

The Delray Democrat

September 2020

The Fraud of “Voter Fraud” The Reality of Voter Suppression

Michael K. Cantwell

Is it any surprise Donald Trump both despises and fears the United States Postal Service? Its workforce is unionized, earns a living wage, and is disproportionately minority and female. What’s not to hate if you’re a racist, sexist plutocrat?

Trump fears the women and men of America’s favorite federal agency because (unless he can stop them) they will sort, process, and forward the vote-by-mail ballots that will end his presidency and remove his immunity from prosecution. What’s not to fear?

Trump openly [admits](#) this is why he is threatening to veto the additional funding needed for the Post Office to process the anticipated surge in VBM ballots:

They want \$25 billion, billion, for the Post Office. Now they need that money in order to have the post office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots.

His absurd rationale, that voting by mail is rife with voter fraud, has been widely debunked and is the real fraud on the American public.

The Actual Incidence of Voter Fraud Is Infinitesimal

A commission Trump established to “prove” he “won” the popular vote [disbanded](#) without finding *any* evidence of voter fraud. An earlier effort launched by the DOJ under former President George W. Bush “turned up [virtually no evidence](#) of any organized effort to skew federal elections.”

The Heritage Foundation’s [Election Fraud Database](#) fares no better at establishing significant voter fraud, notwithstanding its claim to have uncovered “1296 proven instances of voter fraud” resulting in “1119 criminal convictions.”

Adjusted for the 20 years and 50 states covered, this translates to *just over one instance of voter fraud per state per year*. Moreover, a substantial number of these cases involved local elections, and virtually all involved individual actors rather than organized efforts.

Finally, [only 143 convictions](#) in the Heritage Database involved voting by mail. That’s less than *a total of seven convictions per year spread across the entire country*.

The Real Threat to Democracy Is Voter Suppression

The real threat to democracy is not voter fraud. It is voter suppression, something at which Republicans excel – limiting polling places and hours, purging voter rolls, and imposing ID laws that discriminate against minorities and the poor.

Now they are recruiting [50,000 poll watchers](#) to challenge voters this November. Even if the challenges are bogus, they are intimidating to voters, they create long lines, and they discourage voting.

You can avoid that if you vote by mail, but be sure to immediately fill out your ballot upon receipt and then mail it or, preferably, deposit it in one of the drop boxes at early voting sites or take it to the offices of the Supervisor of Elections.

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September Meeting of Democratic Club of Delray Beach

