

# The Delray Democrat

## Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid<sup>1</sup>

*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><b>Joe Biden Is a Socialist</b></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><b>Donald Trump Believes in Socialism for the Rich</b></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><b>You Won't Be Safe in Joe Biden's America</b></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><b>You Aren't Safe in Donald Trump's America</b></p> <p><a href="#">Right-wing extremists</a> 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><b>Joe Biden Will Raise Your Taxes</b></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><b>Trump Wants to Destroy Social Security and Slash Medicare and Medicaid</b></p> <p>This is straight from the miscreant’s <a href="#">mouth</a>: “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><b>Vote by mail ballots are rife with fraud</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">commission</a> 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 <a href="#">investigation</a> launched by George W. Bush’s Department of Justice had found virtually no evidence either, and the <a href="#">database</a> assembled by the uber-conservative Heritage Foundation reported 143 instances of voter fraud related to vote by mail ballots over a <i>20-year period</i>, which translates to <a href="#">seven instances per year</a> spread across the entire country.</p> <p>Even <a href="#">Fox</a> has acknowledged that Trump’s accusations are unsubstantiated.</p>	<p><b>Trump promises to steal if he can’t win</b></p> <p>Another one straight from the miscreant’s mouth. Referring to the mail-in ballots, Trump told <a href="#">Fox</a>: “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>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, October 2020, p. 5