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The Hancock County Democrat



A Publication of the Hancock County ,Ohio Democratic Party



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Protecting the Free State Juliette Lawson

The 2nd Amendment has been simply interrupted to allow no infringement on any gun right. This interruption is backed up by quotes conveniently plucked from history putting the founders in a stance of agreement where the rights of the people to bear arms are ardently held high and used as a weapon against a tyrannical government. But let that not fool you, the crafters of our Constitution all had their own opinions on many subjects and fought adamantly on most of them. What was agreed on was the words put on paper and voted into law. One item they all agreed on, alongside securing the right of the people to bear arms, was the need for protecting the free State.

“A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

The second amendment has been held as a shield and in many cases wielded as a sword to the notion of gun regulation. We are all fluent in the “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed” but how about the first part, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of the free State”? These words were chosen and placed in order first by men who understood the need for the people to lead the free State as well as the need for the free State to be protected.

James Madison wrote these phrases so “a well-regulated militia” was listed first, acknowledging the importance of a militia acting for the security of the free State before that of the rights of the people to bear arms. They, having just won the Revolutionary War, were undeniably aware of the strength and sacrifice it took for men to band together against a common enemy. They were also painfully aware of the need for these individuals to form into militias that could be funded, trained, and show honest allegiance to the State in order to be victorious. “Other rules and regulations may be adopted for the government of the army, than those now in existence; otherwise, the army, but for the name, might as well be disbanded.” George Washington wrote to Congress about the troubles of an unregulated militia and the need for rules to help structure the militia in better accordance with the State’s directives. An example he gave was colonial soldiers scaring people from homes, robbing them, and burning their homes down to cover the evidence. The lack of punishment, funding, proper chain of command, and training were weakening the Revolutionary forces. He was pointing out the fact that an unorganized, underfunded, untrained, an unethical band of men were useless to the State and would lead to its ruin. He wanted Congress to be proactive and strengthen its governance of our militia. A civilian funded and trained militia, i.e. unregulated, is no threat to the standing government, only to our neighbors and us.

Today, we can all acknowledge the unregulated militias in our rural and urban areas, the organized gangs in our city streets as well as paramilitary groups in our countryside. When the people gather to become an unregulated militia and disregard the rules and regulations of our State, they no longer get to wield the phrases “keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed” as a free pass.

And furthermore, some of these unregulated militias are training and professing about their upcoming overthrow of our State. When the 2nd Amendment says militias are needed for the security of the free State, it is stating that the free State needs protection. Our government was crafted in such a way that the free State exists as long as the people are granted access, through free and fair elections, to the law-making processes. “A settled plan to deprive the people of all the benefits, blessings, and ends of the contract, to subvert the fundamentals of the constitution, to deprive them of all share in making and executing laws, will justify a revolution.”- John Adams. The unregulated militia scattered across our country talk blatantly about their insurrection plans and propagate lies against our free State without any proof of the constitutional freedom loss they preach.

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Protecting the Free State Continued from page 3

Our founding fathers were adamant supporters of private gun ownership, yet they were as equally, if not more, adamant about honesty, truth, and hard facts. “If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.” -Thomas Jefferson. Having used disinformation campaigns to gain an upper hand over the British, our country’s fathers were aware of the strength words had over weapons. When James Madison says, “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.” he was speaking about knowledge as the weapon against tyranny, not guns.

The idea of honorable patriots rising above the tyrannical government and bringing it down is a fairytale in the present time and didn’t even go that way during the Revolutionary War. The colonial army was losing badly because of a lack of funding, uncoordinated training, and broken logistical lines until they reorientated us at the Constitutional Congress and America began fighting as a united country. Weaponry and waring infrastructure have exponentially grown since the late 1700s, if a civilian ran revolution didn't work then, who is so convinced it would work now?

At Thomas Jefferson’s state of the Union address, his famous words “For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well organized and armed militia is their best security” were referring to the need for our national militia to be prepared for attacks from enemies. In the same breath, he also states, “Congress alone having the power to produce an uniform state of preparation in this great organ of defense” shows how elected officials were meant to be the regulators of our militia, not individuals.

Members of current unregulated militias led the insurrection at the Capitol and desired to topple our free State and its democratic motives. They are our neighbors, brothers, cousins, and aunts, people we all know that are ardently ignoring the rights of others as they aggressively overreach for their own. The Constitution was created to give the people a mechanism to create the change we want. “Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity and happiness of the people; and not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men.” -John Adams Through an intricate web of elected and nominated positions with checks and balances from local to national level, our government has been created to work slowly, yet, for the will of all people. I will admit it isn't perfect but the more we take part the more perfect it will become. The constitution does not give anyone the right to overthrow our democratic processes because they don't like the results. Who is protecting the free State if opinions are forced with brutality?