**Subject: The Post Office and
The November Election**

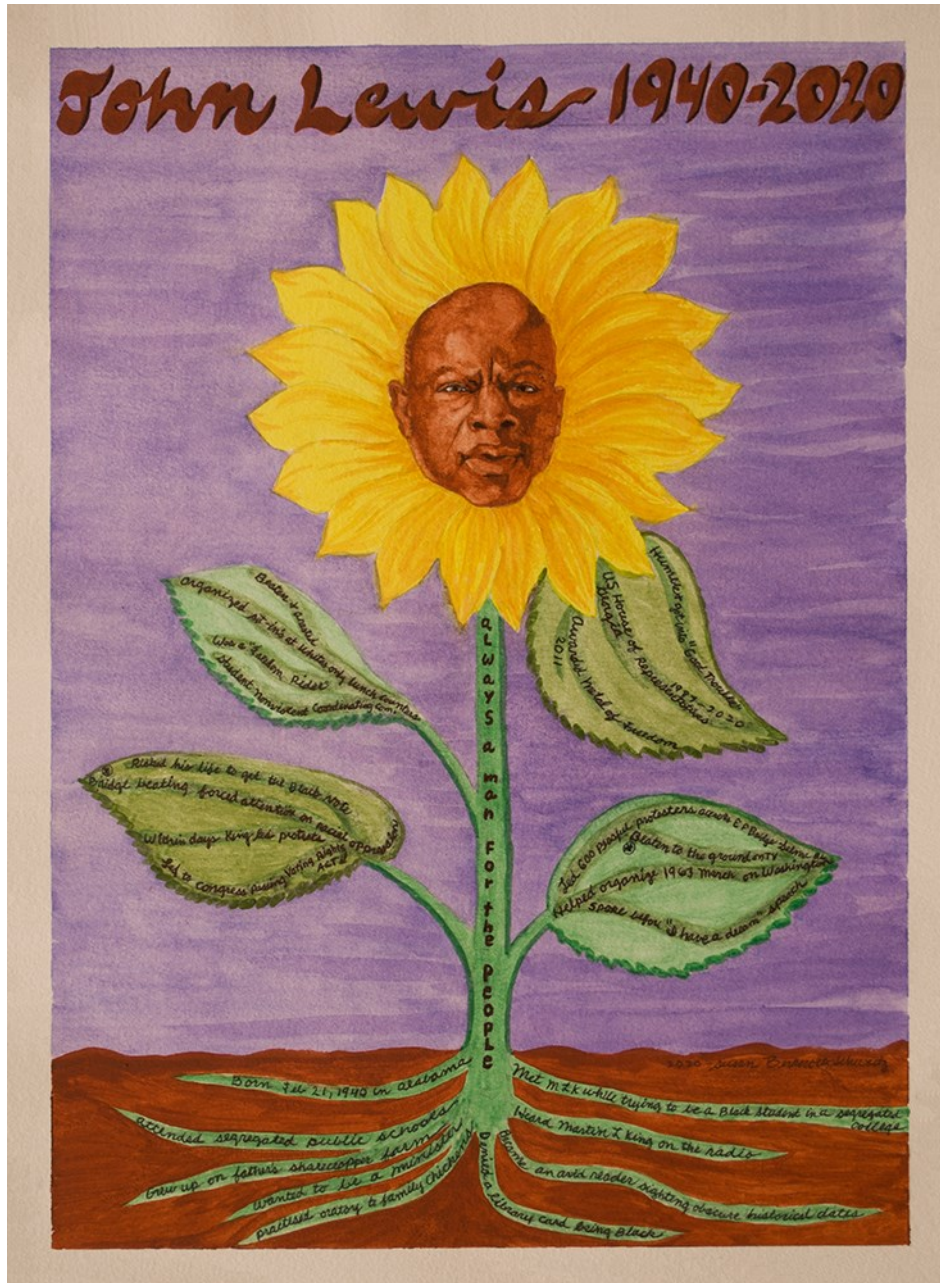
Speaker: Kevin Young
President, Palm Beach Area Local
American Postal Workers Union

Date: **September 10, 2020, 7 PM**

Via Zoom: registration required

Register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsc2orTooGNBBIm34V2-zxxJfml8iLNxl>



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Meadows Says the American People Don't Care He May be Right

Rob Resnick

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows was recently asked about the Republican Convention's ethics violations and other issues surrounding Trump mixing official business and resources with his campaign. Meadows did not try to deny the obvious, but instead brazenly declared that Americans outside the Beltway simply didn't care about these things. It is a sad commentary on today's reality, but it may very well be true. It may be the only honest statement to come out of Trump's convention.

Throughout the 2016 Campaign and his Presidency, Trump demonstrated an unbelievable and unprecedented propensity to violate rules, procedures, traditions, and just about any model of decorum. He has not once conducted himself in a "presidential manner," something we used to consider normal for every one of his 44 predecessors. Putting aside his refusal to learn the job and his refusal to lead, though both serious transgressions questioning his fitness and ability to serve, Trump's perpetual serious ethics and character violations simply continue to "lower the bar" further and further.

The American people have always proven resilient, willing to forgive and forget leaders who momentarily lose their way but sincerely repent and atone for their actions. Enter Donald Trump, who never stops, never takes responsibility, and never apologizes. Trump has been credibly accused of sexual misconduct by at least 19 women, and we have what amounts to at least a partial confession of sexual assault on the infamous Access Hollywood tape. There is overwhelming evidence of financial impropriety demonstrated by the fact that he has settled numerous lawsuits on failed and sham businesses including Trump University, steaks, water, etc., and Trump being the first candidate in modern history to refuse to share his tax returns. Trump is a pathological liar incapable of speaking truth. His ongoing campaign of dishonesty approaches 20,000 verified falsehoods, many of them repeated after they've been exposed.

Leaders have consistently placed their assets in trust to avoid even the appearance of conflict. Trump embraces the conflicts and openly exploits his official position for personal gain. He and his family have made every attempt to profit from his time in the White House. They have steered millions of

dollars to private Trump properties, forcing the Secret Service and administration officials to utilize his properties at taxpayer expense and at premium rates. His children used his name and position to accomplish highly questionable business deals not available to anyone else. The Supreme Court held 9-0 against his baseless claim that he has absolute power and can act with impunity as President.

