

The Patriots' Truth

Flint Hills T.E.A. Party News

We are hoping to resume our monthly meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Check for updates at flintheastparty.com. We are now posting news items, events and these newsletters — both recent and archived issues — at our newly updated website. Weekly meetings are held at McAlister's, 5:30-10pm, Wed. evenings. They are come and go, at your convenience. Your concerns are important – they are why we exist. In this publication: my thoughts are in green, other colors are just for getting attention. Help me include YOU!!

We must continue working, paying attention, informing & most of all PRAYING!! With the help of the LORD we will prevail!! The USA is too important to the world for us, yes us, you and me and all our friends and family, to let it be destroyed – Take a deep breath, PRAY, Forge ahead, we will succeed!!! I truly believe GOD is with us. With GOD's help we won't fail. Be informed, work for the good of the USA.

I RECEIVED THIS AS I WAS FINISHING THE NEWSLETTER – THANK YOU, KANSAS LEGISLATORS!!

Balanced Budget Solution **Protecting Middle-Class Kansans**

Legislators Unveil Republican Balanced Budget Solution

Topeka, KS – A broad coalition of Republican legislators unveiled the “Republican Balanced Budget Solution” on Monday afternoon, providing a pathway for legislators to meet their constitutional obligation without increasing the tax burden on Kansas families.

The Republican Balanced Budget Solution, which balances the budget in 2018 and fully funds KPERS without a tax increase, stands in stark contrast to the array of proposals that have emerged during the legislative session, which is fast approaching 100 days. After several votes and many false starts, leaders of the coalition supporting the Republican Balanced Budget Solution said it was time for a new approach.

“As we approach Memorial Day, those controlling this legislature are no closer to a solution than they were in January,” said Senator Ty Masterson, who added, “As they work behind the scenes to reach the magic number of votes necessary to ram through a plan that includes new and unnecessary spending and pays for that new spending with higher taxes on the middle class, we have a simple, straightforward plan that balances our budget without increasing the burden on hard-working Kansans.”

The benchmark of the Kansas Republican Balanced Budget Solution is that it slows the growth of government by not including new spending, thereby unnecessarily inflating the state's need for added revenue. In addition, it brings KPERS up-to-date and fulfills promises made by taking advantage of the opportunity to leverage the state master settlement agreement (MSA), which 18 other states have done previously. Partial securitization allows the state to utilize a cash payout to address a past due, one-time balance.

“This Balanced Budget Proposal is our way of saying – there is another way. If we really want to, there is a responsible path that does not require any new taxes. It's not easy – but it's simple: no new spending, keep promises, deliver the essentials,” said Rep. Chuck Weber.

Another feature of the Republican Balanced Budget Solution is that it returns to the practice of passing one-year budgets. It is not prudent to pass two-year budgets when the revenue picture can dramatically change year-to-year, particularly as our economy grows. Furthermore, imposing a premature tax increase can undermine that very growth. By this simple process change, the Republican Balanced Budget Solution eliminates the need for a tax increase to fund a deficit that may not exist.

Republican Balanced Budget Solution
PROTECTING MIDDLE-CLASS KANSANS
BALANCE THE BUDGET
NO TAX INCREASES
FUNDS KPERS

GETTING THE JOB DONE WITHOUT TAX INCREASES

KEY POINTS OF REPUBLICAN BALANCED BUDGET

Protects Kansas families struggling to make ends meet from massive, unnecessary tax increases

Safeguards all Kansas taxpayers from an unexpected retroactive tax increase

Controls government spending that leads to budget shortfalls

Keeps legislative promises to fund delayed KPERS payments.

Protects Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) programs

The Kansas Republican Balanced Budget Solution is a proposal that balances the state budget and fulfills promises to fund KPERS without increasing taxes on hard-working Kansas families and seniors on fixed incomes.

The benchmark of the Kansas Republican Balanced Budget solution is controlling the growth of government by eliminating new and unnecessary spending. Unfortunately for Kansas taxpayers, budget proposals currently under consideration in the Legislature add new spending and unnecessarily inflate the state's need for added revenue.

According to the recently released Docking Institute Kansas Speaks poll, a whopping 75% of Kansans want the budget deficit solved with either spending cuts alone (41%) or a combination of cuts and taxes (34%). Only 25% of Kansans approved of new taxes to fill the deficit. The proposals currently being debated in the Kansas Legislature will INCREASE spending AND raise taxes.

Kansas taxpayers expect the Legislature to find solutions without imposing a massive tax hike on families already struggling to make ends meet. This proposal applies the same live-within-your-means solution that Kansas families utilize when balancing their own budgets.

In order to balance the budget, we must first stop new and unnecessary spending. Kansas government spending has increased by 145% since 1992 - \$1.9 billion above the rate of inflation during that same period. This year, for example, the Senate Ways and Means Committee has added \$298 million in new spending above the Governor's recommendation to date, despite a challenging budget situation.

In addition, it is prudent to bring KPERS up-to-date and fulfill the promises made to state employees. The state has delayed KPERS payments for three years running. Those promises can be kept by taking advantage of the opportunity to partially securitize the state master settlement agreement (MSA)—a prudent option already exercised by 18 other states.

This partial securitization is fiscally sound while funding and protecting important Children's Initiative Fund programs.

Perhaps most importantly, this proposal responsibly addresses the current budget situation without suppressing future growth. After several years of recession level growth, the national economy is finally rebounding under the new administration. As clearly evidenced in the nearly 626,000 new jobs since January, unemployment is at a near 10-year low at 4.4 percent, Consumer Confidence is the highest it has been in 17 years, and the average hourly private-sector earnings are up 2.5 percent over last year.

With these positive economic indicators in mind, imposing a massive, unnecessary tax increase on Kansas families and businesses just as they are beginning to recover would be irresponsible and will ultimately impede growth. A simple process change of reverting back to annual budgets will allow the Kansas Legislature more flexibility moving forward as we monitor and assess economic indicators rather than rushing to burden Kansans with harmful and unnecessary tax increases.

MIDDLE EAST PALM SUNDAY ATTACKS: 44 DEAD, MORE THAN 100 INJURED IN CHURCH BOMBINGS CARRIED OUT BY ISIS IN EGYPT

Egypt's president called for a three-month state of emergency Sunday after at least 44 people were killed and more than 100 more were injured in two Palm Sunday suicide attacks at Coptic Christian churches, each carried out by the ISIS terror group.

Sunday's first blast happened at St. George Church in the Nile Delta town of Tanta, where at least 27 people were killed and 78 others wounded, officials said.

Television footage showed the inside of the church, where a large number of people gathered around what appeared to be lifeless, bloody bodies covered with papers.

A second explosion – which Egypt's Interior Ministry says was caused by a suicide bomber who tried to storm St. Mark's Cathedral in the coastal city of Alexandria -- left at least 17 dead, and 48 injured. The attack came just after Pope Tawadros II - leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria -- finished services, but aides told local media that he was unharmed.

At least three police officers were killed in the St. Mark's attack, the ministry told The Associated Press.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks via its Amaq media agency, following the group's recent video vowing to step up attacks against Christians, who the group describes as "infidels" empowering the West against Muslims.

'CHRISTIANS ARE OUR FAVORITE PREY,' ISIS SAYS

The blasts came at the start of Holy Week leading up to Easter, and just weeks before Pope Francis is due to visit Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi accused unnamed countries of fueling instability in the country, adding "Egyptians have foiled plots and efforts by countries and fascist, terrorist organizations that tried to control Egypt." El-Sisi ordered the immediate deployment of troops to assist police in protecting vital facilities across the country.

El-Sisi did not immediately detail the legal measures needed to declare the state of emergency but according to the Egyptian constitution, the parliament majority must vote in favor of the state of emergency.

President Donald Trump tweeted that he is "so sad to hear of the terrorist attack" against the U.S. ally but added that he has "great confidence" that el-Sissi, "will handle the situation properly." The two leaders met at the White House on April 3.

The State Department issued its own statement condemning the attacks, which it called "barbaric."

"The United States will continue to support Egypt's security and stability in its efforts to defeat terrorism," the statement said.

"Either a bomb was planted or someone blew himself up," provincial governor Ahmad Deif told the state-run Nile TV channel, Sky News reported.

The attack in Tanta was the latest in a series of assaults on Egypt's Christian minority, which makes up around 10 percent of the population and has been repeatedly targeted by Islamic extremists.

Grand Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, head of Egypt's Al-Azhar — the leading center of learning in Sunni Islam — condemned the attacks, calling them a "despicable terrorist bombing that targeted the lives of innocents."

Across the street from St. George, neighbor Susan Mikhail, whose apartment has a clear balcony view of the church and its front yard, said the explosion violently shook her building midmorning, at a time when the church was packed.

"Deacons were the first to run out of the church. Many of them had blood on their white robes," she told The Associated Press. Later, the more seriously wounded started to come out, carried in the arms of survivors and ferried to hospitals in private cars, she said.

Pope Francis decried the bombings, expressing "deep condolences to my brother, Pope Tawadros II, the Coptic church and all of the dear Egyptian nation." Word of the attacks came as Francis was holding Palm Sunday services in St. Peter's Square.

Both Israel and the Islamic Hamas movement ruling neighboring Gaza also condemned the bombings.

Turkey also condemned the attacks.

Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin tweeted his condolences and said, "We strongly condemn the heinous terror attacks on churches in Egypt on Palm Sunday today."

Mehmet Gormez, the head of religious affairs in Turkey, "cursed" the attacks and said they are the shared problem of all humanity.

"The immunity of a place of worship, no matter the religion it belongs to, cannot be violated and the bloodthirsty killing of innocent worshippers cannot ever be forgiven," Gormez said in an official statement.

Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also published a statement denouncing the attack on St. George Church.

"We convey our condolences to the bereaved families and the whole people of Egypt," the statement said before a second attack hit an Alexandria church.

The bombings add to fears that Islamic extremists who have long been battling security forces in the Sinai Peninsula are shifting their focus to civilians.

A local Islamic State affiliate claimed a suicide bombing at a church in Cairo in December that killed around 30 people, mostly women, as well as a string of killings in the restive Sinai Peninsula that caused hundreds of Christians to flee to safer areas of the country. The group has threatened further attacks.

A militant group called Liwa al-Thawra claimed responsibility for an April 1 bomb attack targeting a police training center in Tanta, which wounded 16 people. The group, believed to be linked to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, has mainly targeted security forces and distanced itself from attacks on Christians.

Egypt has struggled to combat a wave of Islamic militancy since the 2013 military overthrow of an elected Islamist president.

