and 2023. That was despite the Fed increasing the interest rate 11 times over 16 months, from 0.25% to 5.25%. That the economy did not fall into the recession that Republicans have been predicting and praying for is a testament to the economic engine that is Bidenomics.



Data from [WalletHub](#), extracted from [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).



(Continued from page 1, "Are We Headed Towards . . .")

Instead, here's what we get: mostly Christian-based curricula, much of which is anti-science, anti-LGBTQ+, racially-biased and almost completely [unregulated](#). The opposite of what good public schools stand for.

DeSantis has already cratered our public schools with his racist, homophobic fiat. So PRH education is a great way to indoctrinate even more students with his Straight, White and Christian ethos. And it's easy. After all, these private schools are pre-baked. "For the 2023 school year, there are 1,445 religiously affiliated private schools serving 294,835 students in Florida (57% of all [schools](#))." As the *Orlando Sentinel* reported over several articles:

- "The books are rife with religious and political opinions on...abortion, gay rights. They disparage religions other than Protestant Christianity and cultures other than those descended from white Europeans. Yet, about 60 percent of scholarship students are black or Hispanic. As of February 2023, the breakdown by [race](#) is 38.9% Hispanic, 28% African American, 27.2% White and 6.0% Other. And 81.4% of the schools are officially religious." [Private schools' curriculum downplays slavery, says humans and dinosaurs lived together](#)
- In 2020, "14 percent of Florida's nearly 147,000 scholarship students attended private schools where homosexuality was condemned or, at a minimum, unwelcome." [Anti-LGBT Florida schools getting school vouchers](#)
- Several Florida private schools that received millions of dollars in vouchers promoted conversion therapy for LGBTQ students.
- One "school" was merely a row of cubicles where the kids sat for hours with workbooks—and no teacher. Nothing else: no gym, arts, lunchroom, anything.

Nonetheless, DeSantis believes these SW&C schools are his ticket to the White House. And Florida taxpayers are picking up the tab.

"Next year, [the cost] could reach 30%, or [\\$4 billion](#)." And what are taxpayers getting for that money?

- [Lack of accountability](#) in *unregulated* schools. "Private elementary and secondary schools in Florida are not licensed, approved, accredited, or regulated by the Florida Department of

Education." (Charter schools are the exception.)

- Increased comingling of church and state, buttressed by recent Supreme Court decisions, such as DeSantis' teachers' "civics training... that's infused with contemporary Christian and conservative ideology. See [Supreme Court rulings, DeSantis antics threaten the separation of church and state](#)
- Exclusion of LGBTQ+ children.
- Thousands of students brainwashed with anti-science, anti-history, and anti-fact curricula.
- A concomitant loss of students' civil rights, See ["Vouchers Undermine Civil Rights."](#)

Vouchers have a shameful past. In the 1950s and 60s, Southern states used them to skirt the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* Supreme Court decision which declared school segregation unlawful." ["The Racist Origins of Private School Vouchers."](#) Black parents quickly learned that vouchers were nothing more than Jim Crow in a new suit.

Today, many independent watchdog organizations have sounded similar alarms. The Southern Poverty Law Center [found](#) in 2021: "No state comes close to Florida in the allocation of public funds to private schools... *decreasing* per pupil funding by 12% from \$9,799 to \$8,628 while the rest of the country's schools *increased* their spending by 9.6%." Florida ranks "... 7th from the bottom of all states in per pupil funding at \$9,346."

A growing number of voucher students means an increased demand for P&R schools—and many entrepreneurs are eager to provide and manage them.

We must not allow that to happen. It is government that's best suited to administer programs that serve the public. Businesses exist to make profits. In standards-free schools, educational success will be measured by the profit line.

Public education is integral to our democracy. It's the singular institution structured to create a unified society by cohering diverse people into Americans. Whatever problems exist should be fixed by the tax dollars we are now diverting to PRH schools that are operating on principles most Americans have fought so hard to eradicate.

Author's note: This analysis does not go to the separate universe of the growing number of super rich, Wall Street folks moving to Florida and demanding the same top-quality (and top price) private school education their kids had up north.