That brings us to the 2020 Campaign and the Republican Convention. Throughout the campaign Trump has used the White House as his personal prop, routinely mixing in personal and campaign business with his official duties. The White House became the de facto convention hotel for the week. Although there was debate over the applicability of the Hatch Act (legislation prohibiting federal employees from engaging in political activity while on duty), there are many laws, regulations, customs, practices, traditions, etc., all of which apply to these matters. Trump shamelessly bulldozes right through them like no other candidate.

Trump was elected in 2016 with the American people having full knowledge of his base proclivities and ethical lapses. After nearly a full term in office, the people can have no doubt about Trump believing he is king with absolute power, accountable to no one, and not having to follow any rules.

Although Vice President Biden is leading in the polls, we know the election will be close, at least in the Electoral College. We also can expect widespread voter suppression and intimidation by Republican operatives in key states, beginning with Florida. It is certainly possible that we will have the calamity of a second Trump term.

Meadows said people outside the Beltway just do not care about these things. They are primarily and understandably focused on kitchen table issues, etc. The fact that Trump is competitive and still polling in the 40s demonstrates that Meadows may be right. He has failed in so many areas, but the daily destruction of societal and political norms, the lack of decency, and his failure to lead should result in much lower poll numbers. Unless people across the nation really do not care about ethics and standards. It seems Meadows is right. Democrats, we have work to do!

Avoiding a Repeat of 2016

Michael K. Cantwell

There are numerous reasons Donald Trump eked out an Electoral College win in 2016 but most relevant this year are the lies and fearmongering that duped some people into voting against their economic interests and others into not voting or voting for a third party candidate with no chance of winning. Here's what to tell them.

Responding to the Undecided Voter's Reasons for Considering Trump

Donald Trump built a strong economy and he can do it again. *The short answer is "no, he didn't and no, he can't."*

- Trump inherited a strong economy (unlike Obama, who inherited the Great Recession).
- The economy was stronger during Obama's final 36 months than during Trump's initial 36 months on such key economic indicators as growth in jobs and GDP, increase in wages, and decline in unemployment.
- Indeed, the economy has always performed better under Democratic administrations, something Trump himself acknowledged in 2004:

I've been around for a long time and it just seems that the economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans.

- Trump is not responsible for the pandemic but is responsible for his grossly incompetent response, which not only resulted in widespread death but plunged the country into a Great Depression II.
- The economy will not recover until the virus has been controlled, and Trump has demonstrated he is no more able to control the virus than he is able to control himself.

They're not sure they'll be safe if Joe Biden is elected. *The short answer is that no one should feel safe if Donald Trump is reelected.*

- We lead the world in COVID-19 deaths, with the dead now numbering nearly 190,000. Despite warnings, Trump was unprepared for a pandemic and dismissed the threat from the start. Indeed it's not clear he takes it seriously even now. When pressed this week on the 1000 Americans dying daily, Trump responded "it is what it is."
- The protests following police killings of unarmed black Americans have been largely nonviolent, confined to small areas, and entirely justifiable. Egged on by Trump, provocateurs are responsible for much of the violence.
- The overwhelming majority of Americans have nothing to fear from these protests. The people

who are justifiably afraid are the innocent black Americans being killed.

- On the other hand, all Americans have a great deal to fear from far-right terrorism. Emboldened by Trump, right-wing extremists have perpetrated two thirds of the attacks and plots in the United States in 2019 and over 90 percent between January 1 and May 8, 2020.
- American soldiers are less safe under Trump, which may be why his favorability rating among them is underwater by a 49.9% to 37.8% margin and why they favor Biden by 41.3% to 37.4% in a recent poll. Trump ignored reports that Russia paid bounties to the Taliban for killing Americans and refused to confront Putin.

Joe Biden has Alzheimer's. *This is an easy one. The short answer is "Lysol." Tee up Connie Francis and sing along: Who's Crazy Now?"*

- Asked about his second-term plans, Trump told Peter Baker of the New York Times:

But so I think, I think it would be, I think it would be very, very, I think we'd have a very, very solid, we would continue what we're doing, we'd solidify what we've done, and we have other things on our plate that we want to get done"

- Here's Trump's incoherent disquisition on wind:

I never understood wind. You know, I know windmills very much. I've studied it better than anybody I know. It's very expensive. They're made in China and Germany mostly, very few made here, almost none. But they're manufactured — tremendous, if you're into this, tremendous fumes, gases are spewing into the atmosphere. You know we have a world, right? So the world is tiny compared to the universe. So [a] tremendous, tremendous amount of fumes and everything — you talk about the "carbon footprint" — fumes are spewing into the air, right? Spewing. Whether it's in China, Germany, it's going into the air. It's our air, their air, everything, right?

