

The Delray Democrat

October 2020

No, He Didn't, and No, He Can't

Michael K. Cantwell

Trump claims he built a beautiful economy, and says that he can do it again. No, he didn't, and no, he can't.

The economy about which he brags ad nauseam was built by the Obama-Biden administration on the ashes of the Great Recession left by George W. Bush. It is a testament to the health of the economy Trump inherited that neither his trade wars nor his tariffs nor his tantrums were able to wreck it.

Still, Trump weakened the economy even before the pandemic. In the last 36 months of the Obama-Biden administration, jobs and wages rose faster and unemployment fell faster than during Trump's first [35 months](#).

Trump did not cause the pandemic, but he was totally unprepared, despite repeated warnings. His incompetent and chaotic response exacerbated the death toll and plunged the country into a Second Great Depression. It was a failure of leadership unrivaled in American history.

Even worse, the human carnage was a direct result of Trump placing his political life above the physical lives of the American public. It was always clear that the way to slow the spread of the virus was to shut down non-essential parts of the economy. Yet Trump resisted calls to do so and then pushed for a hasty reopening because he feared an economic slowdown would imperil his reelection.

Trump Is a Failed Businessman: He Only Played a Successful One on TV

One of the most often repeated of his 20,000 proven lies is Trump's claim to be a successful businessman. He played a spectacularly successful one on television, but in real life he was a dismal failure.

Just a year after opening, the Trump Taj Mahal was [\\$3 billion](#) in debt and filed for bankruptcy in 1991. Trump himself was also personally liable for \$900 million. The next year Trump's two other casinos were \$888 million in debt and also filed for bankruptcy. And Trump's Plaza Hotel was \$550 million in debt when it was filed for bankruptcy in 1992.

After they emerged from bankruptcy, Trump consolidated them into Trump Hotels and Casinos Resort, which piled up \$1.8 billion in debts and filed for bankruptcy in 2004. Five years later, they filed again, citing \$1.2 billion in debt.

Trump's reverse Midas touch reached beyond the businesses he touched to businesses that touched his. Casino investors lost [\\$1.5 billion](#), and many small contractors were driven out of business after Trump stiffed them.

Trump used these losses to reduce his taxes. In 1995, he reported \$916 million in tax losses, which he then carried forward to offset taxable income in subsequent years.

As The New York Times revealed [recently](#), this enabled Trump to pay no taxes in 10 of the last 15 years and only \$750 in 2016 and 2017. Trump says that's because he's smart, but it's because of his business failures. It seems the only real money he made was *posing* as a business genius. And he used that money to go on a buying spree, mostly for golf courses that have lost \$300 million, not exactly the sign of a smart businessman.

Trump is [personally liable](#) for \$421 million in loans coming due soon, and his tax deductions are being challenged by the IRS. If he loses, Trump will owe the IRS as much as

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\$100 million. He could also face prosecution for tax fraud.

Some of the filings examined by the Times violate rules a smart person would know but a tax cheat would ignore. Courts have consistently held hairstyling is a [nondeductible](#) personal expense even for television personalities. Claiming the deduction would constitute tax fraud if the cost had been reimbursed. Not only did Trump take a \$70,000 deduction for hairstyling, but executives who worked on *The Apprentice* told the Times that it is extremely unlikely Trump even paid for his hairstyling in the first place and that in any case would certainly have been reimbursed if he had.

Another rule bars companies from deducting payments to an independent contractor if the contractor is also an employee. Yet one of Trump's companies [claimed](#) payments of \$747,622 to an unidentified independent contractor whom the Times determined is almost certainly Ivanka Trump. Because she is an employee of that company, the expense is not deductible and is potentially yet another incidence of tax fraud.

Will This Be America's Last Election?

"I'm Terrified...this is a 6-alarm fire...this is DEFCON 5"

Tom Friedman, NY Times columnist, to CNN's Anderson Cooper

"Let us not hedge about one thing. Donald Trump may win or lose, but he will never concede." Barton Gellman, *The Atlantic*

June Sandra Neal

What if Biden and Trump both show up for confirmation on January 20, 2021? Trump's maniacal determination to stay in office and his contempt for our democracy have changed responses from "improbable" to flashing red lights. As New York Times columnist Tom Friedman put it, "Trump gave us two choices, 'either I win the election, or I delegitimize the election.' This is certainly the most frightening moment in my life."

