

Earth Manifesto



Tiffany Twain Tells a Tantalizing Tautological Truth

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It is a simply certain tautological truth that the vast majority of Americans will be significantly better off ONLY when the vast majority of Americans are actually significantly better off.

The devil is in the details: "How the hell do we get our leaders to honestly work together to actualize this salubrious goal of really creating a healthier and more inclusively equitable society?"

Right now, in the middle of the out-of-control pandemic carnage, we can clearly see that to achieve this eminently salubrious goal, we must begin to honestly, inclusively, comprehensively and existentially fairly "build back better." This necessarily involves addressing the biggest and most stubborn challenges we face: extreme economic inequalities, systemic racial and environmental injustices, climate change, and both government abuses of power and corporate corruption abuses of influence.

What could possibly stand athwart this broadly beneficial and surpassingly positive, propitious and providential potential condition? Ah yes, rich people abusing the influence of their money and power, and privileged people taking excessive advantage of their great good fortune. In this, they are aided by religious fundamentalists who side with the powerful over the powerless and disenfranchised in pushing their narrowly doctrinaire theological and temporal agendas. Shrewdly scheming politicians pander to all of these folks to satisfy their own selfish ambitions and greedy compulsions and strong drives to control others. So they treacherously defend the corruptly rigged systems that allow the proverbial Few to cheat and oppress the many more Many.

The late Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota believed that politics should NOT be solely about power, money and winning at any cost. He said, "Politics is about the improvement of people's lives. It's about advancing the cause of peace and justice in our country and in the world." We should try to really make it this way! We need honorable public servants who will truly represent the best interests of their constituents, not just their big donors.

Professor Robert Reich's provides excellent insights in his book *Supercapitalism* that point the way to better ways forward. In general, business and consumer and investor goals have been given too much sway in our societies, and more vital "good citizenship goals" and long-term prosperity have been subordinated to greed and the aims of narrowly focused interest groups. Too much power is given to corporations and the investors and speculators they benefit, so the compulsive drive to gain profits in the short-run wrongfully takes precedence over the common good and sustainability. This negatively affects working people and the well-being of communities, and the health of the environment.

These adverse outcomes are being promoted through political expediencies, fraudulent swindles, secrecy, misleading economic measures, odd accounting gimmicks, irresponsibly shortsighted objectives, and ruling like the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision that allows determinative influence to rich people and giant corporations through unlimited and often secretive campaign expenditures. Corporate entities naturally invest some of the huge largess of Tax Cut policies into further bribery to advance their greedy profitability.

As we plan intelligently to build back better in recovering from the pandemic, we should accurately understand the world and ourselves to make sure we do so in safer, healthier and more sustainable ways. This is key to improving the quality of life, and to informing and guiding our public policy decisions and the setting of our priorities.

As vaccines against the coronavirus hopefully protect most people against the miserable contagion's physical harms and economic and mental well-being, it should be a top priority to make sure we actually do recover in ways that are smarter than the pre-pandemic status quo. Once the threat of contagious disease diminishes, people will no doubt begin trying to resume their "normal" lives. They will likely go back to indulging in mass consumerism, mass tourism and a profligate wave of spending on travel. That will probably mean that freeways and roadways and tourist destinations will be clogged with cars, rather than having subsidies renewed to improve mass transit. Holidays like Christmas will once again feature spending large sums of money on conspicuous consumption and useless items and "time-saving gadgets", much of which will end up in landfills. "Will we once again be persuaded by advertisers that consumerism is the way to happiness and social prestige?"

The pandemic, and glimpses of our mortality and the fear of death, have arguably made people feel a sharp increase in awareness of the potential pleasures of life. As John Fowles observed in his insightful book *The Aristos*, "One consequence of our renewed awareness of death must be, and has been, an alarming growth of both national and individual selfishness, a Gadarene rush to enjoy the pleasures of the shops and senses before they close for ever ... for it has not been the economic conditions that have fostered the current desire to spend and enjoy regardless of the historical situation, but ever more nakedly seen death that has created the tomorrow-we-die economic conditions." ... "Such terms as 'affluent society' and 'conspicuous consumption' are euphemisms, in the context of our poverty-stricken and starvation-ridden world, for selfishness."

