

The joy continues



DEFENDING THE REPUBLIC
NOV 18, 2024 · PAID



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November 18, 2024

Dear Patriot,

People all across the fruited plains are reporting that everyone seems to be happier and optimistic since the election.

We agree! We have witnessed a joyfulness that has been lacking in America for a long time.

It is contagious. If you are on X/Twitter, you probably saw photos and video of President Trump and his team going to the massive UFC fights in Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

When was the last, or the first, time you have seen politicians having such a blast mingling with their constituents?

We are jealous that we were not with them for the fun!

There are many tough days ahead as this team battles the The Swamp, but, we know that they go into the fight with a sense of humor.

If you are not on X...join today. It is THE best place to keep up with breaking news.

Today we share....

- thoughts on the optimistic times we live in.
- Newt shares insights on the new Cabinet.
- Americans flock to help at the border.

- the new Energy Secretary is not like any other.
- the fundamental realignment of America.
- how Covid-CCP influenced the election.
- a bad voting method fails to win voters.

A Reader Message:

Dearest Sidney and DTR,

I look forward to your reporting over any other news source.

You always capture and fully collect/report on exactly the issues troubling a Godly patriotic heart.

Ever since your early stand against the darkness against Pres Trump, I have sought you in fascination of your focused, tenacious and comprehensive digs into the reality deep in the lawlessness and treason.

-G.I. in Texas



1- We are living in dynamic times. The one clear mandate for navigating this adventure is to seek, know, and share the truth. Jeffrey Tucker walks through the progression in a long piece available in full at the link.

The Post-Ideological Age

QUOTE: Conventional wisdom has it that the US and much of the Western world has polarized into right and left. These tribes are hard-core and share mutual loathing. That model of understanding pervades all popular media and consumes the culture, such that everyone feels the need to choose. It's simple, harkens back to Cold War binaries, drums up media attention, and further divides the population in ways that benefit the leaders of both sides.

The reality underneath the surface is otherwise. The old ideologies are fractured and most serious people are trying to piece together something other than the old frameworks. The turning was slow at first, probably beginning at the end of the Cold War, but culminated in the response to the Covid crisis. Despite the claim, left and right have never been more scrambled. The reassembling is also occurring right now but it looks much more like the ruling class vs everyone else.

In the language of Thomas Kuhn, our times have seen the decisive collapse of old paradigms. They have fallen under the weight of too many anomalies. We have already entered into the pre-paradigmatic stage that seeks a new and more evidence-based orthodoxy of understanding. The only way we can get there is to enter into and enjoy the clash of ideas, in a spirit of freedom and learning. If nothing else, these are exciting times to be alive and active, an opportunity for all of us to make a difference for the future.



[Newt Gingrich at Newsmax](#)

This Is 'Most Reform-Oriented Cabinet'

QUOTE: President-elect Donald Trump is putting together "the most reform-oriented Cabinet" in the "lifetime" of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who expects leftist and even some establishment efforts to "destroy" Trump's pick for defense secretary — Pete Hegseth.

The disruptor nominees are long needed to conduct "a complete overhaul" at the Pentagon, adding that the choices for director of national intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, secretary of state, Marco Rubio, and Hegseth would make an "amazing team."

But Trump's Cabinet picks are going to face potentially historic obstruction, particularly in Hegseth, according to Gingrich.

"It's going to take enormous courage and resilience on the part of Pete Hegseth to survive over there because the whole old order is going to try to destroy him," Gingrich warned. "I've been actively involved in thinking about and working on defense for an extraordinarily long time: And I can tell you, the building needs a very complete overhaul."

All of the three- and four-star generals should be sent out and given retirement papers, a source told Gingrich.

"I had one senior person in the military who retired, who was working with Trump, who said he would recommend the president have every three and four star general retire — and then go down to two stars to pick a whole new generation of leaders," Gingrich said.

"He thinks between Obama and Biden, the whole system has just been undermined and corrupted."

Trump is reportedly weighing an executive order to conduct external reviews of U.S. military generals — potentially having them interview to keep their jobs in the

Pentagon that might lead to their dismissals after the deadly Afghanistan withdrawal and wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East.



3- There is so much pent up desire to make America great again!

[The Western Journal](#)

Thousands of Retired Officers, Veterans Are Volunteering for Unprecedented Deportation Effort

QUOTE: It's bad news for illegal immigrants.