Over the decades, we have allowed a select few words in our 2nd Amendment to erode the importance of the remaining content and the true intentions of its crafters. We need to stand on what is right and use the phrase as it was meant, one that puts the security of our free State first and the right of the people to bear arms second. It was not meant to create a setting where the security of our free State is threatened by the unregulated gun ownership of individuals in private militias.



On Conspiracies

Bruce Workman

I only use the word theory in context with conspiracy belief due to common usage and with the understanding that many, if not most, conspiracy beliefs do not meet the scientific or mathematical definition of a theory. That is, they are not necessarily disprovable, based on an abundance of fact, or testable under controlled conditions. There are two basic types of conspiracy theories: *Realistic Conspiracy Theories* and *Paranoid Conspiracy Theories*.¹ Under both types are three categories:

1. *Event conspiracy theories* such as the JFK assassination or 9/11
2. *Systemic conspiracy theories*, such as those involving social control or political power.
3. *Superconspiracy, theories*, such as those involving a single individual or force that controls everything. This could be a politician, aliens, or Satan himself.²

Before we explore the who and why of conspiracy beliefs, it is only fitting to expand on the definition of realistic conspiracies. There are examples of conspiracies that were confirmed as real. The assassination of President Lincoln was the result of a conspiracy, WWI began because of a conspiracy, the Kennedy administration really did conspire to have Castro killed—conspiracies can fail—, there were many conspiracies involving the Vietnam War. Based on these examples some have argued that it makes sense to tend to believe conspiracies until they are proven false—or false positives are better than false negatives. The argument against this claim could include the fact that it is sometimes difficult or impossible to refute conspiracy theories given the technology of the time and lots of harm can be done in the meantime—the claim that Jews caused the Plague by poisoning wells is an excellent example of both.

There are inherent reasons why we give assertions without proof credence and many date back to when making assumptions was necessary for survival. Our lizard brains are programmed to see, interpret, and act on patterns without rational thought. When the grass was rustling around an early man or woman there was no time to consider whether it was just the wind. To ensure survival he or she had to assume the noise was caused by predators or some other danger and immediately enter flight or fight mode. We are wired to see patterns, regardless of whether they are there or not. Our brains associate uncertainty with danger. Therefore, it is in our nature to find cause and effect patterns even for random events. This is also likely responsible for the creation of early deities and religions. There are other quirks of the brain that can mislead us. Pareidolia is the phenomenon that causes people to see patterns in random stimulus—'Jesus in the grilled cheese sandwich' syndrome is a good example. Our minds seem programmed to create order out of chaos. We are not comfortable with randomness; this is why many conspiracy theories are the result of tragic events. It was hard to accept that one opportunistic individual could be responsible for the assassination of a president. As a result, the Warren Commission report was rejected by many and grand conspiracy theories related to the death of President Kennedy were created. There was an actual conspiracy involved in the 9/11 attacks, but the truther movement was born anyway. Political scientist, Michael Burkun, in his book, *A Culture of Conspiracy*, outlined three major attractions of conspiratorial beliefs: 1. Conspiracy theories claim to explain what normal analysis cannot by trying to make sense of a world that can be nonsensical. 2. They explain the world in relatively simple ways by dividing players and motives into a simple dichotomy between good and evil with the conspirators representing the evil side—which would always make the believers the good guys. 3. Conspiracy theories are a type of secret knowledge. The believer is in the inner circle. 'I know something they don't know' is always a big attraction to those who may be insecure about their intellectual prowess.¹

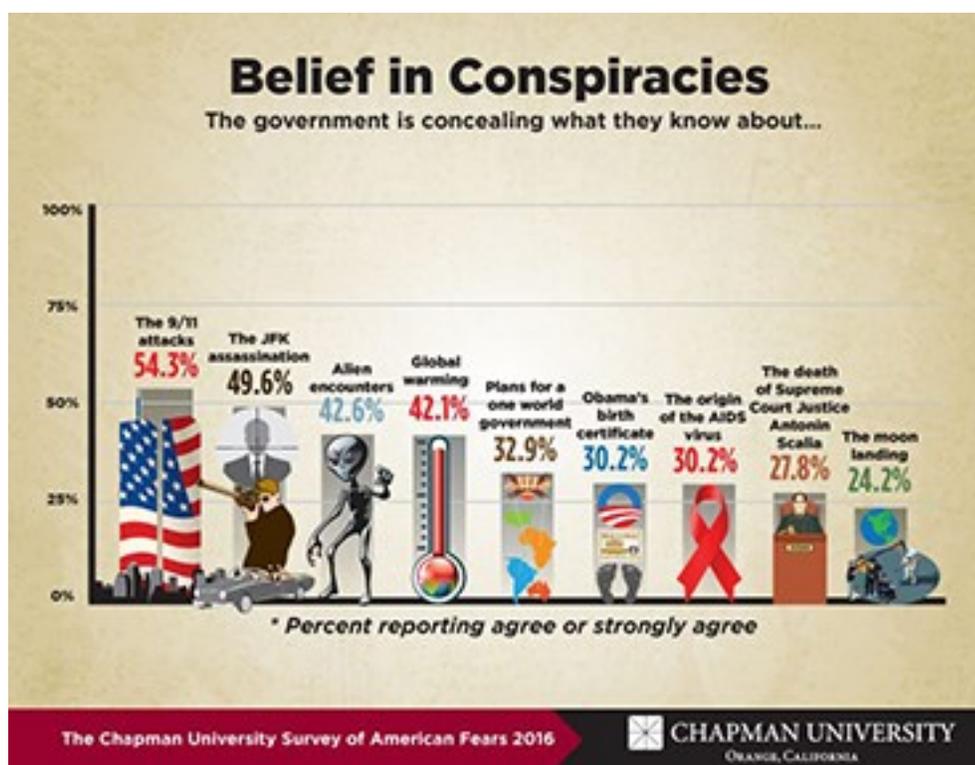
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On Conspiracies