The death of Christians is actually no more horrific than the death of any other humans – WE ARE ALL GOD'S CREATION!! HOWEVER, the murders of these Christians is opening the possibility of "new" targets. We must all pray that any and all murders/attacks cease for all time. However, we all know that there is little hope of that – the terrorists are too well organized worldwide and have their form of a Bible telling them to destroy all people that are NOT of the religion they deem "the only one".

I received the following from Grassfire. They ask for my signature, which I will never do as they can take that signature and put it wherever suits them. However their letter is an important one – READ IT and contact your Congress People – Representative and Senator. It is important they know YOUR feelings!!

Thursday afternoon:

April 13, 2017

Sylda,

Grassfire staff members were shocked and, quite honestly, angered by a report this week from *The Hill* about border security. The article, posted on the website of the newspaper with the largest circulation of any Capitol Hill publication, stated flatly:

Democrats are winning the war over the wall.

Despite President Trump's request for more than \$1 billion to fund the Mexican border wall this year, GOP leaders are expected to exclude the money in the spending bill being prepared to keep the government open beyond April 28.

Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) says the choice is pragmatic and the money will come later.

"Later"? The money will come... "LATER"? Sure it will. If you believe that, then Ryan and his fellow Establishment RINOs have a bridge in Brooklyn they'd like to sell you. It's Grassfire's view that "Team Ryan" will simply continue kicking that can down the road, unless fed-up Americans take decisive action!

Earlier this week, Grassfire alerted our team members about a backroom, DIRTY DEAL that the Speaker and his fellow RINOs are working with Democrats that denies funding for the border wall. But grassroots patriots can't let Republicans abandon their conservative base and team with Nancy Pelosi to pass what is essentially Obama's budget!

Nearly 15,000 team members have signed the national BUILD AND FUND THE WALL emergency petition. But your support is needed to triple that number, so Grassfire can reach the important 50,000-signature threshold and deliver petitions when Congress returns from their Easter break.

[If you support President Trump's pledge to BUILD THE WALL and want Congress to include funding for the border wall and border security in the upcoming Continuing Resolution, contact your Congressional Representative and Senator – NOW!!!](#)

Congress must pass a CR by April 28 -- just two weeks away -- or face a government shutdown. Conservative members of Congress are calling for funding for President Trump's border wall to be included in the CR, but Democrats are objecting. Don't let Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell follow former Speaker John Boehner's RINO blueprint and strike a deal with Pelosi and the Democrats that does NOT fund the border wall!

Sylda, grassroots patriots simply must take a stand. Then, share this important effort with your friends.

Once again, it appears that Establishment RINOs are teaming with the Democrats to betray our core values. But this time, it's on a huge campaign promise that caused Americans to vote for Donald

Trump. Instead of standing up to the Left's bullying, Team Ryan is ready to cave on this core issue of border security to placate Democrats. Don't let them do it!

Thank you, in advance, for taking action.

Grassfire

P.S. Stop Paul Ryan and Establishment RINOs from kicking the can even further down the road. Donald Trump was elected because of his insistence on building a wall to stop illegal immigration. Take action to demand Republicans keep that campaign promise!

While you're at it, tell them to double down on Exporting those that are in the USA illegally AND breaking the law. If they are here and are living peacefully by our laws give them the opportunity to become legal citizens. If they have been picked up for ANYTHING, they need to go back where they came from. One thing the USA does NOT need is more law breakers!! Be with us, LORD!!



I didn't really need the T-shirt...

... but I wanted the picture!

We must all realize how important this is to each of us, to the USA & the entire world!! Each & every one of us “matter” to our **LORD & should** to each other. We must get past the people that want to destroy our great Country & **make everyone understand that the majority of the USA citizens ARE CHRISTIANS – ALL LIVES MATTER TO GOD & TO ALL CHRISTIANS!!** It does NOT matter if the person is black, white, brown, yellow or whatever GOD made them – that is the key – **GOD MADE us all.** We are all GOD's creation & therefore, important!! **Remember the majority of the citizens of the USA are CHRISTIANS!!** The color of their skin or shape of their features does not matter!!! **Love one another!! Where is Christianity?? BRING CHRISTIANITY BACK TO THE USA! Christians must stand up and be counted – each Christian!! May the LORD be with us & help us!!!**

Opinion: Our trust in democracy is under attack | by William Skepnek | April 17, 2017

Can we trust democratic institutions? To bring this home, think about a bank account. You deposit your paycheck; during the month there are automatic withdrawals, you use your bankcard, write a few checks, and at the end of the month you get your online statement. You've actually seen few real green dollars. You balance it all out, hopefully, and start again the next month. We're fine so long as the bankcard works but are suddenly poor when it won't. And when you're standing in the checkout line at your local grocery store, who will the clerk believe, a person whose card won't work or the bank on the other end of the computer? If you've ever had a credit card turned down you know the answer. The store believes the bank, so do the people standing in line behind you, and their belief is based upon trust in the checks and balances of the banking system.

How are votes counted? Like money in the bank, mostly by computers. We're long past the day when a local election clerk, like an old-time bank teller who counted your green dollars and put them into a safe, actually counts the votes. Elections aren't tallied by officials who know everyone in town and, after watching them vote, add it all up. So, it's like bank accounts; we deposit votes into the computer, one by one, and then they're spent by the candidates to get elected. But how do we know who actually got the most votes? How do we know it was all done honestly? The answer, again, is mostly trust. We trust the checks and balances of the voting system.

But trust itself is under attack; trust in science, the press, the legal system, academia, and trust in the democratic process.

Before becoming President, candidate Trump questioned the integrity of the voting system. He told us the system was rigged. He's not alone among politicians sowing distrust; some have been doing so for awhile, notably Kansas' own Kris Kobach. Before the election, Trump, echoing Kobach and others, was telling us that we can't trust voting because the system is riddled with fraud. And he's kept on message. Even after winning he's kept it up. Three million illegals, he says, voted for Hillary Clinton, thousands were trucked from one state into another state to vote for Clinton, cheating him of a popular vote win.

That Russian oligarchs, who have little use for democracy, have been working to make us doubt the integrity of elections is a story that continues to unfold. Reportedly they've been doing this for some time, influencing European elections. Last year their involvement in the Trump/Clinton contest was detected by the intelligence community. The New York Times reports that the internal debate within the national security establishment was whether the Russians' goal was specifically to help Trump or generally to sow seeds of mistrust. The CIA thought the former, the FBI leaned toward the latter. An April 6 story in the NYT has congressional leaders sufficiently concerned by intelligence briefings that they sent a letter to local election boards warning "of unnamed 'malefactors' who might seek to disrupt the elections through online intrusion."

Our legal system recognizes that conspirators rarely write agreements on paper. Rarely is there a document that says: "If you do this, I will do that." So, criminal prosecutors routinely document the conduct and timing of suspected conspirators and correlate their words and actions. Actions that are synchronized can evidence a collusive agreement. Whether the Trump campaign colluded with the Russians is being investigated, and we'll have to wait to learn what Congress and the FBI discover. Of course, ironically, at the end of the day we'll be asked to trust the investigators, which is what the whole thing is about, because the FBI and Congress are themselves important democratic institutions, and it is trust in democracy itself that is under attack.

Distrust leads to disunity. What is clear is that we must resist siren songs of distrust, and fight against those who are determined to undercut the foundations of our democracy by spreading alternative facts as the seeds of doubt. Democracy is fragile and can easily be eroded by a fringe few who actively work against it. We are required to earn the power of decision every day by careful involvement — the only way of preserving trust in a democratic process.

— William Skepnek is a longtime resident of Lawrence. He is a lawyer and taught Honors Western Civilization at the University of Kansas from 1991 to 2010.

REGARDLESS of what LIBERALS and RINOs tell you...

TAKING MONEY FROM THOSE WHO WORK TO GIVE TO THOSE WHO WON'T WORK ISN'T COMPASSION... IT'S LEGALIZED THEFT!!!

BY THE NUMBERS: HOW TRUMP STACKS UP AFTER 100 DAYS

By [Marshall Cohen](#) and [Wade Payson-Denney](#), CNN

Updated 8:28 AM ET, Mon May 1, 2017

New laws on the books, but no major legislation

Since taking office, Trump has signed 29 bills into law, according to public records. That's more than Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan. But Trump hasn't signed any "major legislation" -- a bill that delivers on a campaign promise or has a nationwide impact.

Eleven of the laws Trump signed overturn Obama-era regulations, like rules about the Internet and Social Security. Four of the laws are purely ceremonial and rename memorials and VA clinics.

Obama, Clinton and the elder Bush all signed landmark legislation in their first 100 days in office.

Obama secured two big wins in his first 100 days. First, he signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which eased rules against women who sue employers for pay discrimination. Second was the nearly \$800 billion stimulus package Obama said was necessary to save the economy.

Trump's best shot at a major legislative accomplishment was the American Health Care Act. The bill that would have repealed much of ObamaCare has faltered due to infighting among House Republicans.

Most executive orders since Truman

In his first 100 days in office, Trump signed more executive orders than any president in the last 72 years, dating all the way back to Truman.

So far, Trump has signed 31 executive orders on everything from border security to abortion. He signed his most recent one Saturday night before a campaign rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

That's more than the 11 presidents before him -- an ironic twist, considering Trump's long history during the presidential campaign of attacking Obama's use of executive actions.

"I don't think (Obama) even tries anymore, I think he just signs executive actions," Trump said in December 2015.

"That's the way the system is supposed to work. And then all of a sudden, I hear he tried, he can't do it, and then, boom, and then another one, boom."

The record dates back to Truman, who signed 57 executive orders in his first 100 days. He took office in April 1945 after the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, as America was still fighting World War II. Obama had 19 in his first 100 days, the younger Bush only signed 11 and Clinton had 13.

Trump's SCOTUS win

Trump is the fourth US president with a successful Supreme Court nomination in his first 100 days, according to Senate records.

Few presidents get the chance to nominate a Supreme Court justice upon taking office, but it's a major achievement nonetheless. Gorsuch, at the relatively young age of 49, could sit on the high court for decades.

President Rutherford B. Hayes nominated Stanley Matthews to serve on the Supreme Court in 1880, the final years of his term. The Senate did not take up his nomination. Upon taking office the next year, Garfield re-nominated Matthews, and the Senate narrowly confirmed him during Garfield's first 100 days. Garfield and Hayes were both Republicans. They were both from Ohio -- and so was Matthews.

President Franklin Pierce nominated John Campbell for the Supreme Court shortly after taking office in 1853. The Senate confirmed him by a unanimous voice vote within two weeks of Pierce's young presidency.

The record-holder is President Andrew Jackson, who took office in March 1829. He nominated John McLean on his second full day in office. McLean was unanimously approved by the Senate one day later.