Daniel Block, in his Washington Monthly piece, "How Trump Could Lose the Election and Remain President," provides a hypothetical. "There is a sequence of events...that would allow Trump to remain president despite losing the election—breaking American democracy in the process. Ambiguities in the Constitution and logic bombs in the Electoral Count Act make it possible to extend the dispute all the way to Inauguration Day, which would bring the nation to a precipice. The Twentieth Amendment is crystal clear that the president's term in office 'shall end' at noon on January 20, but two men could show up to be sworn in. One of them would arrive with all the tools and power of the presidency already in hand."

How? Block explains how the state Republicans could annul your ballot by taking control of the electoral votes. "The Constitution gives state legislators free rein to decide how to select electors. Currently, most states legally require electors to vote the same way as the people. But in a state with complete Republican control over the government, the legislature and governor could, in theory, pass a bill that strips this power away from citizens between the election and the actual casting of

electoral votes. (Indeed, in some instances, the state legislature alone might be able to usurp its constituents.)"

Dan Baer, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, argues that the states "could invoke their powers under Article II of the U.S. Constitution to change the manner by which electors are designated."

Thus, if Biden wins in Florida, "The legislature could establish an investigatory commission stacked with partisans and designed to sow doubt about the outcome." And they could pass a bill giving themselves the authority "to appoint the state's electors."

"The worst case, however, is not that Trump rejects the election outcome. The worst case is that he uses his power to prevent a decisive outcome against him," warns Barton Gellman in his Atlantic essay, "The Election That Could Break America." They "are already laying the groundwork for postelection maneuvers that would circumvent the results of the vote count in battleground states."

Nothing is too low for Trump. In May, when asked for comment about the Center for Disease Control's announcement that America had surpassed 100,000 deaths from Covid-19, Trump said, "That's unpleasant."

The best way to protect our democracy is with an overwhelming vote for Joe Biden. If not, 2020 may be the last free election in America for a very long time.

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SCOTUS 2020: Another Stolen Seat?

Rob Resnick

Within minutes of the announcement that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had died, Donald Trump and Mitch McConnell quickly and callously announced they would try to seat her successor on the Court even though there were less than 50 days before the election. Putting aside the utter lack of class or compassion for a grieving family, judicial colleagues, and the millions of Americans who had such great respect and admiration for Ginsburg and her incredible career, Trump and McConnell salivated over the chance to appoint a third Justice, knowing there was a strong chance Trump would lose the upcoming election.

McConnell stole an appointment from President Obama in 2016 by arguing the American people should decide who gets to make an appointment so close (9 months) to the Presidential Election. Well, here we are on the very eve of the election, yet McConnell brazenly declared his intent to ram a nominee through before November 3. Ignoring the hypocrisy and outright dishonesty of McConnell's actions, there really is not sufficient time for a bona fide vetting and confirmation process. As critically important as is the appointment of a Supreme Court Justice, it is not the only pressing business of the Senate right now, not to mention that one third of the Senate is in the final stretch of their reelection campaigns.

Appointment shenanigans are nothing new and have occurred throughout our history. The current cycle of abject weaponization of the judiciary and politicizing the nomination process began in the post-Watergate era. Although President Gerald Ford was a mere caretaker of the White House after Nixon was forced to resign, Democrats did not prevent Ford, a Republican, from making an appointment (Justice John Paul Stevens, who also happens to be the last veteran appointed to the Court). However, Republicans, who later took over the Senate during President Carter's term, blocked Carter from filling a vacancy. Although there was plenty of time to work the process, Republicans believed Carter was vulnerable and that a Republican would win in 1980 so they left the vacancy open. Thus began the current cycle of impropriety and politicization.

President Reagan made 3 appointments. Sandra Day O'Connor was a well-qualified nominee and easily confirmed. It was not until after Justice Scalia took the bench did Democrats come to understand the

new era of partisan political and policy-based nominations. When Reagan nominated Robert Bork, his third nomination, Democrats conducted hearings, exposed concerns about Bork, and defeated the nomination. The result was Justice Anthony Kennedy, appointed by Reagan, not a seat left unfilled until after the 1988 Election. Bork's defeat was nothing new. The Senate has failed to confirm plenty of other nominees. Reagan added 3 Justices to the Court.