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A quick answer to the question “Who believes conspiracy theories?” would be, everybody. Anyone who has been alive long enough has probably at some time in his or her life believed a claim involving the proverbial ‘they’ without factual evidence. Belief in one or more of the unfactual 9/11 conspiracies reached 54.3%². For most of us, rational thought eventually wins the day, and we examine things more critically. “Education appears to attenuate conspiracy thinking, with 42 percent of those without a high school diploma scoring high in conspiratorial predispositions compared to those with postgraduate degrees, who come in at 22 percent. Nevertheless, that one in five Americans with postgraduate degrees believe in conspiracies tells us something else is going on here”³ Studies have found that anxiety, alienation, and feelings of rejection are also factors. People who have all of these qualities are most likely to believe multiple conspiracy theories. 10.5% of those polled in the Chapman Survey believed in nine or more conspiracies (see Table 1.). The Chapman study also found that 32.5% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “The government is concealing what they know about...*the North Dakota Crash*”—an event, invented by the creators of the survey, that never occurred.²



Source: Wilkerson College, Chapman University

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On Conspiracies

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# of Conspiracy Beliefs	Percent
No conspiracy beliefs	26.0
1 conspiracy belief	11.1
2 conspiracy beliefs	10.5
3 conspiracy beliefs	11.5
4 conspiracy beliefs	8.2
5 conspiracy beliefs	7.1
6 conspiracy beliefs	5.1
7 conspiracy beliefs	5.5
8 conspiracy beliefs	4.3
9 conspiracy beliefs	10.5

“Instead of looking at personality traits as predictors, Eric Oliver, a University of Chicago researcher, assessed different styles of thinking. According to Oliver, people fall on a spectrum of thinking from magical or intuitive at one end to rational at the other.⁴” About 60% of people fall somewhere in the middle—belief with varying levels of disbelief—while intuitionists outnumber rationalists by about 2 to 1 of the remaining 40%. On average, fortune tellers and evangelists are much more likely to believe in conspiracy theories than scientists or statisticians.⁴

The conspiracy theories behind the election fraud hoax and the attack on the Capitol building, are largely rehashed witch-hunts. The various components are merged into a mishmash of craziness that leaves a rational mind reeling. It is nearly impossible for most of us to decipher the thinking that could lead to such bizarre conclusions. The conspiracies theories are not new, but the way they are incorporated under the same banner, or foil hat, makes QAnon unique. Racist or theist conspiracy beliefs are as least as old as written history. There have been numerous conspiracies involving Satan worshippers throughout history and when you combine pedophilia you have the witch hunts of the 80s and early 90s all over again. Repressed memories were ‘uncovered’ by ‘pseudo-therapists’; lives were destroyed, daycare centers bankrupted, and brand-new ways to punish ex-spouses became popular. The original Q, who claims to have a top security clearance, but can only reveal ‘breadcrumbs’, could be anyone from a troll farm to a guy living in his mother’s basement. What is most astounding about QAnon is the number of open believers, many of whom are prepared to act violently based on irrational beliefs. Because of the numbers and potential danger, we cannot afford to ignore them and wait for the majority to come to their senses. This is something we could potentially be dealing with for years, if not decades. The rational among us must engage with these people, but caution is required—we may find ourselves dealing with very disturbed people. Shaming, questioning their intelligence, or ad hominem attacks will not work. Employing the methods outlined in [this article](#) might work.

