

# The Delray Democrat

## People Get Ready<sup>1</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.” Aldous Huxley, *Collected Essays*

Republicans now control both the presidency and Congress for the fifth time in the last 100 years.

Each such presidency produced a recession: The Great Depression; the 1953-1954 recession; the Great Recession of 2008; and the final year of Trump’s first administration. That was the first time since The Great Depression that a president left office with fewer Americans working than when he was inaugurated.

Count on Republicans to keep their streak alive in 25. That may come as a surprise to those who believed Donald Trump a better economic steward than Joe Biden or than Kamala Harris would have been. After all, as the media reminded us on virtually a daily basis for over 2 years, inflation under Biden was the highest it had been in four decades!

Critical facts were routinely absent from that coverage: Inflation was a worldwide phenomenon caused principally by the global economy reopening after COVID and was lower in the United States than other industrialized countries. Biden tamed it quickly, in less than half the time it had taken four decades earlier – and without the recession and 10.8% unemployment that occurred under Reagan.

While voters blamed Biden for the COVID-created inflation, they have given Trump a pass for the millions of jobs lost on his watch.

They also failed to credit Biden for creating over 16 million jobs in less than 4 years (more than Reagan had created in 8 years). And they are clearly oblivious to the fact that Democrats created more than triple the number of jobs as Republicans over the last eight administrations (four Republican and four Democratic).

Trump is inheriting a far stronger economy than the train wreck he left for Biden. Harris would have built on Biden’s economy, but Trump is likely to leave another train wreck for his successor.

He’s promised to raise tariffs and deport millions of low-wage immigrants, inevitably and significantly increasing the cost of goods and spiking inflation.

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His proposed tax cuts will be weighted to the wealthiest Americans, which is the least efficient way to stimulate the economy and the most effective way to increase inequality.

People get ready, there's train wreck comin'.