Florida Schools: The New Beaver Cleaver Laws

June Sandra Neal

Yes indeed, Florida's schools are now governed by a package of laws that Beaver Cleaver would find familiar, thanks to Governor DeSantis and the Republican legislative lemmings. All are reminiscent of the 1950s: A Straight, White, and Christian ethos. After years of agitprop, DeSantis managed to reverse many of the hard-won accomplishments of the last decades, a tragic revocation of our nation's hard-won advances toward greater equality, inclusion, and diversity. (Note the innocuous titles of the bills compared to their content.)

HB 1069 2023. "Child Protection in Public Schools." (Except for LGBTQ+ Kids)

- No discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity through grade 8. Whatever (unspecific) is taught from grades 9 through 12 must conform to state standards.
- A person is either "female or male based on the organization of the body...for a specific reproductive role, as indicated by the person's sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, and internal and external genitalia present at birth."
- "...this is an immutable biological trait."
- Use of pronouns must conform to the person's sex at birth.

HB 1521 2023. "Facilities." (Use the Restroom We Tell you to)

- Students must use the restrooms that correspond to their sex at birth.

SB 266 2023. "Higher Education Institutions." (Higher Ed with Really Big Censorship!)

- No state higher education entity may use state or federal funds to "Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or promote or engage in political or social activism as defined by rules of the State Board of Education and regulations of the Board of Governors."
- Prohibits "...any curriculum ...based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, or privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, or economic inequities." (Another crazy DeSantis revision of history; guess there were *never* any obstacles to

equality for Black, Brown, Jewish, etc. people.)

- The Governor's assistants (GAs) take over hiring of new faculty.
- Tenure can be reviewed at any time. (So, is it still tenure?)
- The educational model will be based on Western civilization.
- Prohibits money spent for advocacy of "diversity, equity and inclusion."

*Note: the federal government *requires* colleges and universities using federal funds to work to prevent discrimination based on race and gender.

HB 7 2022. "Individual Freedom." (The Tau of Ron)

Teaching of American history such as the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, etc., must conform to Ron's standards: That means [White] students must not be made to feel "guilt" or "anguish" about elements of the nation's history, such as slavery. Where did he get this? Any trained educator knows that fact-based historical knowledge helps students learn empathy, not guilt, and encourages working towards a better society.

DeSantis also opted out of the College Board's AP African American Studies course, which is "currently in a two-year pilot program in 60 high schools nationwide, with plans to expand it to hundreds more schools in the [fall](#)." Unbelievably, the Board then removed many elements of the course he objected to and added "Black Conservatism."

HB 1 2023. School Choice. (Or Robbing Peter to Pay Paul)

The expansion of the school voucher program is the greatest assault ever against public education in Florida. (See accompanying article "Privatizing Florida's Public Education in this issue.)

HBill 5 2021. "Civics Education." (Voting the DeSantis Way)

The K-12 civics curriculum will teach citizens' rights and responsibilities in accord with our Founding [documents](#). Students will learn how to register to vote. Will they recognize how DeSantis has aggressively suppressed voter rights and gerrymandered voting districts to weaken minority voting power?

(Continued from page 6)

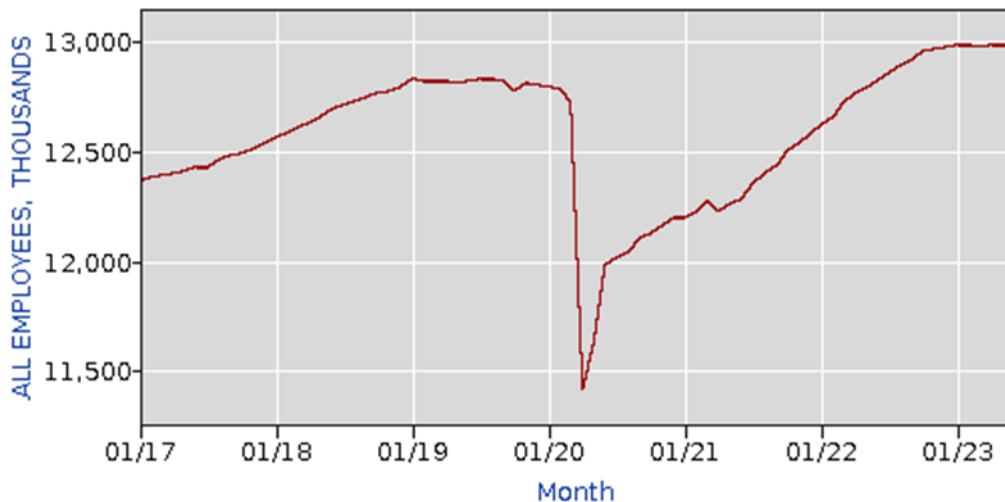
HB 225 2023. “Interscholastic Activities.” (Actually, it’s Religion *and* State)