President George H.W. Bush appointed the successors to two titans of the Supreme Court, William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall. David Souter's nomination to succeed Justice Brennan proceeded without difficulty, but Clarence Thomas's confirmation was filled with controversy, Thomas was ultimately confirmed, despite the concerns over some unprofessional conduct, because he was deemed qualified and it was felt the President should receive some deference in his nomination. Democrats did not block the Republican President's nominee. During the final year of Bush's term, then Senate Judiciary Chair Joe Biden expressed hesitation about undergoing a confirmation process in a President's final term, as Bush seemed poised to nominate a third Justice (on the heels of Reagan's 3 and Ford's 1). There was no rule against doing so and Biden's point was actually directed at Bush previously foregoing the normal process of coordinating a nomination with the Judiciary Committee prior to announcing it. In any event, Bush was not prevented from making a nomination.

President Bill Clinton nominated Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and once she was confirmed she was at the time the only Democrat-appointed Justice on the Court. Clinton later nominated Justice Stephen Breyer. Neither confirmation process had any notable excitement. The Supreme Court was 7 to 2 Republican appointees when George W. Bush (43) took office. Bush added Justice Samuel Alito, among the Court's more extremist Justices, and Chief Justice John Roberts, who continues to strive to steer the Court as an institutionalist committed to legacy, precedent, and consensus.

President Barack Obama successfully nominated Justices Sotomayor and Kagan; neither could fairly be labeled as extremist. Upon the sudden passing of Justice Antonin Scalia, just under a year before the 2016 Election, Obama nominated Judge Merrick

Garland, a highly respected, non-partisan pick, who would easily have been confirmed in any normal process. However, McConnell, as Republicans also did to Carter, stated that under no circumstances would he allow Garland to even have a hearing. Most Republican Senators would not even have an office call with him.

McConnell said there was not enough time (9 months) and that the American people should decide who appoints the next justice by the result of the 2016 Election. The problem is that there are many issues upon which individuals vote, not just the

force through Trump's pending nomination in record time with under 50 days until the election? If 9 months was not enough time for Obama to fill a vacancy, then there is not even an argument that we now have enough time. Republicans are so desperate to exercise power that they would steal appointments. Based on his first two appointments, it is safe to assume Trump will appoint another conservative with extreme views and tendencies. The Supreme Court would be poised to ignore precedent and increase a wave of activist political decisions by the Court and even the Chief Justice will not be able to control it.

This really has nothing to do with policy, rules, procedures, or the voice of the American people. This is 100% about power.

Supreme Court, and the results of any election are not a clear indication of who the people want to appoint the next justice. It is clear McConnell's only intent was to effectively steal an appointment from Obama. That was the second appointment stolen from Democrats in the modern era and the current attempt to replace Ginsburg would be the third stolen appointment, if successful.

President Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch for that vacancy. Despite some extreme views and legitimate concerns about Gorsuch, McConnell changed the rules to require only a simple majority of 51 Senators to confirm Supreme Court nominees and Democrats had little ability to prevent Gorsuch's confirmation. Many people will remember the drama surrounding Trump's second nomination, Brett Kavanaugh, who despite his qualifications was accused of sexual assault and other impropriety. Republicans, using the new simple majority rule, ensured there was not a proper vetting of the allegations and forced Kavanaugh through on a razor thin vote.

With Joe Biden having a comfortable lead in the race for the White House but Democrats in the Senate minority and lacking the votes to stop McConnell, Republicans are stealing a second Supreme Court appointment for Trump. Assuming Joe Biden wins the 2020 Election, a strong possibility, this should be his vacancy to fill.

Is this what has become of the Supreme Court, the once venerated institution of government looked upon to ultimately protect our democracy? Can McConnell and Senate Republicans really circumvent the vetting and confirmation process to

At least 4 Republican Senators must demonstrate the courage and integrity to stand with Democrats in support of democracy to wait until after the inauguration to conduct the nomination process. Alaska's Senator Murkowski has apparently stepped forward. Several Republican Senators are in extremely tough election battles. If they accept the likelihood of defeat, will they do the right thing now and leave office with integrity or will they support the Trump treachery because it doesn't matter to them anymore? If they believe they can still win, do they appeal to Trump's extremist base and support the nominee or do they appeal to the independent and even Democratic voters they need to push them over the top to win? This entire matter is further evidence of who Trump and McConnell are and why neither is fit to serve in office. The American people must demand better and make their voices heard on November 3.