Recognizing and Rejecting Ploys from the Demagogue's Playbook

To achieve the desirable state of dramatically improving the general welfare, we need to unite against the Dividers who are benefiting so outlandishly, irresponsibly, unethically, unsustainably and immorally by engaging in deviously damaging divide-to-conquer strategies. Bottom line, they are betraying the public trust and the common good.

We see how disastrous it is for us to let leaders grab control who fail to demonstrate more honest and honorable concern for the people and the world, and our societies, cultures and the environmental commons that sustains us.

We see how negative the impacts are of having "leaders" who indulge in generously rewarded influence peddling, and who oppose reforms and common sense progress, and who facilitate public corruption and abuse authority, and who evade every effort made to hold them accountable.

It is particularly irksome that these "conservative" leaders grabbed control through a long litany of illegitimate and dishonest means. And that they dangerously indulge in cult-follower-enabled fear-mongering rabble-rousing demagoguery. Disturbingly, they emotionally hijack their duped followers, who are sadly easily swayed by self-serving untruths and the promotion of persuasive propaganda and the promulgation of manipulative misinformation and dastardly divisive disinformation. And they act as Trojan Horse traitors against the vast majority of Americans in their zeal to pander to the rich, and to cling desperately to power.

We are seeing how pathological the success of fomented division turns out to be, with its incited polarization and extreme agitated partisan rancor. And then when those who benefit from division start inciting violence instead of striving to attain the greater good, they dangerously upset domestic tranquility -- in effect torpedoing auspicious social cohesion and the great Golden Rule principle of seeking to coexist peaceably.

The American people would be much better off if we invested in desirable greater good goals, and ignored the bullhorns of the treacherous abusers of power who demand that they continue to be allowed to maintain their opprobrious monopoly on power.

Let's choose our national policies and priorities in accordance with the smart precept that we invest in common sense progressive principles. For instance:

(1) Invest in the *Common Good, Properly Understood* -- "good citizen" purposes -- rather than in expanded special privileges for the few, and power usurped by minority factions.

(2) More generously fund programs that improve the general welfare, rather than using public debt to finance big Tax Cut giveaways to the top dogs. Pass legislation to amend the 2017 Republican Tax Cuts swindle so as to reverse every penny of benefit given to those in the top 1%, for they have already been making out like bandits for

decades from the Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush future taxpayer-financed tax cuts on the highest levels of income.

(3) Dedicate our nation to social justice rather than increasing inequalities and the defense of the domination of our government by industry. And take steps to dramatically reduce the domination of both government and Big Business by white males.

(4) Improve public education rather than subsidizing private schools for the fortunate. Young people are being treated unacceptably shabbily by our "conservative" leaders. Give far greater priority to THEIR best interests.

(5) Invest in a rapid transition to the increasing use of renewable energy sources, rather than the costly indulgence in continuing to use fossil fuels that are destabilizing the global climate. We should stop allowing corporations to increase private profits by abusing influence to get "conservative" politicians to allow them to externalize so much cost onto the public. The most sensible and sustainable course of action is to invest in clean energy rather than stimulating fossil fuel use through foolish subsidies, and to take strong steps to save public lands and the environmental commons.

(6) Seek and ratify peace initiatives rather than spending such a god-awful total on poorly controlled military expenditures every year.

(7) Reform our economic system and strengthen our democracy to create greater democratic fairness, and reject policies and priorities that discriminate against women, people in racial minorities and the poor.

(8) Strengthen voting rights and pass criminal justice reform rather than letting the status quo of harsh drug laws and systemic racism to persist in our *Incarceration Nation*.

(9) Protect Roe vs. Wade reproductive rights rather than allowing evangelical conservatives to deprive women of their rights to decide whether or not to carry a fertilized egg for nine months, no matter how begotten.

Clear-Eyed Commentary

"The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it have any evil in it; but whether it have more of evil, than of good."

--- Abraham Lincoln

What exactly should we rightly do to responsibly remedy the problems we face today with our critically divided electorate and the wrongful provisions of our rigged economic and political system? To fix things, we should strengthen our democracy by making it more fairly representative. The top goals in a truly fairer democracy should be improved representation of all citizens, and concern shown for their needs. Accompanying these new directions, we should institute more effective ant-corruption measures, and make stronger efforts to reduce inequality and create more broadly shared opportunities for education and prosperity and well-being. Adequate controls on banking and stricter limitations on unacceptable corporate abuses of influence should also be put into place, including legislative reforms like those passed early in 2019 by the House of Representatives in H.R. 1.