This Bill ignores the Constitution’s “establishment clause,” separating church and state, and allows schools two minutes at athletic events to say whatever they wish, e.g., prayers, using the public address system. It also beats up on the Florida High School Athletic Association, removing much of its authority and giving it to the Guv’s people. Further, the Association can no longer “make appointments that reflect the demographic and population trends of this state.” Maybe it’s payback time for the 2015 Citrus Bowl football game when the Association refused to allow two Christian Universities to lead public prayers because they were on state property.

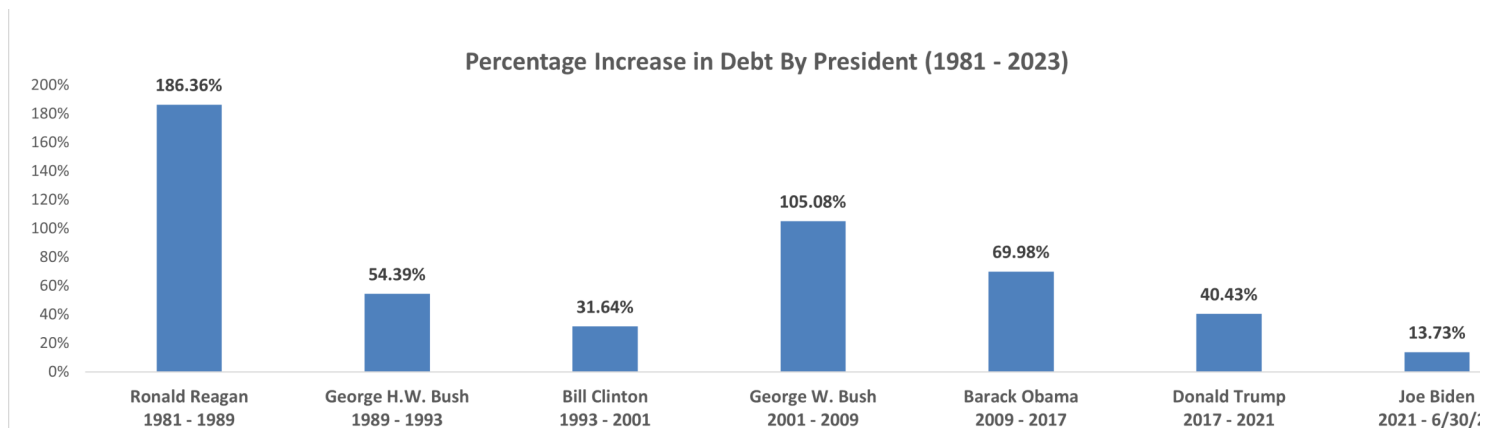
Trump Bragged About Manufacturing Jobs, Biden Is Delivering

Michael K. Cantwell

Trump bragged that he’d add manufacturing jobs, but 170,000 manufacturing jobs disappeared on his watch. By contrast, Biden promised to create one million manufacturing jobs, and midway through his third year, there are 793,000 more manufacturing jobs than when he took office.



Of course, Trump bragged about everything and accomplished nothing—other than fouling the federal judiciary with extreme rightwing judges picked by the revanchists in the Federalist Society and increasing the debt by nearly as much in his four years as Obama did in his eight. But on that latter score, not even Trump can compete with Reagan, as is evident below.