WHITE HOUSE LIST OF TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS | Published April 28, 2017 | Fox News

Since taking office, President Trump has looked to fulfill some of his campaign promises by using executive orders. Here are the 43 orders, actions and memoranda he has signed so far:

An order reversing some Obama-era offshore drilling restrictions and ordering a review of limits on drilling locations. A memo ordering an investigation into whether aluminum imports are hurting national security.

An order meant to improve accountability and whistleblower protections for Veterans Affairs employees. An order directing a review of national monument designations under prior administrations. An order meant to affirm local control of school policies, and examine certain Department of Education regulations and guidance to determine their compliance with federal law. An order directing a task force to review regulations affecting the agriculture industry. An order and two memoranda empowering Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to move toward tax reform and end portions of the Dodd-Frank financial reform.

A memo ordering an investigation into whether [foreign steel](#) is hurting national security. An order directing federal agencies to review the use of the H-1B visa program. Two orders on trade; one requesting the Commerce Dept. report on the factors behind the trade deficit and another seeking to increase collection of duties on imports. An order establishing the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. An order initiating a review of the Clean Power Plan, which restricted greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants. ☐

An order revoking Obama-era executive orders on federal contracting. ☐ An order directing a top-to-bottom audit of the Executive Branch.

A revised order suspending the refugee program and entry to the U.S. for travelers from several mostly Muslim countries, in response to objections from courts. As before, the order will suspend refugee entries for 120 days, but doesn't suspend Syrian refugees indefinitely and no longer includes Iraq in the named countries. In signing this order, the original one was revoked. ☐

An order moving the HBCU (Historically Black College and Universities) offices back from the Department of Education to the White House. ☐ An order requiring every agency to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate regulations and recommend rules for repeal or modification. Three orders establishing three Department of Justice task forces to fight drug cartels, reduce violent crime and reduce attacks against police.

An order directing the Treasury secretary to review the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law.

A memorandum instructing the Labor Department to delay implementing an Obama rule requiring financial professionals who are giving advice on retirement, and who charge commissions, to put their client's interests first. An order instructing agencies that whenever they introduce a regulation, they must first abolish two others. ☐ A memorandum to restructure the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council. ☐

A memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to draw up a plan within 30 days to defeat ISIS. ☐

An order to lengthen the ban on administration officials working as lobbyists. There is now a 5 year-ban on officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government, and a lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign

government. [2]

An executive order imposing a 120-day suspension of the refugee program and a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. from citizens of seven terror hot spots: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan. [2]

Two multi-pronged orders on border security and immigration enforcement including: the authorization of a U.S.-Mexico border wall; the stripping of federal grant money to sanctuary cities; hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents; ending "catch-and-release" policies for illegal immigrants; and reinstating local and state immigration enforcement partnerships. [2]

A memorandum calling for a 30-day review of military readiness.

Two orders reviving the Keystone XL pipeline and Dakota Access pipelines. He also signed three other related orders that would: expedite the environmental permitting process for infrastructure projects related to the pipelines; direct the Commerce Department to streamline the manufacturing permitting process; and give the Commerce Department 180 days to maximize the use of U.S. steel in the pipeline. [2]

An order to reinstate the so-called "Mexico City Policy" – a ban on federal funds to international groups that perform abortions or lobby to legalize or promote abortion. The policy was instituted in 1984 by President Reagan, but has gone into and out of effect depending on the party in power in the White House. [2]

A notice that the U.S. will begin withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Trump called the order "a great thing for the American worker." [2]

An order imposing a hiring freeze for some federal government workers as a way to shrink the size of government. This excludes the military, as Trump noted at the signing. [2]

An order that directs federal agencies to ease the "regulatory burdens" of ObamaCare. It orders agencies to "waive, defer, grant exemptions from, or delay the implementation of any provision or requirement" of ObamaCare that imposes a "fiscal burden on any State or a cost, fee, tax, penalty, or regulatory burden on individuals, families, healthcare providers, health insurers, patients, recipients of healthcare services, purchasers of health insurance, or makers of medical devices, products, or medications."

An order reversing some Obama-era offshore drilling restrictions and ordering a review of limits on drilling locations.

A memo ordering an investigation into whether aluminum imports are hurting national security.

An order meant to improve accountability and whistleblower protections for Veterans Affairs employees.

An order directing a review of national monument designations under prior administrations.

An order meant to affirm local control of school policies, and examine certain Department of Education regulations and guidance to determine their compliance with federal law.

An order directing a task force to review regulations affecting the agriculture industry.

An order and two memoranda empowering Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to move toward tax reform and end portions of the Dodd-Frank financial reform.

An order requiring every agency to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force to evaluate regulations and recommend rules for repeal or modification.

Three orders establishing three Department of Justice task forces to fight drug cartels, reduce violent crime and reduce attacks against police.

An order directing the Treasury secretary to review the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulatory law.

A memorandum instructing the Labor Department to delay implementing an Obama rule requiring financial professionals who are giving advice on retirement, and who charge commissions, to put their client's interests first.

An order instructing agencies that whenever they introduce a regulation, they must first abolish two others. [2]

A memorandum to restructure the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council. [2]

A memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to draw up a plan within 30 days to defeat ISIS. [2]

An order to lengthen the ban on administration officials working as lobbyists. There is now a 5 year-ban on officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government, and a lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign government. [2]

An executive order imposing a 120-day suspension of the refugee program and a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. from citizens of seven terror hot spots: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan. [2]

Two multi-pronged orders on border security and immigration enforcement including: the authorization of a U.S.-Mexico border wall; the stripping of federal grant money to sanctuary cities; hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents; ending "catch-and-release" policies for illegal immigrants; and reinstating local and state immigration enforcement partnerships. [2]

A memorandum calling for a 30-day review of military readiness. [2]

A notice that the U.S. will begin withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Trump called the order "a great thing for the American worker." [2]



Legislative Update No. 11, May 13, 2017

First, let me wish a Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, and thank you for fulfilling a most important roll of caring for your families. I miss my Mother who was my encourager, and strict disciplinarian. While there were no funds from my parents for my college education, Mom saved change in a jar in the cupboard to pay for one of my textbooks each year. She was feisty and frugal, and if she were with us today, would have lots of advice for me on revenue and taxes.

The Veto Session began on May 1. Generally, this is the time to finish up the passage of important bills and to finalize the budget. This year has become problematic. The truth is the state has been receiving more revenue this last year from the taxpayers in the form of retail sales and income taxes, but the revenue coming in will not cover the increased spending requested by agencies, departments, and the schools. Revenues are expected to increase from 5.7 billion for FY 2017 to 5.9 billion for FY 2019. We are not bankrupt, as some would have you to think. Kansas has a budget and spending problem, and rather than live within the plenty that us taxpayers have provided, it is easier to whine, complain, and insist that more money be given to fatten their coffers.

One fact, that has been overlooked by many is that the Kansas Supreme Court did not say we need to spend more on education nor did they give a dollar amount. They did say that more emphasis must be placed on helping the less fortunate students to achieve in education. This can be done by holding the schools accountable to educate these students.

There were two bill signings that I was invited to attend. Simon's Law, assuring that a Do Not Resuscitate order is used for children only with parental approval, is the first bill of this kind to be passed in a state. It was my honor to help get this legislation through the Fed and State Committee and passed in the House.

The Fifth-Axle bill allows farming trucks used on our Kansas highways to be like those currently being used in border states. By adding the fifth axle the weight is more evenly distributed. This bill came through the Transportation Committee, of which I am a member.

On Friday I chaired the Whole House Committee, and it became a very involved three-hour session working on only two bills.

Facts facing us as we make decisions on upcoming bills relating to taxes, appropriations, and K12 budget.

1. Oil and Gas revenues are down.
2. Average farm income down from \$100,000 to \$4,000 in 2016. Income will become negative for 2017 and possibly for the next two to three years.
3. Retail and Income tax receipts have increased.
4. The number of new businesses in Kansas has increased in recent years.
5. The number of new first time income tax payers has increased in recent years.
6. 35% of Sales tax revenue comes from eight counties bordering Missouri, from Leavenworth to Cherokee.
7. Johnson County accounts for 26% of Sales Tax revenue for the state.
8. Oak Park Mall in Johnson County accounts for 29% of Johnson County Sales Tax revenue.
9. Total value of all sales tax exemptions for 2017 equals \$6,395,960,000.
10. Total state indebtedness, as of July 1, 2016 equals \$24,887,227,038.
11. Unfunded liability, the amount owed to bring KPERS fund to total solvency, is approximately \$9,000,000,000.
12. Payments to bring KPERS to solvency on a yearly basis begin at \$480 million this year and escalate to \$1 billion in year 2034.
13. K-12 education budget exceeds 50% of the annual budget.
14. The total unencumbered funds held by school districts across Kansas was 1.87 billion as of July 1, 2016, says the Kansas Department of Education website.
15. In 2016, Kansas ranked second in the country for the percent of state general fund going for K-12 education.
16. Kansas ranks third in the country for the number of government employees per capita, at 670 per 10,000 population.

We all know that our economy is not booming, but it is stabilizing. The agriculture sector in Kansas is still suffering. Ag Economists at KSU give a pretty bleak outlook for the immediate future for our farmers and ranchers. This has occurred because commodity and livestock prices fell dramatically. Will this change? Sure, change will come about, but it is doubtful that it will come back to previous levels any time soon. A recent Wall Street Journal article pointed out that the U.S. is no longer the breadbasket of the world. Russia, Brazil, and Australia are exporting more grains, and that in turn has dropped both the demand and the price that world customers are willing to pay for our products. We will find a way to compete, but that will take time.

The oil and gas sector has also been in a slump. This added to the agriculture slump is putting a strain on our economy. Those workers and business owners related to agriculture, oil, and gas industries are receiving lower incomes resulting in less buying of goods. They are not buying "wants" now, only what is absolutely needed. Car sales taxes account for about 20% of tax revenues in Kansas, and auto and implement dealers are worried about getting through this difficult time.

The state revenues are stabilizing, but are weak. How can this happen when so many sectors of the economy are suffering? I asked myself the same question, and with some research determined that a small portion of our state is doing well. I looked at seven counties that border Missouri and totaled the sales tax and income tax receipts for the last few years (see facts 6 – 8 above). All our neighboring states have lower taxes, and some like Nebraska have no tax on food and sales taxes in the 7% range. Are we losing sales tax revenue to all our bordering states? This becomes a very important question when considering any new tax proposal for Kansas.

Legislative Happenings:

The Education K-12 Budget Committee is continuing to meet and have announced that they hope to have a bill ready for consideration by next week. If the bill leaves the committee as it is currently being discussed, we may be looking at an additional \$150+ million in expenses next year and \$750 million over the next three years.

