

# The Delray Democrat

## Meadows Says the American People Don't Care He May be Right<sup>1</sup>

*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.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, September, p. 3.

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!