A Looming Disaster

Jeffrey Kash

Children swept away, five people dead, when more than four inches of rain fell in two hours causing a flash flood to inundate a road in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

In Ludlow, Vermont, widespread, heavy rainfall totaling 7 to 9 inches caused catastrophic flash flooding, wiping out the town's Main Street sending rocks and rivers of mud across roads and through buildings.

Georgia lost more than 90% of this year's peach crop after a February heat wave followed by two late-spring frosts, resulting in job losses and higher prices across the country.

In Utah, the Great Salt Lake has lost more than 70 percent of its water, and recent reports warn that the lake could disappear within five years, along with billions of dollars of economic activity and thousands of jobs that rely on it.

Wildfires in California just prompted the state's largest insurer, State Farm, to stop issuing new policies there, amid its "rapidly growing catastrophe exposure".

States along the Colorado River agreed to leave a major portion of their water supply in the river in order to keep Lake Powell and Lake Mead from falling so low that they could no longer produce hydropower. Without the hydropower, millions of people would see much higher energy costs. Farmers will have less water and that means fewer crops, higher food prices, job losses, and tax dollars to reimburse those farmers for forgoing water.

Florida had the lowest orange harvest since 1936. According to UF/IFAS, Hurricane Ian's path touched roughly 375,000 acres of citrus groves across the Sunshine State. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates Hurricane Ian inflicted up to \$675 million in damages to Florida's citrus growers.

Surface water temperatures along Florida's coast have reached some of the highest levels on record, which could lead to a severe coral bleaching event, which in turn could cost the local economy billions of dollars over time.

Last month was also the hottest June on record, according to several weather agencies. Scientists

say there is a decent chance that 2023 will go down as the hottest year on record, with measurements going back to the middle of the 19th century.

Phoenix hit 110 degrees for a record number of consecutive days. There have been 12 confirmed heat-related deaths recorded in Maricopa County so far this year as of the first week of July, and 55 are under investigation as suspected heat-related deaths, according to data from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. The dangerously hot temperatures are also taxing hospitals and the electric grid.

Heatwaves are not as dramatic as other natural disasters, but experts say they are more deadly. A heatwave in parts of the south and midwest killed more than a dozen people last month.

So, when will the Republicans stop focusing on "wokeness" and start focusing on the climate crisis?

The right-wing radicals that dominate the Republican party deflect from problems they don't have a clue how to solve and whip up the lunatic fringe they call their base, but it's time for the voters to turn off Fox News and shut down Truth Social and look out their own windows.

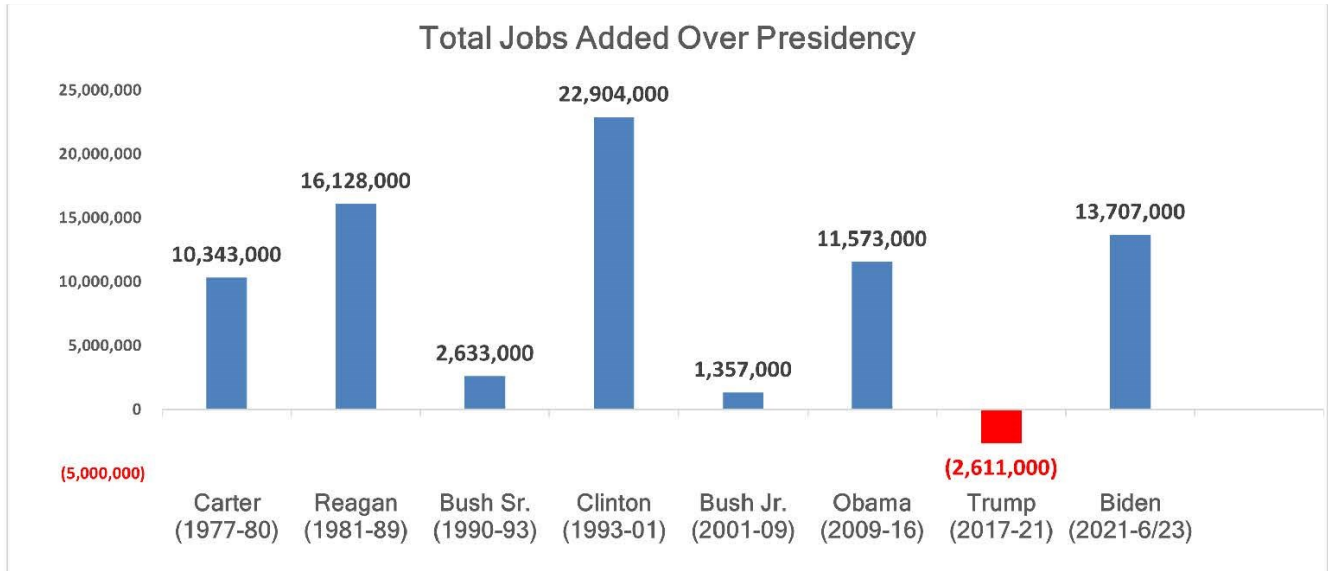
It's time for the voters to think about what really affects their children and grandchildren. It's not some imaginary drag queen reading Toni Morrison to a kindergartner. It's not a woman making a choice about her pregnancy and her body. It's not a gay couple that want a wedding cake. It is how we continue to ignore, and actually flout, the disaster we are making of our land, our air, and our water.