And in the interests of all Americans under the age of 18, who cannot vote, and every one of those to be born in the future, I posit the broadly positive proposition that the USA and every nation around the globe should ALL ratify a Bill of Rights for Future Generations, as proposed in this manifesto. In addition, revolutionarily good plans should be put into effect as recommended in *One Dozen Big Initiatives to Positively Transform Our Societies*.

So, my fellow Americans: ask not how our economic system can be rigged to be of greater personal benefit to you, ask what you can do to help make our nation more broadly prosperous and fairer in the here and now, and how to ensure that our world will remain propitious and providential for generations to come. Let us hear the ringing of the bells of individual freedom and responsibility, and thereby support this overarching cause, seeing it to be just, for it should be clear for whom the bell tolls, and it tolls for us all.

The Corporate Triumph over Working People

Donald Trump told voters he would 'protect' and 'fight for' workers, but once in power he has only made weak pretenses to do so. Instead, his administration has systematically done the opposite. And the pandemic has

provided the administration another opportunity to continue its attacks on workers' rights. Instead of instituting policies to protect the nation's "essential workers", the administration has remained largely silent on workplace safety standards, and refused to issue new ones or even enforce the old ones to protect workers against terrible new threats posed by the coronavirus. Doctors, healthcare workers and caregivers are especially affected, along with workers in meat-processing plants and farm workers.

A report from the Economic Policy Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank, provides a review of the Trump administration's 50 most egregious attacks on working people since Trump took office. This analysis reveals that Trump's chaotic tenure has been marked by a clear commitment to advancing a pro-corporate, anti-worker agenda. These 50 ways that Trump and his administration and Republicans in Congress have worked against the best interest of workers include engaging in persistent efforts to take away health care from tens of millions of workers, failing to act to protect the health of workers on the job during the pandemic, making efforts to prevent minimum wage increases, preventing millions of workers from receiving overtime pay, proposing a rule that would lower the earnings of tipped workers, and issuing guidance that allows states to deny unemployment insurance benefits to workers who refuse to return to unsafe jobs. Trump has suspended funding for Social Security, and has failed to support adequate fiscal stimulus during the pandemic and excluded millions of workers from paid leave provisions in the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (including 9 million health care workers and 4.4 million first responders). And they rammed through the appointments of numerous anti-labor judges onto federal courts, and made it a top priority to satisfy the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's anti-worker wish list and its very effective lobbying to weaken the ability of employees to organize with their co-workers to bargain collectively for better pay and benefits from their employers.

The Trump administration has also persisted in attempts to end protections for Dreamers, suspended the issuance of green cards, pushed to lower wages for migrant farm workers, obstructed workers' right to fair union elections, decreased workplace safety inspections, allowed the misclassification of gig workers, repealed a requirement that employers report workplace injuries and illnesses, repealed a requirement that employers report workplace injuries and illnesses, and eroded the collective bargaining rights of federal workers. And all too often it has continued to encourage the offshoring of jobs to lower wage countries that have fewer labor and environmental protections.

Trump gives angry American workers a deeply misleading prescription for how to fix the loss of manufacturing jobs, for most of them have been lost to computers and machines, not people in Mexico and China. It is noteworthy that American manufacturers produce twice as much as they did in 1984, but with one-third fewer workers, according to Thomas Friedman. Trump declares that we should build walls and increase trade barriers, in addition to giving huge tax breaks to the rich, but Thomas Friedman expresses a convincing and diametrically opposed opinion about a much better course of action:

"The smartest thing we can do now is to keep our economy as open and flexible as possible -- to get the change signals first and be able to quickly adapt; create the opportunity for every American to engage in lifelong learning, because whatever jobs emerge will require more knowledge; make sure that learning stresses as much of the humanities and human interactive skills as hard sciences; make sure we have an immigration policy that continues to attract the world's most imaginative risk-takers; and strengthen our safety nets, because this era will leave more people behind."

Abraham Lincoln once purportedly declared, possibly apocryphally: "... I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for safety of my country. As a result of the (Civil) war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed." It is our shared responsibility to come together to alter today's Trumpian trajectory.