And now we have something very close to the truth from the Senate Republican leaders. This really has nothing to do with policy, rules, procedures, or the voice of the American people. This is 100% about power. When Republicans control the White House and the Senate, even with a looming election, even with the real likelihood they will lose control of both, they will jam through any nominee up until the very last day. Plain and simple. The Constitution does not prohibit this and the founders left it to those elected to serve to establish the rules and procedures by which they operate. These founders, resting in eternity, are no doubt disgusted by what their venerable institutions of democracy and government have become.

Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid

Michael K. Cantwell

Fear is the most powerful motivator. That’s why it is so widely employed in today’s world, by everyone from advertisers trying to sell you deodorants to politicians trying to frighten you into voting for them.

Fear served us well when we were cave dwellers, protecting us from large predators. Fear still serves us well in the modern world, but it is counterproductive for those of us who remain cave dwellers.

That’s because the actions precipitated by fear are automatic. If the threat is real, fear can save your life, but if the threat is illusory, fear can end your life.

How? It’s well established that people lacking health insurance die at a higher rate than those with health

insurance (conservatively estimated at an annual rate of 1 death per 1000 uninsured). Republicans govern the 14 states (including Florida) that refuse federal funds available under the Affordable Care Act to expand Medicaid to cover the uninsured who make too much money to qualify for conventional Medicaid but not enough to pay for insurance.

Nationally there are 4.4 million who have been denied coverage, of whom 800,000 are Floridians. Many voted for DeSantis and Caruso or other Republican legislators, and some of them will die prematurely as a result. They’ve taken voting against one’s economic interests to a whole new level. You might call it “Russian Roulette by ballot.”

Irrational Fear	Rational Fear
<p>Joe Biden Is a Socialist</p> <p>The reality is that Biden has been a moderate Democrat his entire life, he defeated a self-proclaimed socialist in the Democratic primary, and he was the most conservative of all the major candidates in that primary. He spent his career in the Senate working across the aisle. The accusation that he is a socialist is laughable.</p> <p>You Won’t Be Safe in Joe Biden’s America</p> <p>The reality is that the protests are confined to tiny areas (a few blocks) and the only people dying are the people whose deaths at the hands of police inspire the protests.</p> <p>Joe Biden Will Raise Your Taxes</p> <p>Biden has promised not to support increasing taxes on anyone whose income is under \$400,000. During the eight years of the Obama-Biden administration there were no tax increases, period.</p> <p>If you are in the top 1% of earners (or better, the top 0.1%), you did well with Trump’s tax “cut.” If you are middle class, your “cut” will be cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, or all three, in order to close the \$1.5 trillion hole Trump blew in the deficit to further enrich plutocrats.</p> <p>Vote by mail ballots are rife with fraud</p> <p>The commission Trump appointed to “prove” that fraud was the reason he lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes disbanded without finding any evidence.</p> <p>An earlier investigation launched by George W. Bush’s Department of Justice had found virtually no evidence either, and the database assembled by the uber-conservative Heritage Foundation reported 143 instances of voter fraud related to vote by mail ballots over a 20-year period, which translates to seven instances per year spread across the entire country.</p> <p>Even Fox has acknowledged that Trump’s accusations are unsubstantiated.</p>	<p>Donald Trump Believes in Socialism for the Rich</p> <p>The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimates that 80% of the benefits of Trump’s “tax cut” will go to the top 1% of taxpayers, 60% will go to the top 0.1%, and people making under \$75,000 will see a tax increase in 2027. Because his “tax cut” explodes the deficit by nearly \$2 trillion, Trump is planning to pay for that by raiding Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. See below.</p> <p>You Aren’t Safe in Donald Trump’s America</p> <p>Right-wing extremists are responsible for two thirds of the attacks and plots in the United States in 2019 and over 90 percent between January 1 and May 8, 2020. Trump refuses to condemn them and actively encourages them.</p> <p>Trump Wants to Destroy Social Security and Slash Medicare and Medicaid</p> <p>This is straight from the miscreant’s mouth: “At the end of the year, the assumption that I win (sic), I’m going to terminate the payroll tax.” For those living under a rock, Social Security depends on the payroll tax. The Social Security Trust Fund currently has nearly \$3 trillion in assets, but that money will run out by the mid-2020s.</p> <p>Trump also told friends that slashing Medicare would be a “good second-term project.”</p> <p>Trump promises to steal if he can’t win</p> <p>Another one straight from the miscreant’s mouth. Referring to the mail-in ballots, Trump told Fox: “Get rid of the ballots and you’ll have a very peaceful — there won’t be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation.”</p> <p>Trump is urging his followers to self-appoint themselves “poll watchers” and attempt to disrupt the voting and counting process. And if that doesn’t work, he’ll get Republican states’ legislators to appoint faithless electors to betray voters’ choices.</p> <p>And if that doesn’t work, he’ll get his hand-picked Supreme Court to steal the election.</p>

The Paris Agreement

David Kulick

A Trump supporter told me that the Paris Agreement was a crappy deal, partly because China wasn't in it. Of course, China is in the Paris Agreement, but it's necessary to explain the different interests in the Paris Agreement, particularly financial, and how those interests need to be met.