One day, if we don't take real action, food and water and clean air will be scarce; we will be in the midst of a climate refugee crisis unlike anything we have ever seen; the price of a gallon of water will be out of reach for most people. All the banned books, prevented abortions, and bigotry that the Republican's spew will be cold comfort to the children we leave to inherit this planet.

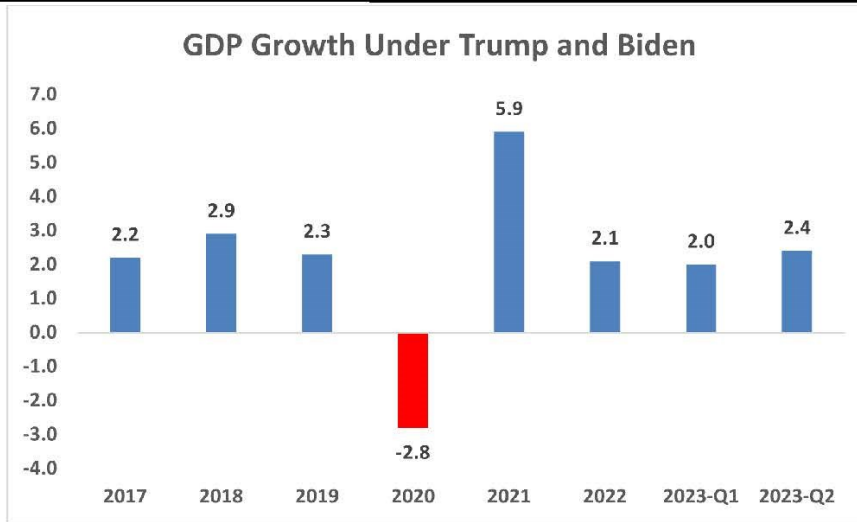
If Republicans really care about life and care about children, they would focus their frenzied energy on the climate.