Newly appointed "Border Czar" Thomas Homan said "thousands" of retired border agents and military servicemen are volunteering to help with the incoming Trump administration's planned mass deportation of illegals.

"I shut my phone off Friday night because I couldn't handle the phone calls, and texts and emails from thousands of ICE agents and border patrol agents excited about the rumor I'm coming back," said Homan, the former Immigration and Customs Enforcement acting director.

"But more important than that, thousands of retired agents, retired border patrol agents, retired military [want] to come in and volunteer to help this president secure the border and do the deportation operation," Homan said.



4- Robert Bryce has been studying all things energy for decades. He has written several books on the topic. Over the weekend he wrote about his friend, Chris Wright, the NEW Secretary of Energy. It is wonderful to have knowledgeable outsiders going into these bureaucrat messes.

[Robert Bryce](#)

Chris Wright, An Unapologetic Energy Humanist, Will Be The Next Secretary Of Energy

QUOTE: For the first time, the DOE will be led by someone from the energy sector.

It has long been accepted practice in Washington that plum spots in presidential administrations are given to key supporters from selected sectors and influential Wall Street firms. The most obvious example is the revolving door between Goldman Sachs and the Treasury Department.

Energy-sector expertise has never been a prerequisite for the Secretary of Energy. At least, it hasn't been until now.

The current Energy Secretary, Jennifer Granholm, never worked in the energy sector. Her predecessor, Dan Brouillette, made his career as a staffer on Capitol Hill and later as a deputy secretary in the DOE under Rick Perry, the former governor of Texas who headed the DOE under Trump for two years. Before them were two academics, Ernie Moniz and Steve Chu. Before Moniz and Chu, there were a slew of lawyers and one engineer, Sam Bodman, none of whom came from the energy sector.

That history is relevant because it underscores how remarkable it is that Trump has named Chris Wright, the founder and CEO of Denver-based Liberty Energy, an oilfield services company, as his nominee for Secretary of Energy. It's not an exaggeration to say that Wright is the most qualified person ever named to that position. As Trump explained in his announcement, "Chris was one of the pioneers who helped launch the American shale revolution that fueled American energy independence, and transformed the global energy markets and geopolitics."

It's clear that Trump aims to shake up the status quo in Washington. Wright will have his hands full cleaning house at the DOE, an agency that has, under Granholm, been captured by anti-hydrocarbon NGOs and the anti-industry industry.

I'll end with a couple of quotes I pulled from my talk with Wright on the podcast last year. Toward the end of the interview, I asked him one of my favorite questions: What gives you hope? He replied with an answer that may be his guiding viewpoint at DOE:

I'm so optimistic positive change can happen... we're driving the price of energy needlessly up, we're destabilizing our electricity grid needlessly. These are huge problems. But ultimately, they will be reversed when political aspirations collapse, [when they] collide with physics, physics wins every time and will again here. But you and I, Robert, and so many others have to continue to push that effort, to bring energy sobriety, to try to stop more of this damage before it happens. But I'm optimistic because I believe we will win. We will reverse this damage. But today, yes, there's a lot of stuff going the wrong direction. But we're going to stop it and I believe we will.

He's correct. A lot of damage has been done to our electric grid and to America's energy sector over the past few years. It's hard to imagine a better repairman than Chris Wright.



5- The election numbers tell a new story for America.

[Dan O'Donnell at The Federalist](#)

Voters Rejected Not Just Harris But Democrats' Politics Of Division

QUOTE: In the final tense days before the 2024 presidential election, a quiet confidence began to take hold. Shockingly strong polls, massive early voting crowds, a visibly panicked Democrat Party — this time around something just felt different. It was as if the ground was moving underneath the country; not splitting apart, but bringing it together.

So big was this shift that when Donald Trump was declared the winner, it felt less like a victory for him, the Republican Party, or even the MAGA movement than it did the ultimate triumph of American unity over the craven politics of division.

Voters of all ages and races from all walks of life and all socioeconomic backgrounds in all areas of the country came together to deliver Trump 312 electoral votes and a resounding win in the national popular vote. He didn't just win; he won everywhere, improving his standing in nearly every geographic area and among every demographic group.

He became the first candidate in 40 years to sweep the seven swing states and improved on his 2020 performance in nearly every state and 2,367 of the nation's 3,243 counties and townships, according to New York Times data. He improved in urban counties by 5.2 percent, suburban counties by 4.3 percent, younger counties by 5.6 percent, and older counties by 4.9 percent. In counties with at least a 25

percent black population, he improved by 4.1 percent. In counties with at least a 25 percent Latino population, he improved by 9.5 percent.