By way of review, greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen, trap heat produced by the sun much as a greenhouse stays warm by trapping the sun's heat. Natural cycles produce eras of ice ages and warm periods, but since the Industrial Age began 150 years ago, the Earth has warmed at a rate that would normally take tens of thousands to millions of years.

This isn't necessarily bad for the planet, which will continue to exist, but it's very bad for living things because we now have almost 8 billion people on the Earth. If we do nothing or not enough, the increasing heat will cause oceans to flood coastal cities and countries, climate shifts will alter crop growing seasons and regions, ocean acidification will wreak havoc in the food chain, and increased energy in the atmosphere and oceans will mean massive storms, droughts, floods, and fires. The shifting of animal ecosystems will push species closer to extinction as well as closer together, resulting in increasing pandemics.

There are two components to slowing and reversing climate change: reducing the production of greenhouse gases and creating sinks to absorb those gases and keep them out of the atmosphere. Capturing CO₂ by bioenergy with carbon capture (BECCS) and Direct Air Capture (DAC) are promising technologies but face huge hurdles, such as tremendous energy and land use requirements before large scale implementation can be considered. The best way to keep CO₂ out of the atmosphere is the way nature did it, forests, but we keep tearing them down.

In order to stop climate change, we have to stop producing greenhouse gases, and quickly. That means not burning coal, oil, and gas, which are the major causes of climate change. We can use solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewable sources of energy, as well as biofuels, which make use of plants that naturally absorb CO₂. There's also nuclear power, but it is far from a clean fuel and it is unclear if it can ever be used safely. How that can all be done is, of course, part of what we need to develop.

We must note that climate change began with the first countries to industrialize: England, America, France, Germany, and so on. When these countries were industrializing, there were no regulations of any kind. The cheapest and most polluting forms of coal were used in abundance, oil was burned without the slightest thought to environmental destruction, cars had no pollution controls, and industry made huge profits while dumping the cleanup costs onto the public.

I doubt anyone had any idea of the long term damage that was being done to the climate, but plenty of other environmental destruction took place that was clearly visible, including smog and contaminated air and water. Awareness of the problems grew, but as usual, profits remained private while cleanup costs were paid by the public. Still, ever so slowly, regulations began to reign in the worst of the abuses to our planet in the industrializing countries.

For sixty years, big oil interests knew about the danger of burning fossil fuels but kept doing everything they could to deny and obstruct this information.

So, the basis of the Paris Agreement is getting all nations to do their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and perhaps absorbing them from the atmosphere. Unlike the Kyoto accord, there are no binding penalties in the Paris Agreement, which grew out of Kyoto but is not part of it. The goal of the Paris Agreement is to hold warming to under 3.6 °F, which is the minimum necessary to avoid massive climate change.

Each of the 189 signatories agreed to regularly report actions taken although there are no specific targets by specific dates. President Trump gave notice that America will withdraw from the agreement, an act that will ironically become effective just after the November election.

Financial obligations are determined by each country, and they may pool their contributions. There are no enforcement mechanisms; there is only a "name and shame" hope that countries will understand the consequences of inaction. Clearly, developed nations owe much more towards saving our planet than those currently developing. For instance, it isn't fair to Brazil to tell them that they can't cut down the rainforest when we've cut down

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Palm Beach Postal Union Chief Urges Confidence in Mail-In Balloting

June Sandra Neal

Despite Trump's attempts to cripple the US Postal Service, Kevin Young, President of the Palm Beach Postal Union Local 749, says area voters can have confidence in their mail delivery system. "As long as your ballot is mailed 4-7 days before the deadline—and preferably as soon as it's received—you can be assured we'll get it there on time."

Of course, we are still urging all VBM voters to fill out and return their ballots immediately if they are mailing them or, preferably, to bring them to the Supervisor of Elections or deposit them in the lock boxes outside the SOE and the early voting sites if possible.