The Tax Committee has been meeting all week, and early in the session presented to the members a tax plan that raised everyone's taxes and did away with the LLC tax plan. This did not gain any traction among the members. Some wanted the tax rates to be higher, some want to protect business interests, and some refuse to vote for a plan until a K-12 budget is determined. We are at a standstill. Added to this is the Governor's office saying they are against the tax increases, thus threatening a veto. If a plan is vetoed, it will take 84 votes in the House and 21 votes in the Senate to override. They are nowhere close to those numbers for votes now.

The Appropriations Committee is also continuing to meet but they are in a waiting game as well. They cannot finalize a budget until they know how much money will be in the system.

The plan is for the legislature to meet every day beginning next week, to include weekends, until done.

Voting Dilemma:

As your Representative, I look at all issues from the viewpoint of what is good for my 51st District. But, there are times when the issues are so large that I must look at them as statewide issues. This is the case for the issues facing us now. Because the Supreme Court did not state that we had to spend more money, I am hesitant to vote for a general increase in the K-12 budget. The tax plan proposed will cause irreparable damage to our state. Those counties along the Missouri border are doing well precisely because of the business tax plan in place. They are growing, hiring, and new businesses are being created. Missouri is working to compete with us by enacting a similar tax plan in their state. If we scuttle ours, some of those businesses will make a business decision and move over the border. Should those single individuals who became LLC's be rewarded? No, they should pay taxes like everyone else, but businesses with a verified work force should be rewarded for growing and hiring new employees who become taxpayers. Do we want to risk losing part of the business, income, and sales tax receipts currently accounted for in our border counties? These are the counties that are funding over a third of the state economy. I truly believe that if a massive tax increase is imposed now, the consequences will be dramatic and recovery will take years.

I must also look at our debt as a state. The tax increases being proposed are not to save for a rainy day or to pay down the debt. Shouldn't we be looking at ways to reduce spending and paying off our debt instead of spending beyond our means?

At my website, www.ronhighland.com, you can find a syllabus that explains in detail how to get the legislative information you need. My contact information is: Rm 561 W, State Capitol, Topeka, Kansas, 66612; ron.highland@house.ks.gov. As requested, I have also put on the website contact information for all elected officials, both federal and state. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Paid for by Ron Highland for State Representative, Linda Highland, Treasurer.

Competition | by Sylda Nichols

I do NOT understand the fuss about Health Insurance. I live in Kansas. Kansas has a "Free Market" health

insurance. Everyone goes to whatever Kansas-based Health Insurance Company they want and between the Company and the citizen they work up a plan. It is limited at this time because we can only work with a company in Kansas. What if it was opened nationwide? A US citizen could work with a Health insurance Company and work up the policy that would work for them. The Companies would be going lower and lower due to demand. When the Health Insurance Companies are in competition with each other their prices would drop. It is the same as with the purchase of anything -- cars, groceries, whatever. **Tell me, why wouldn't that work? TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW & MAYBE THEY'LL HEAR!**

AT THIS KANSAS SCHOOL THE COST PER STUDENT IS LESS THAN \$4,000, AND THE KIDS DO GREAT

April 12, 2017

The digs at Padre Pio aren't fancy, but the curriculum is classical and Common Core unthinkable.

At [Padre Pio Academy](#) in Shawnee, the cost per student is less than \$4,000 a year. To be precise, the cost this school year per student is \$3586.

By contrast, the cost per student in the allegedly cash-starved Kansas schools is \$13,025. The Blue Valley school district spends a little less than that amount, the Shawnee Mission schools a little more. In the Kansas City, Kansas school district, the cost per student is \$14,523, more than four times as much as is spent per student at Padre Pio.

An independent, K-8 Catholic school with the emphasis on Catholic, Padre Pio employs "a classical curriculum rooted in the riches of western civilization." The students, most of whom come from large families and modest backgrounds, do well by it.

This year ten students will graduate. Eight will go on to high school, two will return to a home school environment. Of the eight, five have received academic scholarships. On the ACRE test for Catholic school students, the eighth-graders scored in the 87 percentile nationwide. The fifth-graders, the only other class tested, scored in the 93rd percentile.

Padre Pio took sixteen students to the 2017 Greater Kansas City Science & Engineering Fair. The students won nine golds, six silvers, and one bronze. One of the students also won the Division Championship in Chemistry. Last spring, the school took second place in the St. James Academy Scholar Bowl.

Why do the students do so well? As the website attests, "Catholicism permeates every aspect of the curriculum. We have never and will never involve our students in unproven educational initiatives such as Common Core."

The eighth-graders have kindergarten buddies they look out for. The seventh-graders have first-grade buddies. The older kids learn responsibility and take their roles seriously. Whichever educator thought it would be a good idea to remove kids this age from their natural hierarchy and mix them into an overheated "middle school" bouillabaisse should be forced to translate Common Core manuals into Pig Latin.

How does Padre Pio keep its cost down? The school has no pool, no gym, no cafeteria, no buses, no air conditioning. Parents bring the kids. The kids bring their lunches. They all wear uniforms. When it gets hot, everyone sweats a little. At recess, everyone goes outside and runs around.

And yes, Virginia, let me anticipate your objection, Padre Pio has had some great success with troubled kids. One reason why is that the school is blessedly free of "bullying." When kids start their days with prayers and a pledge of allegiance, they hold themselves to a higher standard.

Years ago, the ways in which public schools and Catholic schools educated students were not that far apart. Padre Pio has held course while many public schools have drifted, and God only knows where.

Of course the key here is **"The school has no pool, no gym, no cafeteria, no buses, no air conditioning."** Some of these facts will find themselves as unfriendly and objectionable to the parents as to the students. As a parent I would want a gym (my son would NOT have studied at all without having to qualify for sports), having competitive sports, buses would be necessary, I don't know how much that would raise the costs, but that is where the school I attended "way back when" worked. Would that give our "students and their families" a "good enough" school. Yes, it would raise the cost, but still be less than most schools.



Isn't this a wonderful sight??? Christian prayer in the Green Room of the White House!! This picture was in an email received by a friend – the identity of individuals was released on Twitter. To have a Christian occupying the White House after the last 8 years is like a breath of fresh air!! GOD IS WITH AMERICA AGAIN!! THANK YOU, GOD!!

President Trump, his two eldest sons, Vice President Pence and wife Karen, Reince Priebus, and Justice Scalia's widow Maureen and son Fr. Paul Scalia, among others, praying with Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch, and his wife Marie Louise, in the White House.

The time taken to publicly pray for the Senate confirmation and future career of the man who may become one of America's top decision-makers for decades to come is a momentous occasion for Christians.

As the Supreme Court and lower circuit courts have increasingly pulled America away from Biblical principles, it is refreshing to see a presidential administration's focus turned back toward God in helping lead our country.

More from John D'Alola:

[How To Stop Complaining And Start Fixing America's Higher Education Crisis](http://thefederalist.com/2017/05/15/stop-complaining-start-fixing-americas-higher-education-crisis/)

By [Peter W. Wood](#) | May 15, 2017 | <http://thefederalist.com/2017/05/15/stop-complaining-start-fixing-americas-higher-education-crisis/>

"The most striking thing about fixing American higher education is that the direct costs look surprisingly small. The major obstacles are political, not financial."

How much would it cost to fix American higher education? Think big. In 2015, colleges and universities spent about \$532 billion to teach 20.5 million students enrolled in two-year and four-year colleges.

That \$532 billion figure is the lowest estimate in circulation. The National Center for Education Statistics gives the figure as \$605 billion for 2013-14. But let's stick with the humble \$532 billion.

So how much *would* it cost to fix our \$532 billion worth of colleges and universities? The answer depends, of course, on what you think is wrong with them and which of the possible repairs you favor. But let's not get overly complicated.

Here's What's Wrong with Higher Education

American higher education is subject to **five** broad categories of complaint.

The progressive left criticizes it for reinforcing oppression based on race, class, and sex. ***American higher education favors the rich and abets unjust capitalism.***

Pro-market and libertarian observers criticize its dependence on public funding; guild-like stifling of innovation; and hostility to capitalism. ***American higher education privileges itself.***

Liberals, moderates, and conservatives criticize it for putting identity politics at the center of curriculum and

student life. It fosters inter-group hostility, a grievance culture, psychological fragility, incivility, and contempt for free expression. ***American higher education is illiberal.***

Those who support the classical liberal arts criticize it for trivializing higher education, turning the curriculum into a shopping cart, neglecting the formation of mind and character in favor of political advocacy, and estranging students from their civilization by elevating the false ideal of multiculturalism. ***American higher education is culturally corrosive.***

A wide variety of people criticize its high price, frivolous expenditures, and increasingly uncertain rewards for graduates. The gigantic growth in the number of campus administrative positions relative to the faculty comes under this heading too. ***American higher education is too expensive.***

It would be easy to add more items or expand any of these into a whole book. Many have done just that. But my goal here is to cut a path through the forest, not to linger over the variety of trees.

When I speak of fixing higher education, I discard the first category, the criticisms of the university as a font of capitalist oppression. It simply has no basis in reality. Each of the other four categories is cogent, and any real repair would have to address all of them. Moreover, they are deeply connected.

I won't linger over their interconnections either, but it is important to keep in mind that the guild-like or oligarchic aspects of higher education undergird its illiberalism, incoherence, and excessive expense; and its culturally corrosive quality licenses its voracious appetite for public funding, suppression of intellectual freedom, and frivolity.

Four Proposed Repairs to Higher Education

Corresponding to the four legitimate categories of complaint are four broad categories of possible repair:

Fix the financial model. Reduce and restructure federal and state support for colleges and universities. Eliminate the regulations that favor the guild and prop up oligarchy. Unleash the marketplace, including for-profit, online, and other entrepreneurial alternatives to the dominant model of two and four-year colleges. Steer Americans away from the idea that a college degree is necessary for a prosperous career. Find new and better ways to credential people as competent in specific endeavors. The general-purpose undergraduate degree should face competition from alternative credentialing.

Dismantle the infrastructure of campus illiberalism. Eliminate grievance deans and programs; rescind all government programs that subsidize identity politics; insist that colleges and universities punish those who disrupt events or otherwise undermine free expression. Some call for eliminating tenure because it has become a bulwark for the faculty members most intent on redirecting higher education into political activism.

Restore a meaningful core curriculum. This repair has three varieties: create an optional core curriculum at existing colleges, leaving everything else alone; create a mandatory core curriculum for all the students at a college; create new colleges that start out with their own core curricula. Reversing the cultural corrosion of American higher education will take more than reviving core curricula, but by common consent, that is the first step.

Restructure federal student loans. This is, of course, part of fixing the financial model, but it is crucial if the goal is to reduce the ballooning costs of higher education. Colleges and universities are expensive for several reasons, including their very high labor costs and tendency to compete with one another by increasing their amenities (e.g., rock-climbing walls), but the underlying cost-driver is their ability to rely on federal student loans to subsidize their ever-expanding budgets.