Bidenomics

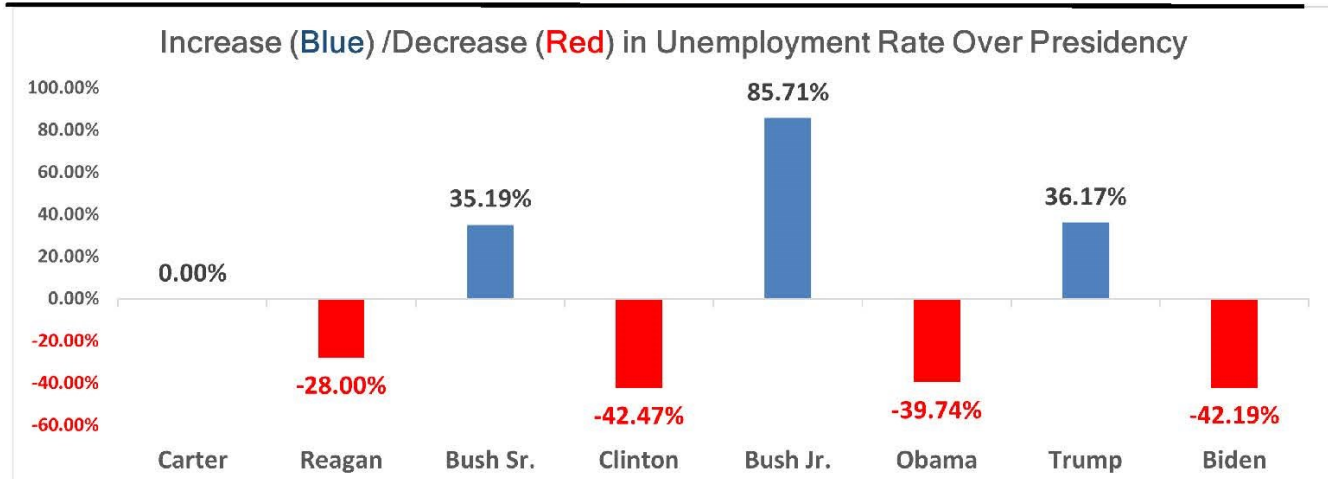
Here’s how Gregg Coodley of Portland, Oregon responded to a *New York Times* [op-ed](#) that asked, “Have you met anyone truly excited about Joe Biden running for re-election?” In a [letter](#) to the *Times*, he [wrote](#), “I am wildly enthusiastic about President Biden, who is the best president in my lifetime.” I couldn’t agree more. Below are just a few of the measures supporting such a statement. MKC



Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics [Employment, Hours, and Earnings from the Current Employment Statistics survey](#)



Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics [Gross Domestic Product](#).



Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics [Unemployment Rate](#).

Letters by Our Members

Your article on the Disney-DeSantis dispute highlights many blunders committed by DeSantis. The first was to direct the legislature to dissolve the Reedy Creek Special District.

After DeSantis was apprised that this would burden taxpayers with \$1 billion in Disney debt, he directed the legislature to pass another law, this one undoing the dissolution, renaming the district, and allowing him to name the new board. At a publicly noticed meeting the day before that law took effect, however, the old board signed agreements that preserved Disney's control over development.

The new law specifically provided it would not affect contracts in existence at the time the law was passed. Since the contracts between Disney and the old board were signed the day prior to passage of the new law, they were arguably enforceable.

The new board sued, claiming the right to reject the agreements, and DeSantis directed the legislature to pass yet another law, this one allowing an incoming board to adopt or reject contracts signed less than 3 months prior to its naming. Disney now argues the new law actually moots the old board's suit by providing the same relief sought by the suit. How many Mulligans does DeSantis get?

Michael K. Cantwell, *Sun-Sentinel*, July 18, 2023

Slavery wasn't so bad? Fight this degradation.

Shame on Paul Burns (Florida's K-12 education chancellor), Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz and every school board member who supports Governor DeSantis' Straight, White, Christian dogma.

It's bad enough they've committed the equivalent of book burning. It's shameless that they try to justify the ashes. Slaves developed skills that could "benefit" them?

The Republicans did what they had no ethical right to do. They usurped the authority of professional educators who for decades determined school curricula based on a principle espoused from Socrates to John Dewey: What is worth knowing?

The answer was universally accepted science, literature and factual history with the objective of developing critical thinking. But critical thinking is a threat to dictators like DeSantis. Thus his racist, homophobic and populist legislation. Years ago, I created the first Black Literature curriculum in Newtown, Connecticut.

Students developed empathy and a desire to create a more just nation. Florida students deserve the same opportunity.

We must repudiate this degradation of education by all means necessary, or else the Class of 2024 will graduate with honors in propaganda.

June S. Neal, *Sun-Sentinel*, July 25, 2023

Thank you for your excellent, unapologetic editorial which rightfully criticizes Gov. DeSantis and the Republican-dominated board of education for their attempts at re-writing Black history.

Their rationale is indeed an embarrassment. Do they really think we will accept that enslavement came with benefits, or that teaching slavery factually might make White students 'feel bad'?

I've never heard a student make such a statement after studying slavery, but, as a high school and college teacher, I did witness students develop empathy and, often, a desire to make this a better country.

History never blames those who came after the fact. Instead, it offers us tools to strive for a more perfect union.

