

# The Delray Democrat

## More Letters from Our Members<sup>1</sup>

### Keep Trump (the Gift that keeps Giving) on the Ballot

Citing Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to bar Trump from running was first floated after the Jan. 6 committee hearings exposed the depths of his attempts to overthrow the election. It was generally regarded as unlikely to succeed.

For one, it's unclear whether Trump would be considered among "former officers of the United States." Second, he could argue that drafters of the amendment intended "insurrection or rebellion" to apply only to sustained battlefield war. That's a stretch, given the plain meaning of Section 3, but the ultimate interpreter of the language would be the Supreme Court, three of whose members were appointed by Trump and six of whom are conservative Republicans.

Things have changed this year, however. After four indictments, each one increasingly damning, Trump is not only unelectable, but his nomination is likely to cause a level of down-ballot destruction not seen since 1964. It's hardly surprising that two Federalist Society professors authored a report claiming that the 14th Amendment applies to Trump, nor would it be surprising to see the Supreme Court agree. They've all gotten what they needed from Trump.

With Trump, loyalty is a one-way street. It would be satisfying to see him hoisted on his own petard. Still, I hope he is not barred from the ballot. It might be the only way we can save both our democracy and our planet.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Sun-Sentinel*, September 1, 2023

### Weaponizing Government

It was not 'weaponizing government' to impeach a president for threatening to delay the delivery of congressionally approved military armaments unless a foreign leader opened an investigation into Joe Biden. It was not 'weaponizing government' to impeach a president for leading a violent revolt to prevent the democratically approved transfer of power to Joe Biden. It was not 'weaponizing government' to indict Mr. Trump for refusing to return classified documents illegally taken when he was finally forced to vacate his office. It was not 'weaponizing government' to indict Mr. Trump for demanding that Georgia's secretary of state 'find' him enough votes to overturn the election results in that state.

Republicans have been looking for years for what the hapless and craven Kevin McCarthy calls a 'culture of corruption' surrounding the Biden family. They have found none, nor will they. Accordingly, there is no better example of 'weaponizing government' than the decision to open a doomed 'impeachment inquiry' simply to placate the quivering mass of grievances and failures that is Donald Trump.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Palm Beach Post*, September 16, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), September 2023, page 9.