Total individual student borrowing of federal loans should be capped and time-limited. The jumble of federal student loan and grant programs should be reduced to just two: loans and grants. Colleges and universities should have to repay a portion of the loans for students who drop out or default after they graduate. This last step will make them much more wary of admitting students who are poor prospects for academic success.

The underlying cost-driver is colleges' ability to rely on federal student loans to subsidize their ever-expanding budgets.

To these four, perhaps I should add a fifth, more general repair: ***Fix college governance.*** Our variously named boards of trustees, regents, governors, overseers, etc., are conspicuous as having most of the legal powers necessary to enact the necessary reforms but seldom the collective will or competence to do anything meaningful.

For the most part, the boards are dominated by college presidents and chancellors. In principle the boards have the real authority, but in practice they have abdicated it. College presidents and chancellors are likewise typically beholden to the campus interest groups that had a say in their appointments. The governance structures in American higher education go back to Supreme Court decisions of the early nineteenth century.

Repairing governance structures will be difficult, but without this, most other repairs will also fail because they will be successfully opposed from within the institutions. The basic repair needed is to create a high wall between the college president and the trustees that permits the trustees to demand information from the president, but keeps

the president from artfully controlling the trustees.

I've made more detailed recommendations in my proposals for "[Freedom to Learn Amendments](#)" in the Higher Education Act, and my organization, the National Association of Scholars, has offered numerous other specific reforms ranging from getting colleges and universities out of carrying water for the "sustainability" movement to cutting the federal incentives for "service learning." NAS in turn is only one of a dozen or so groups that has been advocating reforms. We aren't short on proposals for making things better.

This simplified list of five kinds of repairs, however, can help frame an answer to how much it would cost to fix our \$532 billion system of higher education.

Now For Some Parameters

Framed in this fashion, the most striking thing about fixing American higher education is that the direct costs look surprisingly small. The major obstacles are political, not financial. That's not to say those obstacles are small. Politics is more than enough to sink most reforms, no matter the public good or economic benefits. Politics aside, overcoming the ferocious opposition of entrenched special interests would likewise pose a major challenge.

Only about a third of today's college students belong in college, in light of their ability to make much of the opportunity.

But the task in this essay is to conjure the costs of fixing American higher education, not the other difficulties. Let me set some parameters. We currently have 13.3 million students attending 3,039 four-year degree-granting undergraduate institutions. A substantial subset lacks the necessary preparation or basic ability to succeed in college. Another substantial subset has the preparation and ability but lack the interest and commitment to do much with the opportunity.

We can gauge the size of the first subset by the number of students who reach college in need of remediation. About [three-quarters](#) of first-year students who are required to take at least one remedial course drop out of college. We can gauge the size of the second subset by the results of the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), which measures how much a college student gains in liberal arts skills over four years.

The remediation rate is [roughly 25 percent](#). The national results of the [CLA for 2013-2014](#), showed that 40 percent of seniors scored at a "basic" level or "below basic." The "below basic" group — "unable to demonstrate even basic mastery of CLA+ skills" — amounted to 14 percent of the college seniors in the national sample.

Let's not pretend to a refined degree of accuracy with these numbers. Rather, I estimate that only about a third of today's college students belong in college in light of the ability to make much of the opportunity. Let's err even more generously on the side of holding the door open for millions of others who might rise to the occasion if the occasion were better than it is. In that light, I propose we aim for a total enrollment in four-year degree-granting undergraduate institutions of half the current number. That would be 6.65 million students.

We may well see new colleges as well as closings of existing institutions, as non-college options become more appealing to some students.

We don't necessarily need 3,039 four-year colleges to teach 6.65 million students. Our proposed financial model will let competition thrive. We may well see new colleges as well as closings of existing institutions, as non-college options become more appealing to some students. In any case, we will *not* set a target for how many colleges there should be. The marketplace will determine that.

Consider an analogy with bookstores. Online book-selling, dominated by [Amazon.com](#), precipitated the closing of many local brick-and-mortar bookstores along with entire national chains. But we are now in the midst of a boom in new storefront bookstores whose proprietors have carved out a market niche that [Amazon.com](#) does not reach.

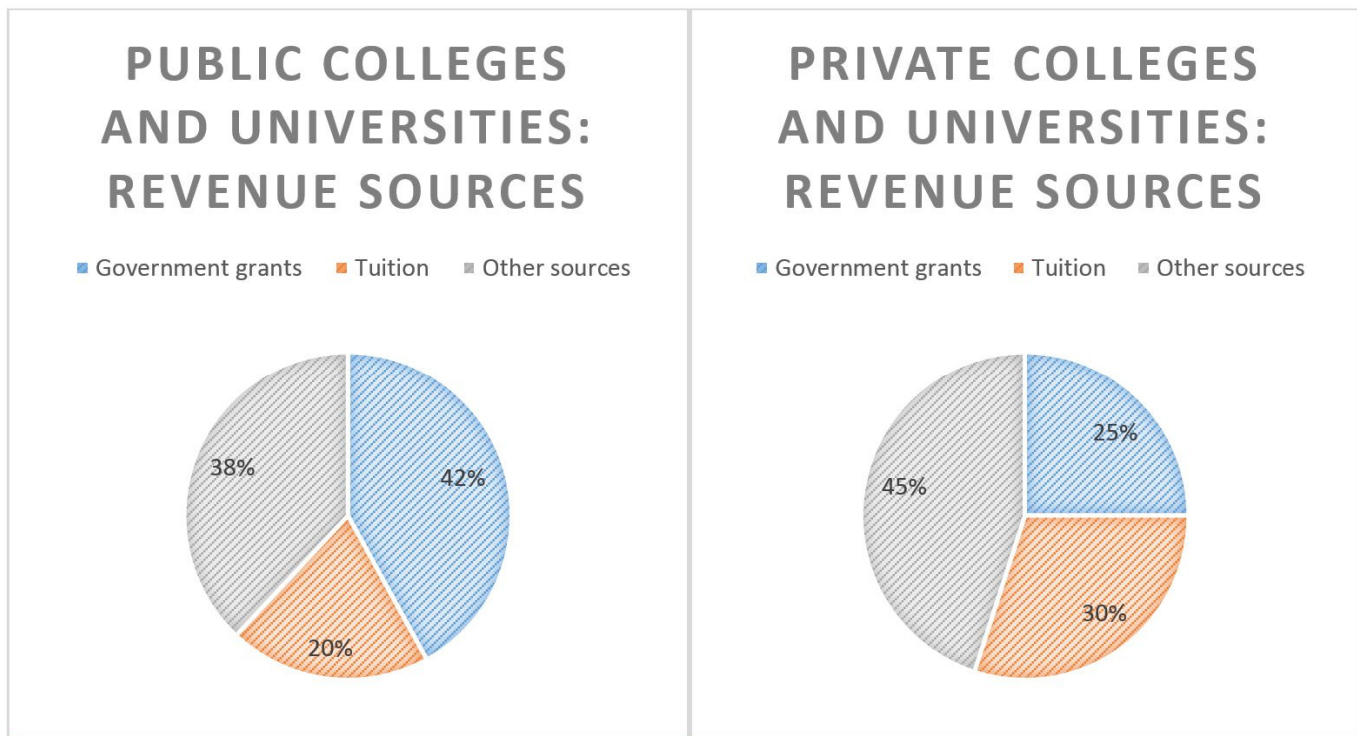
We can expect that higher education will experience something similar. It happened once before. In the pre-Civil War United States some 516 small colleges were founded. Post-Civil War, with the creation of land grant colleges and universities, only 104 of these survived.

Next for Some Estimates

My goal is to put some realistic numbers for the costs of fixing higher education. Some of the fixes I've outlined would save rather than cost money, but that comes without reckoning on the costs of overcoming the opposition to reform and the transition costs of dismantling the programs now in place. Here are my estimates.

Fix the financial model. Those who favor this step aim at drastically reducing federal and state expenditures on higher education. Those expenditures currently account for about half the revenue of colleges and universities. At public colleges and universities, 42 percent of total revenue comes from government grants, contracts, and appropriations, and 20 percent comes from tuition — much of which derives from federally guaranteed student loans. At private non-profit universities, 25 percent of total revenue comes from government grants, contracts, and

appropriates, and 30 percent from tuition, again much derived from federally guaranteed student loans.



Absent this \$260 billion subsidy, American higher education as we know it today would implode, along with much of the nation's basic scientific research and other things we take for granted. I know some people who say, "Good. Let it implode," but that would not *fix* the financial model. We do not bulldoze a house in order to repair the wiring.

What's needed is a plan to reduce public expenditures in an orderly way to get them to a level that doesn't feed the guild, stifle innovation, and feed a system of inveterate hostility to American values. I venture that the goal should be to cut public support by 50 percent in real dollars over five years. The five years would allow students currently enrolled in the system to adjust to the reductions. It would give start-ups a chance to organize themselves independently of the current system. The net cost of this reform is less than zero for the public purse.

Dismantle the infrastructure of campus illiberalism. Again, the actual expense of doing this is negligible. By eliminating programs and positions, it would pay for itself, even with the costs of litigation thrown in as grievance professionals proliferate lawsuits on their way out.

Restore a meaningful core curriculum. This one costs real money because it requires educating and hiring a new generation of college professors who have studied the traditional liberal arts and know how to teach them. A significant percentage of existing faculty would be redundant and have to be pensioned off *or tolerated as a non-performing asset*.

I think it is safe to assume that few if any existing colleges and universities that do not already have real, i.e. mandatory, core curriculum would be willing to add it. Such an addition would come at the expense of curtailing or replacing their current commitments to multiculturalism, distribution requirements (often deceptively marketed as "core requirements"), and undergraduate vocational instruction in areas such as business and "communication."

Multiculturalism in the curriculum gives full scope to identity politics and victim group advocacy and plays a key role in minority faculty recruitment. Distribution requirements have created a system where all academic departments are equally licensed to compete for novice students. And vocational instruction now overwhelmingly dominates all other college majors. Business majors alone, for example, accounted for more than 19 percent of college graduates as of 2014; graduates who majored in the humanities — all fields combined — accounted for only 6.1 percent of college graduates as of 2014, which according to the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences](#) is the lowest percentage recorded back to the beginning of records in 1948.

It's evident that restoring a meaningful *mandatory* core curriculum is not in either the ideological or the financial interests of contemporary colleges or universities currently offering non-core models. They might change their minds in response to a change in federal incentives and market conditions, but the prospect of alumni, donors, foundations, or advocacy groups prompting a move towards genuine core curricula is remote.