This fueled a massive nationwide shift towards him that even hit the most heavily Democrat states. Although Trump lost New Jersey by 16 percent of the vote in 2020, he narrowed that gap to just 5 percent in 2024. In Illinois, he lost by nine points after losing by 16 points four years ago. New York moved 12 points to the right while California moved 10, using the most recent data.

The primary reason for this was that traditionally Democratic voters flocked to Trump in droves. Exit polling showed that he won 46 percent of Hispanic voters, including 55 percent of Hispanic men. He doubled his support among black men, winning 24 percent in 2024, and got nearly a third of all voters who identified as non-white.

Younger voters, another core Democrat coalition, also moved dramatically to Trump. Forty-six percent of voters under 30 cast ballots for him, and so did 52 percent of men under the age of 45. Trump won middle-aged voters by a 52-47 margin and won seniors 51-48.

This signals a fundamental realignment not just of electoral politics, but potentially of American society as well.



6- There will be hundreds of ways the numbers from the 2024 election are studied. We thought the way Alex Berenson looked at the shift of voters was fascinating.

[Alex Berenson on Substack](#)

How much did lockdown and mRNA regret drive voters toward Trump?

QUOTE: The hard-blue states with the toughest lockdowns and vaccine mandates had by far the biggest shifts; a reader email suggests one reason the link may not be coincidental.

This amazing chart ranks states by how heavily their voters shifted toward Trump from 2020 to 2024.

Overall, Trump picked up about 6-7 points in the national popular vote. He trailed by 4.5 percentage points in 2020 and will win by 2 or so this time.

But, as this chart shows definitively, blue state voters drove the shift.

Six of the top seven moves to Trump occurred in hard-left states, led by California, the hardest of all. (Florida, the only exception, has gained hundreds of thousands of blue-state refugees since 2020, helping drive its shift.)

And after Mississippi come three more blue states. Except for Mississippi and Florida, the list pretty much captures the states with the hardest Covid lockdown and vaccine mandates and the highest mRNA jab rates.

Trump Margin, 2020 v. 2024

	2020	2024	Red Shift
California	-29.2%	-17.2%	+12.0%
New York	-23.1%	-11.5%	+11.6%
New Jersey	-15.9%	-5.0%	+10.9%
Maryland	-33.2%	-22.8%	+10.4%
Florida	+3.4%	+13.1%	+9.7%
Massachusetts	-33.5%	-24.7%	+8.8%
Illinois	-17.0%	-8.4%	+8.6%
Mississippi	+16.5%	+24.9%	+8.4%
Rhode Island	-20.8%	-13.5%	+7.3%
Connecticut	-20.1%	-13.4%	+6.7%
Hawaii	-29.5%	-23.1%	+6.4%



7- This voting abomination was voted OUT all over the country. But, the left will keep trying to install it.

[Oregon Capital Chronicle](#)

Ranked choice voting faces cloudy future after election setbacks

QUOTE: Voters in several states last week delivered a stinging rebuke to ranked choice voting, clouding the future of an idea that had seen strong momentum in

recent years.

Ranked choice voting, which allows voters to rank political candidates by preference, is used statewide in Alaska and Maine and in major U.S. localities such as New York City and San Francisco.

But voters in Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Oregon rejected ballot measures that would have adopted ranked choice voting for packed races. In Missouri, voters approved a ballot measure banning the approach statewide and locally, except for a grandfather clause for St. Louis municipal elections.

Results are still too close to call on a measure to scrap Alaska's existing use of ranked choice voting. With 94% of results reported, the measure was up by about 2,400 votes.

"Voters this year were reluctant to make dramatic changes to the way they vote," said Chandler James, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Oregon. "But I don't think that it spells the end for ranked choice voting in the future."



PRAY for divine intervention.

PRAY for President Trump and all who are going into the new administration.

THANK God for saving the country.

SHARE the truth.

Hold Fast,

Defending The Republic

[Read the five part series truthfully explaining the unprecedented lawfare used by the left to remove Sidney Powell's right to free speech.](#)

This will be permanently available for all at Defending The Republic.

Regardless of who wins any election, to have confidence in the outcome, we must continue to demand **(1)** real paper ballots, **(2)** hand counted in a bipartisan transparent process, and **(3)** citizen voter ID.

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