Candidate Trump promised to fix the "rigged system" and "drain the swamp" in Washington D.C., but once in office it turns out that this promise is one of the biggest political bait-and-switch schemes ever perpetrated in history. Not only has he filled his Cabinet with billionaire donors, Wall Street bankers, corporate CEOs, unqualified candidates, treacherous schemers, and extreme right-wing conservatives, but his agenda represents a double-

cross of his rural white supporters. Instead of standing up for the health, well-being and best interests of those supporters and the vast majority of the American people, Trump Republicans have given huge tax cuts to corporations and rich people, and has rolled back Wall Street reforms. They are undermining the healthcare system, suing in the Supreme Court to end Affordable Care, and attacking consumer rights and the collective bargaining rights of working people, along with acting to gut regulations that protect our water supplies, air, land and climate.

This is a disastrously sad state of affairs, and a pathetic testament to the betrayal of the American people by 'conservatives' on tax issues that egregiously favor the rich, and on trade deals that primarily promote the interests of multinational corporations at the expense of the vast majority of the people. The overheated pressure cooker of social unrest could easily be made much less dangerous by turning down the heat under the pot of injustices and discord, and by instead seeking common ground in relatively small investments in equitably fairness-oriented social insurance policies, like higher minimum wages, bigger investments in good public education, truer national security and greater domestic tranquility. To finance these social goods, a more progressive tax structure is needed ASAP.

A main reason that the American people have not been able to unite over common good goals is that conservative politicians have been "doing whatever it takes to win" in recent years, as if any means whatsoever are justified to accomplish narrow ends. Professor Robert Reich analyzed the exceedingly high cost of this prevailing ethos in the U.S. in an October 2016 article *The High Price of Winning at Any Cost*.

Reich pointed out that two observers from the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute trace the beginning of this divisive hyperpolarized scorched-earth strategy to Newt Gingrich back when he was Speaker of the House in 1995. The Republican Party under Gingrich became "ideologically extreme, scornful of compromise, dismissive of the legitimacy of its political opposition and unmoved by conventional understandings of facts, evidence and science." This stance has betrayed the trust of the American people in government. Corporate leaders, too, have pursued -- and been allowed to laissez-faire pursue -- consequentially harmful courses of action in order to benefit at the expense of the public.

These trends have gotten much worse over the years, creating a "vicious cycle of public distrust," writes incisive Professor Reich. "Leadership of our nation's major institutions is not just about winning. It's also about making these institutions stronger and more trustworthy." It time for us to work together to actualize common good goals and to reject the powerful divisive forces that keep us from achieving such auspicious priorities. We need stronger and more trustworthy institutions! Instead, the dangerous and highly detrimental influence of Donald Trump has momentarily triumphed, enabled by Mitch McConnell and his corrupt cabal of Republican U.S. Senators. This has made a tragic travesty of civil discourse, honesty, rational thinking and fair-mindedness. And when it comes to grace in conceding to having become a big loser in the 2020 election, Trump is showing himself to be the worst ever. This is a titanic failing.

Betrayals

I find these truths to be self evident. Trump Republicans have become betrayers against the public trust, the common good and democracy itself. Concede!

How are they doing this?

They betray *Core Values of Democracy* by putting public health and safety far below their political interests in grabbing power and wielding ruthless control over the lives, fortunes and well-being of the people.

They betray the American people by corrupting government to favor capitalists over workers -- and the rich over the poor.

They betray "power to the people" by giving domineering power to corporations.

They betray the majority of Americans by giving debt-financed tax cuts to the rich that obligate all taxpayers in every future year to pay for this generosity. They act fiscally irresponsibly in this mortgaging national debt swindle that gives gargantuan benefits to the already rich and wrongly drives an increasing concentration of money

and power in the hands of the few.

They betray the *Common Good, Properly Understood* by pushing an agenda that is detrimental to the vast majority of people alive today. This agenda is concomitantly pathologically harmful to all to be born in future generations.

They betray the health of the environment by facilitating assaults against it, and against balance in natural ecosystems and the diversity of life on Earth.

They betray all people everywhere by refusing to take sensible steps to prevent the destabilization of the global climate.

They betray democratic fairness, equality, egalitarian values, expansive inclusivity and more equitable national policies and priorities.

They betray liberty and justice for all by broadly discriminating against women and Blacks and Latinos, and by perpetuating white male supremacy and systemic racism against people of color, and structural gender discrimination that broadly disadvantages females. Black lives certainly don't matter as much as white lives, the way things are, and fair steps should be taken to redress this pathetic situation.