But that leaves open the possibility of creating more voluntary programs on "core texts." Enough colleges have created these in the last quarter-century to warrant the existence of the [Association for Core Texts and Courses](#), which has 67 institutional members, only a few of which mandate core curricula. The optional program approach is plainly in reach for many colleges and universities, and is something alumni, donors, and foundations can encourage. Because it typically involves a minor re-deployment of current faculty and modest administrative costs, it does not represent a significant expense at most institutions.

Restoring a meaningful core curriculum by creating brand new colleges may be the best way to ensure the quality of such programs, but it is also by far the most expensive. I helped one start-up residential college get off the ground and have watched it succeed; but I also advised an online start-up college that had to close under the weight of hostile regulation. From both experiences, I estimate that it takes a minimum of about \$50 million in capital to plant a college and get it to the point where it might succeed. A college with seed capital of \$100 million would have much better odds.

How many such new colleges do we need? That depends on how much digital learning we are willing to substitute for the traditional classroom. I propose that philanthropists set aside \$1 billion for creating ten new bricks-and-mortar colleges, and another \$500 million for hybrid on-line/residential start-ups. That \$1.5 billion might well create a critical mass of institutions dedicated to genuine high-quality liberal education in the United States.

Adding new colleges, whether residential, online, or hybrid, however, is only one part of restoring a meaningful core curriculum.

Restructure federal student loans. This proposal in a variety of forms is already part of the political discussion. It branches off in many directions, with the Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party eager to make college education “free” to students, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo providing the state university demonstration model of that idea right now.

A completely different branch of the debate — one favored by Sen. Lamar Alexander — calls for requiring colleges and universities to bear part of the responsibility of paying student loans back if the borrower defaults. This is called “skin in the game.” It would not directly reduce the mammoth portfolio of federal student loans but would give colleges and universities an incentive to think more carefully about whom to enroll. Students who are likely to drop out or perform poorly in their academic programs are bad credit risks, and colleges would presumably admit fewer of them.

Better still, we should cap the total federal loan borrowing of every student. Reduce the bounty on students’ heads, and colleges and universities will hunt fewer of them. These are, again, money-saving proposals, not a source of new costs.

Fix college governance. Encouraging college trustees to do their jobs in a meaningful way may sound easy, but history shows it is not. Maverick trustees who seek independently to examine financials or other details of institutional governance usually find themselves ostracized and isolated. College presidents typically control their boards, and trustees know their place. Most are very happy with an annual gala dinner and tickets on the 50-yard line to the homecoming game. Perhaps this problem becomes fixable in the face of financial exigency. In that light, fixing the financial model and restructuring student loans may create the opportunity in their wake to fix the governance system.

The Costs of Reformers

It might be well to add something about the costs of the reformers: the organizations that advocate for ideas such as those I’ve summarized here. We are not all singing from the same musical score, but we are a brethren of sorts. By my calculation we cost collectively about \$70 million per year as follows:

- Institute for Humane Studies: \$17.7 million
- Leadership Institute: \$14.9 million
- Intercollegiate Studies Institute: \$9.08 million
- The Jack Miller Center: \$7.93 million
- David Horowitz Freedom Center: \$7.5 million
- Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE): \$6.3 million
- American Council of Trustees and Alumni: \$3.99 million
- National Association of Scholars: \$1.3 million
- William F. Buckley Jr. Program at Yale: \$700,000
- James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal: \$638,000
- Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of West. Civ.: \$452,000
- **Total: \$70.48 million**

I have no desire to understate the sum, and if I have left out any organizations that fall within the scope of my subject, it is inadvertent.

Reform-minded organizations are, of course, only one face of the reform movement. If we add the numerous other small programs that row in the same direction, the total might reach \$80 million. A more expansive definition of “reform-minded” could conceivably push the total to \$100 million. I’ve also left out progressive reform groups that generally push in the opposite direction. These include organizations such as Education Reform Now, whose data on remediation I used above.

I’ve left out the various think-tanks such as New America, Heritage, and the American Enterprise Institute that have dedicated departments for higher education issues; and finally, I’ve left out the 50 or so “centers” on various campuses that strive to represent traditional humanistic thought in an otherwise hostile environment.

The king of these is Robert George’s James Madison Program at Princeton. The Jack Miller Center’s list of sponsored campus programs comes close to being comprehensive. If we added in the budgets for the relevant pieces of all these — relevant in the sense of aimed at broader reform of American higher education and not just high-quality programming at a particular institution — the entire reform movement might stretch to a \$150 million enterprise.

Which is to say, at the outside limits of estimation, America spends about almost three one-hundredths of 1 percent (0.0282 percent) on reform of higher education of what it spends on higher education itself.

The differences among these groups are important, but that's for another time. Rather, to answer the question, "How much would it cost to fix American higher education?" the cost of supporting the reform movement itself needs to be reckoned.

Now For the Big Answer

How much would it cost to fix American higher education? Adding up the estimates for the five reform areas comes to something between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion. That's a miniscule expense compared to the annual carrying costs of American higher education, but it is far more than Americans currently devote to the cause. Even if we were to factor in alumni and other donations to the handful of colleges and universities that exemplify traditional academic standards, the sum would not reach the billion-dollar mark.

This essay is more a matter of sitting on a promontory and surveying the landscape than a call to action. Of course, all of us working on higher education reform would welcome more financial resources, and most of us aren't shy about asking potential supporters for help. But right now I'm not asking. I'm simply taking in the big picture. That picture shows that the greatest difficulties in fixing higher education are clearly not in the costs.

The greatest difficulties are in our dispirited acceptance of colleges and universities for what they are: self-serving, illiberal, culturally corrosive, luxuriously expensive mediocrities that pretend to an "excellence" they do not have. Complaining about this helps only to the degree that it is a way of finding others who recognize the aptness of the complaint. Complaints are signal lanterns in the dark night. But the real work is to present compelling ideas for how to fix things — and then actually fixing them.

Peter W. Wood is the president of the National Association of Scholars.

I received the following from John D'Aloia...

FYI, from *The Sentinel*.

JDA

+++++

<https://sentinelksmo.org/yes-virginia-kansas-can-balance-budget-without-raising-taxes/>

"For a perverse variety of reasons, the media—local and national and even international—have fretted way more per capita about Kansas's budget problems than they have about the nation's writ large. As the [Sentinel observed on Monday](#), even the Guardian of London has gotten in on the act with a predictably ill informed bit of tut-tutting headlined "... [Kansas feels the pain of massive Trump-style cuts](#)." The informed reader responds to this headline, thinking 'If only Trump had made *massive* cuts and if only the Kansas legislature had done the same.' Of course, nothing like this has happened either in Washington or Topeka in the recent past or is likely to in the near future. This is just more of the same media malpractice. Dave Trabert of the Kansas Policy Institute is happy to correct it. He argues that there is ample room to cut spending and enhance revenue in Kansas without causing pain—and, importantly, without raising taxes. In the spirit of full disclosure, KPI and the Sentinel share two board members and have a shared-services agreement, but those who may doubt the legitimacy of the Sentinel's endorsement are welcome to peruse [Trabert's more involved piece](#)."

+++++

<https://sentinelksmo.org/irony-lost-cap-j-editorial-board/>

The Topeka Capital-Journal editorial board admonishes Kansas legislators to listen to the polls in an odd ode to government by show-of-hands entitled, "[Kansans are being ignored](#)." The editorial encourages state lawmakers to use politicized polls to inform their votes on Medicaid expansion and gun rights. "These are just two examples of the vast gulf between what Kansans want and the behavior of their elected officials — the Legislature was unable to override (Gov. Sam) Brownback's Medicaid veto and campus carry is still set to take effect on July 1," the editorial board opines. The writers are awfully selective as to which polls lawmakers should use. The Cap-J quotes an October 2016 poll by Fort Hays State University that suggested a majority of Kansans favor Medicaid expansion and oppose allowing firearms at state universities. It should be noted polling conducted leading up to the November 2016 election was earth-shatteringly wrong. Pundits are still parsing the 2016 election results and wondering how they flubbed it so epically. The FHSU poll vaunted by Cap-J editorialists was no exception."

From: Liberty Alliance –

White House Proposes Tougher Sanctions On NK After Latest Missile Test

BY MARTIN LIOLL¹_{SEP} ON MAY 15, 2017 AT 8:11AM

After another missile test by North Korea this past weekend, the Trump administration called for yet another round of sanctions against Kim Jong Un's regime.

According to [Fox News](#), the launch was conducted in the early hours of Sunday morning in North Korea. The

missile, referred to by North Korean state media as the Hwasong-12, landed in the Sea of Japan roughly 60 miles from Vladivostok in Russia.

The test was notable for several reasons. First, [Japanese officials](#) say that the missile flew for 30 minutes and a little less than 500 miles, hitting an “unusually high” maximum altitude of 1,240 miles. That indicates some development in North Korean missile technology — and could put Russia within range of Pyongyang’s military grasp.

Second, official state media outlet KCNA reported that the Hwasong-12 was “capable of carrying a large-size heavy nuclear warhead.” They also noted that after [Kim Jong Un](#) witnessed the test, he “hugged officials in the field of rocket research, saying that they worked hard to achieve a great thing.”

While North Korean propaganda can usually be taken with a 40-pound bag of Morton’s Salt, the test still represents a disturbing development — and the Trump administration was quick to respond.

“Let this latest provocation serve as a call for all nations to implement far stronger sanctions against North Korea,” a statement from the White House said, according to [Newsmax](#), adding that North Korea “has been a flagrant menace for far too long.”

The statement also brought a new player into the matter, noting that the missile landed “so close to Russian soil... (that) the president cannot imagine that [Russia is pleased](#).”

China’s foreign ministry, meanwhile, sounded a much softer tone.

“All relevant parties should exercise restraint and refrain from further aggravating tensions in the region,” a statement from the foreign ministry said.

The Left’s War on Free Speech • April 2017 • Volume 46, Number 4 • Kimberley Strassel

Kimberley Strassel writes the weekly “Potomac Watch” column for *The Wall Street Journal*, where she is also a member of the editorial board. A graduate of Princeton University, her previous positions at the *Journal* include news assistant in Brussels, internet reporter in London, commercial real estate reporter in New York, assistant editorial features editor, columnist for *OpinionJournal.com*, and senior editorial page writer. In 2013 she served as a Pulliam Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Hillsdale College, and in 2014 she was a recipient of the Bradley Prize. She is the author of *The Intimidation Game: How the Left Is Silencing Free Speech*.

The following is adapted from a speech delivered on April 26, 2017, at Hillsdale College’s Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C., as part of the AWC Family Foundation Lecture Series.

I like to introduce the topic of free speech with an anecdote about my children. I have three kids, ages twelve, nine, and five. They are your average, normal kids — which means they live to annoy the heck out of each other.