But it's not going to be easy. Trump hopes to choke mail balloting wherever he thinks it will hurt his re-election (note he says it's OK in Florida...Florida!) and to privatize the postal service, leaving Americans at the mercy of whatever corporate profits dictate. Young says that's not the mission. "We are not the postal business; we are the postal service."

On September 10, Young gave members of the Delray Beach Democratic Club an inside look at what their area postal workers are facing right now. "In his first month as Postmaster General, DeJoy ordered reductions in retail hours, removal of processing equipment, overall reductions in work hours and changes to transportation.

"On August 13, Trump admitted to wanting to starve the Postal Service by withholding additional funding so mail-in voting will become difficult, just when tens of millions are expected to vote by mail during the pandemic. 'Additional funding' was a lie. The Postal Service couldn't get any additional funding, since it gets no funding at all. When the \$550 billion Stimulus Care program rolled out, we received nothing but an offer of a \$10 billion treasury loan... we don't need any more debt."

The Postal Service has been criticized for funding problems, but those problems were created by Congress. "The truth is, we've received no money since 1970," Young said. "And we've struggled financially since 2006 when Congress required us to pre-fund retirement health care costs at \$5.5 billion per year for employees— 75 years into the future! Most of those people haven't been born yet. No other federal agency or independent corporation was required to do this. And it forced us into a deficit."

Many people aren't aware that the US Postal Service receives no funding from taxpayers. "The postal employees carry out their mission, delivering to over 160 million addresses each day without any taxpayer dollars, just postage and postal service revenues," Young explained.

The Postal Service has always been proud to deliver through snow or rain, but now it faces a political perfect storm. "Since 2006, the service has been reduced by about 200,000 workers nationwide, and packages are piling up because DeJoy won't allow replacements of employees lost to the covid-19 virus, retirements and re-assignments," Young reported. "Carriers must be out by 10:00 a.m. and back by 4:30 p.m., whether they've finished their route or not."

And it's hit home. Young said, "Public outrage forced DeJoy to tell Congress he'd suspend his draconian orders until after the election (with the exception of the trucks leaving on time, whether they had any mail in them or not). Another lie. Within a month and a half, DeJoy removed four of our high-speed Delivery Bar Code Sorters which scan about 20,000-31,000 pieces of mail an hour. "But Young wants customers to be assured that, despite Trump's assaults, the Postal Service will get the job done. "It's in the DNA of the postal worker to get the mail and packages to our valued customers promptly."

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an entire continent of forests. That said, we must financially help them to avoid having to cut down the rainforest, an action that will doom our planet. It isn't fair to tell China they can't burn coal when we did the same thing. We must offer them technology that will allow them to develop as we did, but without the crippling effects.

The Paris Agreement is the minimum that needs to be done. There is no alternative except burying our heads in the sand and wishing away the coming catastrophe(s). If we fail, the generations that inherit a blighted planet will never forgive us.

Register to Vote By Mail **Now!**

Trump is the gravest threat to America since its founding. He has made it clear he will do anything to win in November, including crippling the United States Postal Service upon which many vulnerable Americans depend for their mail order medications. He's also made it clear that he will cry "fraud" and may refuse to leave office if he loses in November. The only way to protect our democracy is to defeat Trump by numbers **so overwhelming** he will be unable to challenge them.

Unfortunately, his incompetent response to the coronavirus has turned voting in person into a game of Russian Roulette. At least 40 voters were infected with COVID-19 after waiting in long lines this April in Milwaukee.

VOTING BY MAIL solves both problems. Even before the pandemic it was the best way to increase turnout, and during a pandemic, it is the safest way to vote. It is convenient, postage-free, and will also protect you from the [goons Donald Trump has promised to unleash](#) to intimidate voters at the polls in November.

You can register to vote by phone at 561-656-6208 or online at pbcelections.org. The deadline is 10/24

VBM ballots will be mailed in late September. **IT IS CRITICAL** that you complete and return your ballot immediately upon receipt, either by mail or, preferably, placing it in a drop box at an early election site, taking it directly to the Supervisor of Elections, or giving it to a trusted person who is collecting ballots to deliver to the SOE.

"This, of course, means that Trump is a huge national security risk. He owes money—to whom we don't know—and he does not have it to pay his debts. It is no wonder that a bipartisan group of nearly 500 national security officials, past and present, last week endorsed Biden for president."

Heather Cox Richardson

Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2020 Membership Application



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 _____

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