Trump Republicans betray the American people by putting Party over Country -- and personal political advantages over their Country and oaths to the Constitution. They do this in their staunch stands for ever-expanding rich privilege, and in their harsh rule, public corruption, and persistent attempts to block progressive reforms designed to achieve democratic fairness, social justice, fiscal responsibility, greater social cohesion, and truer and more expansive and inclusive liberties.

They betray fairly representative government through their use of voter suppression tactics and gerrymandering and the 2020 sabotaging the U.S. Postal Service to slow voting-by-mail, and by spreading disinformation, using partisan dirty tricks, and enacting racist voting restrictions in their cunning attempts to persuade tens of millions of Americans that their agenda is best, even though it perpetuates the rigging of the economy in favor of corporations and profiteers against the best interests of working people and the common good.

They betray the greater good by engaging in corrupt Big Money campaign financing and pay-to-play politics. In buying and selling influence, Republicans have deeply corrupted both federal and state governments. It was the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling in January 2010 that allowed Big Money abuses of power, and we should understand Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens incisive dissent from the wrongful system-corrupting decision when he stated: "A democracy cannot function effectively when its constituent members believe laws are being bought and sold." The same is true when citizens see Republicans stack the Supreme Court with partisan judges and conniving knee-jerk "conservatives" who often disregard the general well-being of the majority in the narrow ideological rulings they make.

Republicans betray the people in having fooled a large proportion of the populace to usurp power, and to then dominate the people in imposing their exclusionary narrow-minded will over them.

They betray the people by persistently telling a monumentally Big Lie about prosperity trickling down and claiming that they are trying to improve the general welfare while they mortgage and diminish the future.

Republicans betray Main Street businesses in their zeal to give greater advantages to Wall Street interests, and work against honest good governance.

They betray our allies in democratic countries like Germany, France and Scandinavian countries when they let Trump demonstrate allegiance to an axis of power-abusing authoritarian leaders like Vladimir Putin in Russia, Recep Erdogan in Turkey, Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil.

They gain power by dividing people, not trying to unite them in common cause and the general welfare. One of their main strategies is to scapegoat immigrants, betray Dreamers and treat refugees cruelly, even separating children from their parents in horrendous border camps. They use this scandal-ridden obfuscation to shift attention and blame from the negative outcomes of their malfeasance, incompetence and pandemic turpitude.

They and their divisive co-conspirators on Fox News weaponize lies and deceit and false conspiracy disinformation,

and twist the truth by acting as emotion-hijacking rabble rousers against Democrats, progressives, liberals, women, immigrants, reformers, corruption fighters and disenfranchised people.

Nonetheless, Good Hope Persists

Hope lies in honorable patriotic allegiance to the great values set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution -- unity, the general welfare, the establishment of justice, domestic tranquility, and the blessings of liberty to ourselves and those in posterity.

In the context of the values crucial to civilized society, right-wing conservatism is wrong. The moral good is essentially those things that are consistent with the common good and the greater good of the group. Rashly reactionary doctrinaire conservatives generally side with economic elitists and are anti-democratic in favoring the few over the many. An unfortunate side feature of this concocted extreme of unfairness is that they champion authoritarian oppression to keep the many in their subjugated place.

The conservative satirist P.J. O'Rourke once wrote: "The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work and then they get elected and prove it." He made this satirical statement in the early 1990s, and today Trump Republicans pose a much bigger threat to democracy and overall well-being than merely a group who proves government does not work.

They prove how susceptible our great 244-year-old democracy is to demagoguery, despotism and public corruption. Our Founding Fathers warned us that eternal vigilance is required to keep our democratic republic safe from tyranny. So what has become of us? Distracted by our devices and overloads of news and pervasive advertising and microtargeted social media -- and deceived by profiteers and coldly calculating demagogues, we have dumbly allowed a civilian coup to take place right under our noses. Millions of Americans have died defending our country from hyped up threats from abroad, and yet insidious subversion from within has now allowed a group of scheming swindlers to grab power and flagrantly abuse it by imposing a corrupt, unethical, dishonorable and extremely inequitable agenda on the people. This cruel agenda has contributed to the sacrifice of "essential workers", and countless thousands of Americans who have died as a result of the cunning politicizing of precautionary health measures during the 2020 pandemic.