Last fall, sitting around the dinner table, the twelve-year-old was doing a particularly good job at this with his youngest sister. She finally grew so frustrated that she said, “Oliver, you need to stop talking — *forever*.” This inspired a volley of protests about free speech rights, and ended with them yelling “shut up” at each other. Desperate to stop the fighting and restore order, I asked each of them in turn to tell me what they thought “free speech” meant.

The twelve-year-old went first. A serious and academic child, he gave a textbook definition that included “Congress shall make no law,” an evocation of James Madison, a tutorial on the Bill of Rights, and warnings about “certain exceptions for public safety and libel.” I was happy to know the private-school fees were yielding something.

The nine-year-old went next. A rebel convinced that everyone ignores her, she said that she had no idea what “public safety” or “libel” were, but that “it doesn’t matter, because free speech means there should never be any restrictions on *anything* that *anybody* says, *anytime* or *anywhere*.” She added that we could all start by listening more to what she says.

Then it was the five-year-old’s turn. You could tell she’d been thinking hard about her answer. She fixed both her brother and sister with a ferocious stare and said: “Free speech is that you can say what you want — as long as I like it.”

It was at this moment that I had one of those sudden insights as a parent. I realized that my oldest was a constitutional conservative, my middle child a libertarian, and my youngest a socialist with totalitarian tendencies.

With that introduction, my main point today is that we’ve experienced over the past eight years a profound shift in our political culture, a shift that has resulted in a significant portion of our body politic holding a five-year-old’s view of free speech. What makes this shift notable is that unlike most changes in politics, you can trace it back to one day: January 21, 2010, the day the Supreme Court issued its *Citizens United* ruling and restored free speech rights to millions of Americans.

For nearly 100 years up to that point, both sides of the political aisle had used campaign finance laws — I call them speech laws — to muzzle their political opponents. The Right used them to push unions out of elections. The Left used them to push corporations out of elections. These speech laws kept building and building until we got the mack daddy of them all — McCain-Feingold. It was at this point the Supreme Court said, “Enough.” A five-judge majority ruled that Congress had gone way too far in violating the Constitution’s free speech protections.

The *Citizens United* ruling was viewed as a blow for freedom by most on the Right, which had in recent years gotten some

free speech religion, but as an unmitigated disaster by the Left. Over the decades, the Left had found it harder and harder to win policy arguments, and had come to rely more and more on these laws to muzzle political opponents. And here was the Supreme Court knocking back those laws, reopening the floodgates for non-profits and corporations to speak freely again in the public arena.

In the Left's view, the ruling couldn't have come at a worse time. Remember the political environment in 2010. Democrats were experiencing an enormous backlash against the policies and agenda of the Obama administration. There were revolts over auto bailouts, stimulus spending, and ObamaCare. The Tea Party movement was in full swing and vowing to use the midterm elections to effect dramatic change. Democrats feared an electoral tidal wave would sweep them out of Congress.

In the weeks following the *Citizens United* ruling, the Left settled on a new strategy. If it could no longer use speech laws against its opponents, it would do the next best thing — it would threaten, harass, and intimidate its opponents out of participation. It would send a message: conservatives choosing to exercise their constitutional rights will pay a political and personal price.

TEXAS A&M PROFESSOR SAYS WHITE PEOPLE MAY HAVE TO BE KILLED

Tommy Curry, Texas A & M Professor, says blacks need to talk about killing white people.

UPDATE: Texas A&M president Micheal Young has **issued an official statement** where he shrugs off the murderous comments made by Curry. In fact, Young does not even mention Curry by name.

Tommy Curry is a professor at Texas A&M. Curry teaches “Radical Black Philosophies” and “Social and Political Philosophy.” He advocates “Critical Race Theory.” This is a Black Nationalist version of Marxist Critical Theory.

Among other things, Curry says that black people should talk openly about murdering white people. In a YouTube interview, he says that the murder of white people may be necessary for “black liberation.” Further, he suggests that white people need to fear blacks so much that they believe “death could come for them at any moment.”

Currently, interracial murders in the USA involving blacks and whites are **extremely one-sided**. Most are black against white as it is. What Curry seems to be talking about is a planned mass murder on a large-scale. Curry is **highly active on YouTube** and has many other anti-white diatribes.

Tommy Curry has published two books, which his students presumably have to purchase when they take his classes. *The Philosophical Treatise of William H. Ferris*, which retails at \$125.00 and *The Man-Not*, which retails at \$99.50. The first book appears to be a collection of other people's work. Students can opt for a kindle version for \$34.50.

He was hired by Texas A&M in 2009 and is paid a 9-month salary of \$86,274.

These are his classes:

- PHIL 353-500. Radical Black Philosophies. TR 2:20-3:35. YMCA 115
- PHIL 632-600. Social and Political Philosophy. TR 11:10-12:25. YMCA 401

Tommy Curry works for the College of Liberal Arts, Department of Philosophy. Here is the **contact information** for the Department. Here is **individual contact information** for the Department faculty. **We have been informed that the best person to contact is Department Head Dr. Theodore George at (979) 845-5605. His contact e-mail address is t-george@tamu.edu.** Here is **contact information** for the heads of the College of Liberal Arts.

Less than two weeks ago a black nationalist at nearby UT-Austin went on a **racially motivated stabbing spree**. He stabbed three whites and one Asian. One of the white victims died.

In 2011, an African immigrant named Nkosi Thandiwe **went on a racially motivated shooting spree in Atlanta**. He shot three young, beautiful white females. One was killed and one was left paralyzed. **During his trial, he said he felt justified in shooting white people because of what professors taught him at a local community college.**

Here is the summary of Tommy Curry's book *The Man-Not*:

*Tommy J. Curry's provocative book **The Man-Not** is a justification for Black Male Studies. He posits that we should conceptualize the Black male as a victim, oppressed by his sex. **The Man-Not**, therefore, is a corrective of sorts, offering a concept of Black males that could challenge the existing accounts of Black men and boys desiring the power of white men who oppress them that has been proliferated throughout academic research across disciplines.*

Curry argues that Black men struggle with death and suicide, as well as abuse and rape, and their genred existence deserves study and theorization. This book offers intellectual, historical, sociological, and psychological evidence that the analysis of patriarchy offered by mainstream feminism (including Black feminism) does not yet fully understand the role that homoeroticism, sexual violence, and vulnerability play in the deaths and lives of Black males. Curry challenges how we think of and perceive the conditions that actually affect all Black males.

Texas A&M is a massive University located in College Station, TX. It is part of the Bryan–College Station media market. Here are direct links to the contact information pages of local media outlets:

- [NBC Affiliate KAGS](#)
- [CBS Affiliate KBTX](#)
- [ABC Affiliate KXXV](#)

- [The Bryan/College Station Eagle](#) – Main Daily Paper
- [The Battalion](#) – Texas A&M Student Paper

From: THE PATRIOT POST

Democracy Dies in Anonymous Sourcing | by [L. Brent Bozell & Tim Graham](#) · May 17, 2017

On May 14, CNN host Fareed Zakaria offered a fiery secular Sunday sermon declaring that President Trump is a “danger to American democracy” and guilty of “gross violations of the customs and practices of the modern American system,” and that only the news media can “keep alive the spirit of American democracy.”

On Monday, **The Washington Post** offered another arrogant serving of the media’s idea of “democracy” and “news.” It loaded up a story full of anonymous “current and former U.S. government officials” with the headline “Trump reveals secret intelligence to Russians: Highly classified information on ISIS.”

Trump’s national security team denied the Post story, which, as usual, doesn’t do a bit of good. The media instinctively disbelieve everything Team Trump has to say. If the Post account is correct and the president compromised intelligence operatives and damaged alliances to impress the Russians, that is not just noteworthy — it’s TNT. But what exactly did Trump disclose?

Once again, we don’t know what. We don’t even know if. How many times must we attend the same movie? As we’ve seen so many times since Trump became president, these are anonymous leaks coming from nameless, faceless people whose motives might be pure but could be poisonous.

One thing we do know: If news is defined as a quantifiable event, this isn’t “news.”

In the current hothouse environment, with liberal media that define Trump as the antonym of democracy, the public should be wary of anonymous sources. This is especially true today. Newspapers that crusaded against Trump in their pages — both news sections and editorial pages — simply cannot be trusted. Theirs is not the pursuit of truth; it’s the hunt for Donald J. Trump’s scalp.

Earth to the Post: Your new motto is “Democracy Dies in Darkness,” but anonymous sourcing *is* darkness. Every source who hides behind a wall as he tries to ruin other people’s careers is a self-serving coward with a personal or political axe to grind. Without knowing an identity, the public has no way of telling anything. It’s idiotic for the press to demand transparency in government at the exact same time it rewards government officials who refuse to be transparent themselves.

Journalists pat themselves on the back that they would never be “stenographers to power,” but they’re worse than that now. In their zeal to destroy Trump, they’ve become stenographers to anonymous power.

It’s also a pattern. Since Trump won the election, the Post has been caught in a string of over-aggressive anti-Trump stories that were based on anonymous sources and turned out to be untrue. Just last week, the Post reported that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein offered to resign in the wake of the firing of FBI Director James Comey. Rosenstein denied ever doing such a thing. The Post also reported that the FBI asked for additional resources for its probe of possible Trump campaign collusion with the Russian government. The acting FBI director, Andrew McCabe, testified under oath that the report was not true. It’s a shame Congress doesn’t get to put the media’s anonymous sources under oath.

There’s an obvious reason why the public holds journalists in low esteem and rejects the notion that they are watchdogs of government. Journalists are not trying to serve the voters with objective information. They’re constantly trying to push, prod, shame and trick voters into their own political agenda, using whatever convenient information, misinformation or disinformation will serve their cause. As one consumer put it, they don’t like how the press facilitates “government acting like the Wizard of Oz,” being all full of frightening bluster from behind a curtain.

The media have something to hide. If we knew all the party affiliations, political contributions and secret agendas of their anonymous sources, it might be even more obvious that their reporting is much more advocacy than journalism.

COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

FYI,

I recommend that you read all four articles - and take your blood pressure medicine if you do take such stuff before reading. The sum total of these articles is that the Kansas legislature is on track to prove that it is in the thrall of the Kansas Deep State, led by the KNEA.

It is time to shake the dust off the tea bags, and resurrect the Tea Party.

We are being sold into tax slavery.

JDA

+++++

Kansas Budget Can Be Balanced Without A Tax Increase

Ronald Reagan could have been speaking of the 2017 Kansas Legislative Session when he said, "Government is like a baby. An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."