Biden is a socialist. *The short answer is that Trump is a socialist too. . . only his socialism is for the rich.*

- Anyone receiving Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid is a socialist too. But Trump is taking aim at those benefits. He [referred](#) to cutting these life-saving programs as a “good second-term” project.”
- He has also targeted Social Security, suspending the payroll tax for the remainder of the year and [promising](#) to eliminate it entirely if reelected. He claims that “tremendous growth” in the economy will cover the shortfall. I hear he also has a bridge for sale in Brooklyn, “very cheap, good location.”

- But Trump does believe in socialism for the rich. For example, 80% of the benefits in his signature tax “cut” bill went to the top 1% (with 60% going to the top 0.1%). This handout to the superrich was projected to blow a \$1.9 trillion hole in the federal deficit.
- Trump’s 2020 [budget](#) proposed to fill the hole by cutting Medicare and Medicaid by the same \$1.9 trillion. That is Trump’s version of socialism, under which the government plunders the safety net in order to further fatten the obscenely wealthy.

Responding to the Stay-at-Home and Protest Voter’s Reasons for Refusing to Vote for Biden

The two short answers to any and all arguments for refusing to vote for Joe Biden are (1) Ruth Bader Ginsburg and (2) “There Is No Planet B.”

- “Those who refuse to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.”
- Forty years of non-votes and protest votes have done nothing but dump us in a hole, and when you’re in a hole, you need to stop digging.
- They’ve allowed Republicans to lard the federal courts with extreme right-wing judges.
 - They’ve allowed Trump to install Gorsuch instead of Clinton installing Garland. They’ve allowed Trump to replace Kennedy with a nasty piece of work who is 30 years younger.
 - They allowed George W. Bush to appoint John Roberts and Sam Alito to the Court. These men are responsible for *Citizens United* and *Colby County*, grotesque acts of judicial activism that helped elect Trump in 2016 and Scott and DeSantis in 2018, and will in 2020 create voter intimidation on scale that would do Bull O’Connor proud.
 - They allowed Trump to appoint 6 of the 12 judges sitting on the federal circuit hearing the Amendment 4 appeal. Republicans now have a 7-5 majority .
 - They’ve allowed Republican administrations to increase inequality, restrict access to healthcare, create repeated economic crises, and push us to the point of no return on climate change.

- They’ve ensured that when a Democrat is finally elected, he wastes precious time cleaning up Republican messes instead of building on the progressive advances of prior Democrats.
- No one can seriously dispute the claim that Joe Biden will do more for ordinary Americans than Donald Trump.
 - Trump lowered taxes on multimillionaires and multinationals; Biden would raise them.
 - Trump failed to destroy the Affordable Care Act but severely crippled it. Eliminating the Individual Mandate caused millions to lose insurance and the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates another [27 million](#) Americans have lost coverage due to the pandemic.
 - Trump has promised to try again to repeal the ACA. Biden will work to lower the age for Medicare and shore up the ACA.
- People died in the fight for the franchise. You dishonor their sacrifice if you stay home or vote for a candidate who has no chance of winning.
- And last, but surely not least, **there is no such thing as not voting:**

By all means stay home if you want, but don’t bullshit yourself that you’re not voting. In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard’s vote.

David Foster Wallace

Our Board Members in the *Palm Beach Post*

While we welcome your articles (our tagline is “you don’t have to live in Delray to read or write for The Delray Democrat”), an even better way to air your opinions is to submit a letter to one of the local newspapers. A single letter will be read by thousands of people and even if they don't print yours, they will often print one if they receive several on the same topic. Below are some recent letters written by members of our Board. See more at <https://www.demclubofdelray.org/how-to-help>

When the doctor you cite diagnoses demons

Just because someone claims that certain illnesses are caused by having sex with demons, and that mainstream medical treatments use alien DNA, and that scientists are secretly creating a vaccine for religion, you shouldn't automatically dismiss everything else they say, but you should be skeptical.