Conservatives Without Conscience

John Dean, the White House Counsel under Nixon, penned a scathing portrayal in 2006 of the authoritarian impulses of conservatives. In this illuminating book, titled *Conservatives Without Conscience*, Dean examined the conservative movement's inner circle of leaders at the time, along with its policies and its mind-set. He identified the movement as being fundamentally authoritarian in nature, pointing out abuses of power, and he emphasized "the striking authoritarian character of contemporary conservative beliefs, attitudes and prejudices, and how these are expressed in policy and practice." He also conveyed a revealing portrait of leaders who do not honor "the founding principles of liberty and equality, and who cloak their actions in moral superiority while pushing the country further and further from its constitutional foundations."

Dean asserts that conservatism has been co-opted by people with authoritarian personalities and policies, citing the scholar Bob Altemeyer's perspectives. "According to Dean, modern conservatism, specifically in the Christian Right, embraces obedience, inequality, intolerance, and strong intrusive government." This stance stands in stark contrast to the philosophies and policies advocated by the conservative politician Barry Goldwater, who was John Dean's personal role model. "Using Altemeyer's scholarly work, he contends that there is a tendency toward ethically questionable political practices when authoritarians are placed in positions of power, and that the current (in 2006) political situation is dangerously unsound because of it."

"Dean cites the behavior of key members of the Republican leadership, including George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Tom DeLay, Newt Gingrich and Bill Frist as clear evidence of a relationship between modern right-wing conservatism and this authoritarian approach to governance. He places particular emphasis on the abdication of checks and balances by the Republican Congress, and of the dishonesty of the conservative intellectual class in support of the GOP, as a result of the obedience and arrogance innate to the authoritarian mentality."

"Regrettably, empirical studies reveal that authoritarians are frequently enemies of freedom, anti-democratic, anti-equality, highly prejudiced, mean-spirited, power hungry, Machiavellian, and amoral."

The right-wing agenda makes it clear that freedom is a fragile thing, and that demagoguery, dishonesty and misrule are threats to our personal liberties and our security and overall well-being. John Dean's understandings in *Conservatives Without Conscience* were extraordinarily prescient in light of the rise of Trump and Trumpism.

In 2007, John Dean wrote *Broken Government: How Republican Rule Destroyed the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches*. In this book, Dean built on *Worse Than Watergate*, and *Conservatives Without Conscience*, to argue that the Republican Party has gravely damaged all three branches of the federal government in the service of ideological rigidity, with little regard given to the public interest or the general good. Dean concludes that conservatism must regenerate itself to remain true to its core ideals of limited government and the rule of law.

The single most egregious instance of activities by conservatives without conscience is the brainwashing of millions of Americans into believing trickle-down economic ideologies that serve to concentrate wealth into the hands of the few, at the expense of the many, because this undermines the general welfare and proves to be contrary to the common good and the fundamental tenets of democracy itself.

John F. Kennedy made an incisive observation about public opinion: "For the great enemy of truth is very often not the lie -- deliberate, contrived and dishonest -- but the myth -- persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."

After four long and terribly chaotic years, Trump has been fired, and he has narcissistically refused to concede for weeks, making baseless claims of widespread voter fraud and attacking the integrity of our elections. Republican efforts to maintain their monopoly on power are being thwarted, and new guidance and better governance are needed. One of Donald Trump's most blatant efforts to undermine democracy is claiming that voting my mail is rife with fraud, and insisting on the completely baseless idea that the November 2020 election was stolen from him. Don't vote for deceitful Republicans ever again.

It would be an ultimate folly to allow progress and reform to be stymied by an intransigent U.S. Senate ruled by Mitch McConnell, the self-proclaimed "grim reaper" of progressive legislation. So I appeal to voters in Georgia to vote to elect Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in the January 5, 2021 runoff elections!

What we need is a "political revolution" that favors the 99% of Americans. What we have gotten is a reactionary Trumpian political revolution that is drastically exacerbating inequalities and making injustices dangerously worse. The politicians that have foisted this revolting state of affairs on our country often recite a mantra of "jobs, jobs, jobs", but they use a range of deceitful schemes to gain power and abuse it by preying on the fears and insecurities and antagonisms of a large swath of the people, without offering truly beneficial policy proposals and plans.

Most revolutions are not caused by revolutionaries in the first place, but by the stupidity and brutality of rulers.

To quote P.J. O'Rourke again, he provocatively stated: "Authority has always attracted the lowest elements in the human race. All through history mankind has been bullied by scum. Those who lord it over their fellows and toss commands in every direction and would boss the grass in the meadows about which way to bend in the wind are the most depraved kind of prostitutes. They will submit to any indignity, perform any vile act, do anything to achieve power."