Despite knowing that state spending is morbidly inefficient ([27 percent more per-resident than states without an income tax](#)) and is [\\$1.1 billion above long-term inflation](#), Democrats and many Republicans insist that citizens must be sent back the Tax Dark Ages because baby wants an enormous tax increase. The most recent Kansas budget profile from the [House of Representatives](#), however, shows that no tax increase is necessary.

The House Appropriations Committee has whittled the shortfall to just \$396 million over the next two years. (Media knows this but aside from perhaps Hawver's News Service, it hasn't been reported.) The Governor's revenue adjustments in the adjacent table includes highway transfers consistent with prior years and eliminates [\\$200 million in phony transfers](#) that were never going to happen (something else media knows but won't report). The Governor's spending recommendations include deferring some KPERS pension funding payments and cost saving recommendations from the Alvarez and Marsal efficiency study.

There are multiple options remaining to balance the Kansas budget, have healthy ending balances and have a little left over to resolve the school funding issue. Securitizing (selling) future tobacco settlement revenues would generate at least \$265 million each year. Collecting a royalty from the Turnpike Authority of 15 percent of toll revenue is would increase revenue by \$33 million over two years. The [2016 audited financial report](#) shows KTA had a \$37 million dollar 'profit' last year and finished the year with \$120 million in cash and receivables.

There are also two big options to reduce costs. Local school districts began this year with a record-setting [\\$911 million in unencumbered cash reserves](#), much of which represents aid collected in prior years but not spent. Alvarez and Marsal recommended cash reserves be limited to a maximum of 15 percent of current operating costs, with any excess being deducted from the following year's state funding. Based on 2016 spending, doing so would produce a one-time savings of \$196.5 million next year.

Last year, the Legislature required the Governor to make spending reductions at the beginning of this fiscal year and the same could be done again. Reducing baseline costs by \$100 million (about 3 percent of General Fund spending other than K-12) would produce \$200 million in savings over two years.

The combination of these revenue enhancements and spending reductions provides a \$960 million menu of options to close a \$396 million shortfall. Some of those options may not be ideal policy but each is much better than foisting a large, unnecessary tax increase on citizens.

A number of newly-elected legislators are openly saying their goal is to impose an enormous tax increase and they don't care if doing so means they won't be re-elected. The unspoken part is that they effectively were 'hired' by the school lobby to take Kansas back to the Tax Dark Ages and they intend to give them their money's worth. These legislators are well aware that [only 4 percent of citizens say a personal income tax hike should be the primary means of balancing the budget](#). Still, they want citizens to pay hundreds of millions more annually in addition to nearly \$200 million more per year by repealing the exemption on pass-through income for the small businesses that are [creating 98 percent of new job growth](#).

Requiring government to operate more efficiently generates a lot of backlash from the entrenched bureaucracy and special interests, making it politically easier to vote for tax increases. But President Reagan would say it's time for legislators to act responsibly on behalf of citizens and balance the Kansas budget without a tax increase.

For several years my husband & I attended the local school board meetings. We were active in electing board members & getting 2 School Bond issues voted down. They are determined in getting buildings that will NOT further students education or abilities for their future. We found that the schools are NOT broke – they have squirreled the money somewhere it is not highly visible. They are NOT using their teachers to their best ability – or releasing those that are just “working until we can retire”; they allow them to slide by & give them tenure. That is why State Legislature made tenure the School Boards choice – to enable them to get rid of nonworking teachers. It seems School Boards are more interested in what is visible on the surface instead of what the students are taught. For the visible things to look great is more important than the graduating students abilities & grades seems to be the objective of to many school board members. We have stopped the unneeded building in our district – Can it be accomplished State wide & Nationwide?? Yes, it can IF we put forth the effort – & it IS worth the effort. OUR CHILDREN COUNT!! BE INVOLVED!! CHECK YOUR SCHOOL!!!

RECENT REPORT STATES THAT MELANIA AND BARRON TRUMP WILL INDEED BE MOVING

TO D.C. THIS SUMMER | by Fred Maxwell | May 15, 2017

Speculation as to whether First Lady Melania Trump and son Barron will remain in New York or relocate to the White House has finally been put to rest.

A recent report stated that the two will indeed be [moving to D.C.](#) this summer.

After completing the current school year at Manhattan's Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, the 11-year-old son of President Trump's will be enrolling at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, MD, where he will begin classes in the fall.

This is an historic event for the private school, founded in 1978. Barron will be the first presidential child to attend the school.

Declining to respond to calls concerning Barron's enrollment, Robert Kosasky, head of the school issued an email Friday stating that St. Andrew's Episcopal School "respects family privacy."

To avoid the possibility of protests while the school was in session, the president and first lady decided to wait until summer to make the announcement.

The White House decided to make the announcement earlier, after rumors led to security concerns and questions by many parents of children attending St. Andrew's.

On Monday, the school confirmed the rumor to members of the community by letter.

The first lady released a statement to [People](#) saying, "We are very excited for our son to attend St. Andrew's Episcopal School. It is known for its diverse community and commitment to academic excellence. The mission of St. Andrew's is 'to know and inspire each child in an inclusive community dedicated to exceptional teaching, learning, and service,' all of which appealed to our family. We look forward to the coming school years at St. Andrew's."

The school has classes beginning at prekindergarten and going through grade 12.

Tuition for the school is around \$40,000 annually.

According to the school's website, students are educated "in an inclusive environment that embodies the faith and perspective of the Episcopal Church" while it "seeks a broadly diverse community to promote educational excellence."

The website also says the school's programs "are designed to serve students of varied interests and abilities capable of achievement in a challenging academic environment."

In 2011 St. Andrew's teamed up with Johns Hopkins University School of Education to create the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, designed assist teachers in applying "the best research on teaching, learning and the brain to the classroom."

What do you think? Let me know. *Personally I just hope and pray the screwballs leave him alone.*

This one hits the nail on the head. Great, just what we need.

I like the way this is phrased because it recognizes that the political class are "bought and paid for". I believe that the basic premise is correct: If you listen to Trump, he is hitting many of the hot buttons of the electorate. But you have to listen to him and not be distracted by his showmanship and obnoxious behavior.

I like the list of 13 things that I, as a senior American citizen, want.

Trump is at least talking about issues that most Americans are concerned about. My mantra about Trump is this: Truthfully, We are usually in agreement with most of what he says but wish someone else was saying it. We are offended by his brash manner. We are getting older and our tickers aren't what they used to be, but what matters is that he covers most of the 13 things we as seniors want – at least I do for sure.

1. *Hillary: held accountable for her previous wrongs!*
2. *Put "GOD" back in America !!!*
3. *Borders: Closed or tightly guarded!*
4. *Congress: On the same retirement & healthcare plans as everybody else.*
5. *Congress: Obey its own laws NOW!*
6. *Language: English only!*
7. *Culture: Constitution and the Bill of Rights!*
8. *Drug Free: Mandatory Drug Screening before & during Welfare!*

9. Freebies: NONE to Non-Citizens!
 10. Budget: Balance the #@\$\$% thing!
 11. Foreign Countries: Stop giving them our money! Charge them for our help! We need it here.
 12. Fix the TAX CODE!
 And most of all.

13. "RESPECT OUR MILITARY AND OUR FLAG!!!"

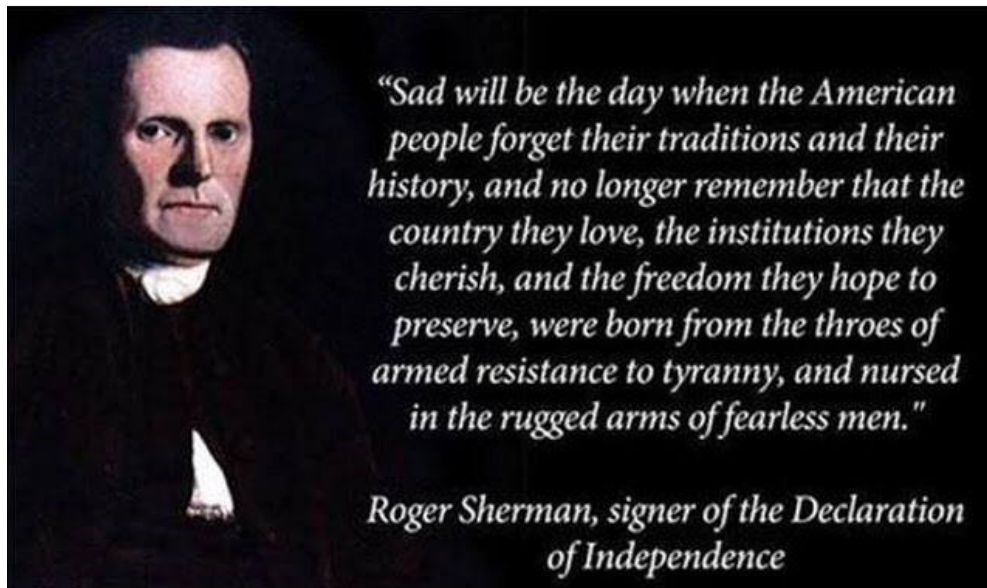
We the people are coming!

***For those who understand, no explanation is necessary.
 For those who do not, no explanation is possible***

If you would like to forward this Newsletter as is on to others – be my guest.
 If you would like to send/submit comments/editorials to the editor – be my guest.
 However, copying any part requires permission given by the persons listed above.
 Send to Sylda's email: sylda@gemsandwood.com

Flint Hills TEA Party contact information: www.flinthillsteaparty.com; fhttp@flinthillsteaparty.com
 or facebook – Flint Hills TEA Party; Manhattan contact – Chris or Larry Tawney or Sylda
 Nichols, editor, email: sylda@gemsandwood.com. Sylda sends the snail mail. Newsletter; Flint Hills
 TEA Party Snail Mail: Flint Hills TEA Party of KS, 1228 Westloop Place, PMB #326, Manhattan, KS
 66502-2840. All donations for the Educational Fund (payable to "Educational Fund") will also be
 accepted at this address and is tax deductible or to Flint Hills TEA Party which is not tax deductible.

I'm putting this final info here because I want everyone who handles this mail to see the photos and info below.



GOD BLESS THIS COUNTRY, AND THOSE GUIDING AND GOVERNING THIS COUNTRY. PLEASE, GOD, BE WITH US AS WE WORK, STRUGGLE, PRAY, TO MAKE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE COUNTRY OUR FOUNDERS INTENDED IT TO BE.

A breathtaking image!!

Take just a moment to grasp the weight of this photo.

This grinning soldier lost both of his arms in service to his country. The feel of a handshake is lost to him. President Trump realized this, and thus, touched his face so he can feel the human connection.

This is what I see when I think of our President's motives.

He gave up a billionaire's lifestyle so he could be insulted, demeaned, dragged through the mud, degraded, demonized, and lied about on a daily basis... All to serve and save the country and people he loves.

~ Please pass this forward...