When you're the president of the United States and you bring this person up as an authority on treating COVID-19, you're revealing the fact that you are also deranged. How do Trump supporters rationalize this?

If you believe that the cause of certain illnesses is having sex with demons, Donald Trump is clearly your man. Otherwise, it's time to vote him out along with every other Republican.

David Kulick, Delray Beach, August 8

Congress must shore up Postal Service

Our Founders realized the critical role mail plays in communications and deemed it a public service to inform and educate the general population on all facts and issues, including those governmental and political in nature. Congress was granted the sole and continuing power to establish and regulate post offices by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution in 1789 and passed the Post Office Act of 1792.

The Postal Service has since been a major employer and responsible for a certain life benefit for all Americans. Greeting cards, letters, medical prescriptions, election materials, bills, financial communications and packages have been a constant in our lives and become more important in this time of COVID-19.

We all want to avoid crowds and stem the spread of the coronavirus, which makes voting by mail the best option for staying safe and healthy. Congress needs to step up to ensure the ongoing operational efficiency of and curb the recent damaging assaults on and attempted decimation of the USPS.

We need to ignore the reelection campaign-based misinformation and support the USPS however we can, including contacting our senators and representatives, to help ensure the continuation of our democracy.

Char Lane, Delray Beach, August 23

President Trump wrong to bypass CDC for collecting hospital data

President Donald Trump's latest act of profanity, an attempt to make Americans believe that the coronavirus is waning instead of escalating, should terrify us all.

He wants governors to circumvent the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for collection of hospitals' COVID-19 infection and death statistics and instead, send them to a private contractor for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It is imperative that these statistics remain accessible, untainted and verifiable for the doctors and scientists struggling valiantly to save us. It is a matter of life and death.

June S. Neal, Delray Beach, July 21

Remembering “Radical Jack” A Life Well Lived *Michael K. Cantwell*

Jack Lieberman, a fixture of progressive politics in South Florida for five decades, died of COVID-19 on August 30, 2020. Dubbed “Radical Jack” and expelled from Florida State University in the late 1960s, he wore the mantle proudly and is remembered lovingly by the many whose lives he helped and changed.

It is perhaps fitting that I just happened to put on my “Remember Paul” t-shirt this morning, a few hours before I heard of Jack’s passing. I first “met” Jack after searching online for “Paul Robeson t-shirts” sometime back in the early aughts.

About a decade later, and before moving to Florida, I actually did meet him.

Sandy and I were leaving a rally in DC when one of the many people hawking books, buttons, and other political paraphernalia suddenly called out, “Hey, that’s my shirt,” pointing at Sandy, dressed in a Paul Robeson shirt. I yelled back, “Are you Radical Jack?” He said, “yeah,” and Sandy said, “well, we’ve just been giving out your website to everyone.” The Robeson t-shirt actually did create quite a stir among the Old Lefties in the crowd, but sadly most people were unfamiliar with that giant of a man.

To read more about Jack by those who knew him better, go to

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/363632-evan-ross-my-jack-lieberman-story-a-life-of-service>

<https://haitiliberte.com/loved-south-florida-activist-jack-lieberman-dead-of-covid-19-at-70/>

<https://www.facebook.com/jack.lieberman.7>

You are sorely missed, Jack. Rest in Power.



Get Your DCDB T-Shirt

We have a limited number of our Democratic Club of Delray Beach t-shirts available and will be ordering more soon.

The shirts are Democratic blue and bear the critical message “**We Vote, We Win**” on the front. The back features the DCDB logo (putting the logo on back allows people standing behind you on the checkout line or biking past you on A1A to get a better look).

The t-shirts come in both a regular crew neck and a “scoop” neck. Email t-shirts@dcdb.us for more information (N.B. the TLD is **.us**, not **.com**). The cost is \$20 (*bike and rider not included*).

Photo by Char Lane

Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

Michael Cantwell, President; Mary Fader, First Vice-President; Robert Averack, Second Vice-President; David Kulick, Treasurer; Sandra Elaisse-Cantwell, Secretary; Robert Resnick, Recording Secretary; John Ramos, Parliamentarian, Angela Burns, Jennifer Jones, Char Lane, June Neal, Patricia O’Hearne, and Cheryl Perry, Directors

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 on 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.

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.

"I've been around for a long time and it just seems that the economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans."

Donald Trump, in 2004

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 _____

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.