The U.S. Government Service Code of Ethics

To understand the scope of the treachery and the depths of the ethical rot that is subverting our democracy from within, it is valuable to understand the stipulations made in the responsible Code of Ethics for U.S. Government Service. To summarize it, this ethical code of conduct requires any person in government service to demonstrate "loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country". Public service should be rightly regarded as a public trust, requiring employees to place loyalty to the Constitution and the laws and ethical principles above private gain.

Every person in the Executive branch, as well as in both houses of Congress, should be accountably required to adhere to this set of honorable principles.

This Code of Ethics has been scandalously broadly abrogated by Trump Republican leaders for the past four years: It reads:

"Employees shall not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of duty."

"Employees shall not use public office for private gain."

"Employees shall not engage in financial transactions using nonpublic government information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest."

"Employees shall satisfy in good faith their obligations as citizens, including all just financial obligations, especially those -- such as Federal, State, or local taxes -- that are imposed by law."

"Employees shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap."

"Employees shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards set forth herein. Whether particular circumstances create an appearance that the law or these standards have been violated shall be determined from the perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts."

And finally, "Expose corruption wherever discovered."

Far, far too many of the members of the corrupt culture in the Trump administration, and Republican politicians in Congress, get an "F" in their overall conduct and performance.

The Story of Sue, and the Problem with How Republicans See Government

Sue gets up at 6:00 a.m. and fills her coffeepot with water to prepare her morning coffee. The water is clean and good because some tree-hugging liberal fought for minimum water-quality standards.

With her first swallow of coffee, she takes her daily medication. Her medications are safe to take because some stupid commie liberal fought to insure their safety and that they work as advertised.

All but \$10 of her medications is paid for by her employer's medical plan because some liberal union workers fought their employers for paid medical insurance - now Sue gets it too.

She prepares her morning breakfast, bacon and eggs. Sue's bacon is safe to eat because some girly-man liberal fought for laws to regulate the meat packing industry.

In the shower, Sue reaches for her shampoo. Her bottle is properly labeled with each ingredient and its amount in the total contents because some crybaby liberal fought for her right to know what she was putting on her body and how much it contained.

Sue dresses, walks outside and takes a deep breath. The air she breathes is clean because some environmentalist wacko liberal fought for laws to stop industries from polluting our air.

She walks to the subway station for her government-subsidized ride to work. It saves her considerable money in parking and transportation fees because some fancy-pants liberal fought for affordable public transportation, which gives everyone the opportunity to be a contributor.

Sue begins her work day. She has a good job with excellent pay, medical benefits, retirement, paid holidays and vacation because some lazy liberal union members fought and died for these working standards. Sue's employer pays these standards because Sue's employer doesn't want his employees to call the union.

If Sue is hurt on the job or becomes unemployed, she'll get a worker compensation or unemployment check because some stupid liberal didn't think she should lose her home because of her temporary misfortune.

It's noon and Sue needs to make a bank deposit so she can pay some bills. Sue's deposit is federally insured by the FSLIC because some godless liberal wanted to protect Sue's money from unscrupulous bankers who ruined the banking system before the Great Depression.

Sue has to pay her Fannie Mae-underwritten mortgage and her below-market federal student loan because some elitist liberal decided that Sue and the government would be better off if she was educated and earned more money over her lifetime.

Sue is home from work. She plans to visit her father this evening at his farm home in the country. She gets in her car for the drive. Her car is among the safest in the world because some America-hating liberal fought for car safety standards.

She arrives at her childhood home. Her generation was the third to live in the house financed by Farmers' Home Administration because bankers didn't want to make rural loans. The house didn't have electricity until some big-government liberal stuck his nose where it didn't belong and demanded rural electrification.

She is happy to see her father, who is now retired. Her father lives on Social Security and a union pension because some wine-drinking, cheese-eating liberal made sure he could take care of himself so Sue wouldn't have to.

Sue gets back in her car for the ride home, and turns on a radio talk show. The radio host keeps saying that liberals are bad and conservatives are good. He doesn't mention that Republicans have fought against every protection and benefit Sue enjoys throughout her day. Sue agrees: "We don't need those big-government liberals ruining our lives! After all, I'm self-made and believe everyone should take care of themselves, just like I have."