DeSantis has anointed himself Educator in Chief, then used that authority to dish out racist propaganda.

The only thing that will hurt Florida's students is the Great White Lie the Republicans have substituted for an education.

June S. Neal, *Palm Beach Post*, July 26, 2023

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Thank a Democrat

1964 Civil Rights Act	Food Stamp Act	National Science Foundation Act
1965 Voting Rights Act	Freedom of Information Act	National Voter Registration Act (a.k.a) Motor Voter Act
Affordable Care Act	GI Bill of Rights	Social Security Act
AmeriCorps	Medicare and Medicaid	Unemployment Compensation Act
CDC	Minimum Wage Act	Workers Compensation Act
Family and Medical Leave Act	National Labor Relations Act	

Thank Joe Biden

American Rescue Plan Act, Signed March 11, 2021

- Provided \$1,400 to every taxpayer and each of his or her dependents
- Expanded coverage and reduced premiums under the Affordable Care Act for 9 million Americans.
- Expanded and extended unemployment benefits.
- Increased SNAP benefits
- Increased and expanded Child Tax Credit, representing the largest investment in child care assistance since World War II
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for frontline workers who helped their communities through the COVID crisis
- Invested \$160 billion to provide supplies and vaccines to combat COVID's heavy toll
- Distributed \$360 billion in emergency funding for local governments to help keep front line public workers on the job and paid
- Provided emergency grants and loans to hard-hit small businesses
- Established a special sign-up period for the Affordable Care Act, adding 800,000 previously uninsured to the ranks of the insured.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Signed November 15, 2021

- The largest federal investment in public transit
- The largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak
- The single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system
- The largest investment in clean drinking water and waste water infrastructure in American history, delivering clean water to millions of families
- Ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet
- Helps us tackle the climate crisis by making the largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in history; electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country; and creating a new Grid Deployment Authority to build a resilient, clean, 21st century electric grid

Inflation Reduction Act, Signed August 16, 2022

- Invests \$369 billion in energy security and fighting climate change
- Invests \$64 billion to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies
- Authorizes Medicare to negotiate with drug companies
- Provides an additional \$80 billion to the IRS for tax modernization and enforcement, which is estimated to reduce the deficit by recovering as much as \$203.7 billion from tax cheats
- Closes tax loopholes by imposing a 15% minimum tax payment on companies with over \$1 billion of income and a 1% excise tax on stock buybacks
- Expands Medicare benefits: provides free vaccines (2023), caps insulin costs at \$35/month (2023) and caps out-of-pocket drug costs to an estimated \$4,000 or less in 2024, settling at \$2,000 in 2025
- Provides \$4 billion for drought resiliency in western states

2023 Membership

Char Lane

Membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as *The Delray Democrat*, our meetings, other working supplies and signage for our sign waving events. **Meetings are at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month at the Palm Beach County Democratic Party office, located in the Congress Office Park, 220 Congress Park Drive, Suite 140, in Delray Beach.** Our meetings are hybrid so you can also join via zoom. Meeting notices include zoom links to register for or join the meeting and links to our various websites.

Our goal is to educate people as to the importance of voting, why they should vote Democratic and why they should use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. We'll have to work hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from the manifesting lunacy.

Getting out the vote is our most important mission. You can help by writing postcards, making phone calls, texting, canvassing or becoming a precinct leader. You can register people to vote and help people sign up to vote by mail. You can volunteer for projects to benefit the community. There's so much to do between now and November 2024.

If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach and haven't yet renewed, please do so. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining.

Please visit us at www.demclubofdelray.org.
Read our monthly publication *The Delray Democrat* at www.thedelraydemocrat.com.
Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>.

Become a member of the DCDB by completing and mailing the below application or going to <https://www.demclubofdelray.org/membership> or scanning the QR code below. You can also give me your membership application/renewal at our meetings.



Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2023 Membership Application and Renewal

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____

Address _____

Community/Condo Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here _____ and we will not share your E-mail address.)

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____ U.S. Mail _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

Payment: Individual \$25 _____ Household \$35 _____ Donation _____

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484. Thank you and welcome to our Club.

