

# The Delray Democrat

## What to Tell the NPAs—Republicans Are the Real Extremists<sup>1</sup>

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Republicans win elections by falsely labeling Democrats as extremists, but the true threat to our values, our democracy, and our planet is the Republican Party itself.

Long before Trump's Big Lie of a stolen election, Republicans were accusing Democrats of election fraud, but their efforts to prove such fraud have always ended in failure. The DOJ investigation ordered by former President George W. Bush found [no evidence](#) of organized voter fraud that could affect an election. The commission Trump created to "prove" he won the popular vote in 2016 disbanded without finding [any evidence](#) of voter fraud, and the lawsuits he filed challenging the 2020 election were dismissed as frivolous. The nail in the voter fraud coffin is the Heritage Foundation's "Election Fraud Database" that trumpets "1,371 proven instances of voter fraud." The [database](#) covers more than 20 years, and thus amounts to one instance of voter fraud per state per year.

Following Trump's failed but deadly effort to reverse his 2020 loss through violence and mayhem, Republicans used the original Big Lie of voter fraud to continue passing federal voter suppression laws. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 41 states controlled by Republicans now have such laws. As *The New York Times* succinctly [explained](#), Republicans were advancing the goals of the January 6 rioters "not by breaking laws but by making them."

The law that the Brennan Center dubbed Florida's "omnibus voter suppression bill," SB 90, was opposed by the supervisors of election in all 67 counties and was enacted "with the intent to discriminate against Black voters," according to the judge who held the law unconstitutional in part. If "voter fraud" includes fraud perpetrated *upon* as well as *by* voters, Republicans are the serial fraudsters, and they are preparing to commit an even graver assault on our democracy than the one committed by the insurrectionists on January 6, 2021.

Similarly, Ron DeSantis's false, ad nauseam jeremiads about schoolchildren being indoctrinated in "Critical Race Theory" have it backward. CRT is a graduate-level discipline and has *never* been taught in Florida's public schools. On the other hand, DeSantis is hard at work attempting to turn Florida's public schools into reeducation camps through his Orwellian-titled "Civic Literacy Excellence Initiative."

Teachers who attended a recent three-day training session complained about being subjected to Christian and conservative ideology and attempts to whitewash the history of slavery in America. Attendees were instructed that "the colonies didn't buy nearly as many enslaved people during the transatlantic slave trade as has been portrayed" because "[most enslaved people in the country were](#)

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, September 2022, page 3.

[born into slavery](#)” – as if claiming ownership over the children of people one has purchased and holds in bondage is somehow less despicable than the act of purchasing them in the first place.

The most recent and odious example of Republican extremism was their assault on a woman’s right to choose, a right supported by a substantial majority of Americans and one that was judicially protected until five radical, activist troglodytes shamed and disgraced the Supreme Court on which they sit by overruling a half-century of precedent and a quarter century of precedent on precedent.

And Republicans are still not satisfied. They are pushing nationwide bans on abortion and defending laws that make no exceptions for rape or incest. Autonomy over one’s body is a universal human right, one that Republicans are violating.

The midterms will be decided by voters who identify with neither major party. For the sake of our democracy, it is critical they understand and then choose the one that best represents American values.