(concluded on page 7)



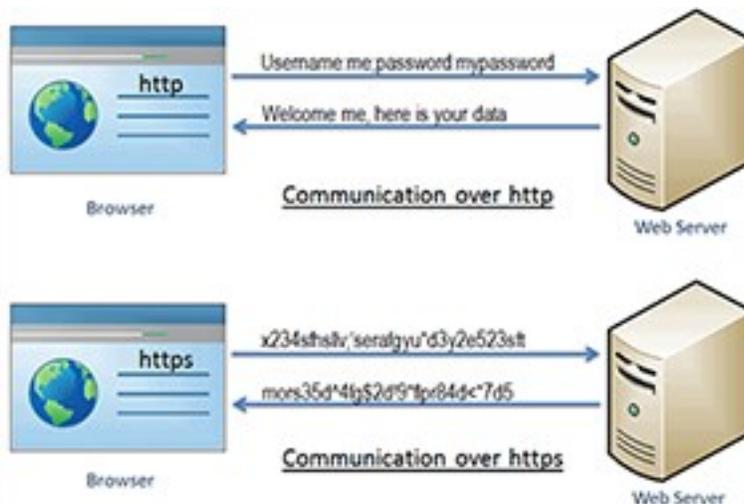
On Conspiracies Continued from page 6

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- (2) College, Wilkinson. "What Aren't They Telling Us? - Chapman University Survey of American Fears." *The Voice of Wilkinson*, Chapman University, 11 Oct. 2016, bit.ly/2HPABc0.
- (3) Sherman, Michael. "Why People Believe Conspiracy Theories." *Skeptic*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2020, pp. 12–17.
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What is SSL? Bruce Workman

You have probably seen HTTP at the front of web addresses for quite some time. HTTP stands for HyperText Transfer Protocol, which is how your browser communicates with the web using HTML (HyperText Markup Language). More recently you have seen many more web addresses beginning with HTTPS, where the 'S' simply stands for secure. Since I am deciphering some of the alphabet soup that runs the internet, I will add that SSL means Secure Socket Layers. There is that word 'secure' again. Under HTTP information passed between the browser and the website server can be intercepted by third parties. The individuals intercepting these communications are not altruistic. They generally desire this information for nefarious purposes.

SSL is a security technology for establishing an encrypted link between browser to a server, server to server, or client to server. SSL ensures that the data transfer between the systems remains encrypted and private. The main difference between HTTP and HTTPS is the way data is transferred with HTTP sending data in a standard, easy-to-read, HTML, and HTTPS sending data in an encrypted form. Thus, even if a hacker manages to intercept a data transfer, he will not be able to read or use it because the message is encrypted.



Source: Tutorials Teacher

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What is SSL?

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Advantage of https¹

- **Secure Communication:** https makes a secure connection by establishing an encrypted link between the browser and the server or any two systems.
- **Data Integrity:** https provides data integrity by encrypting the data and so, even if hackers manage to trap the data, they cannot read or modify it.
- **Privacy and Security:** https protects the privacy and security of website users by preventing hackers to passively listen to communication between the browser and the server.
- **Faster Performance:** https increases the speed of data transfer compared to http by encrypting and reducing the size of the data.
- **SEO:** Use of https increases SEO ranking. In Google Chrome, Google shows the **Not Secure** label in the browser if users' data is collected over http.
- **Future:** https represents the future of the web by making the internet safe for users and website owners.

Business and government sites have used SSL for years. In the past, three of the chief reasons for not using SSL were cost, concerns about speed, ignorance, and laziness. Let's face it, cookie-cutter hosts with built-in designers are targeted to people who could not design or maintain a website otherwise. Many of these types of hosting providers will furnish tools or certificates to allow the designer to incorporate SSL, others do not and tend to ignore the issue altogether.

Enter non-profit issuers of SSL certificates, such as Let's Encrypt—founded in 2013. Where providers like GoDaddy charge as much as \$75/year, Let's Encrypt, and the others who followed, offer renewable and easy to setup SSL for free. The availability of free SSL has increased the percentage of websites bearing the lock in the left of the address bar—a lock with a line or X through it indicates no data transfer security—from 60% in 2016 to over 85% today.

On the Stack Exchange Information Security Forum, a user identified as Thomas Pornin answers the question, 'Why should one not use SSL?' with "The main reason not to use SSL is an effect of the strongest force in the Universe, i.e. laziness. However easy setting up SSL is, not setting it up will still be easier. This alone explains why so many sites still use HTTP only, not HTTPS."³ Another user, identified only as The Phoenix, replied, "Why should one not use SSL? I do not believe that is a correct question. When and under what conditions would you get away without using SSL would be a better one: when you got a static page with no privileged access requiring pages or no web authentication types. Other than that, it would be good to have SSL on board."³ A static page would not include forms or any other feature that would require the user to enter personal or financial data.

The DNC uses SSL and the ODP uses SSL. Only 46 (about 53%)—I did not include those which have not been updated in over a year—of the 88 Ohio's County Democratic Parties have websites, of those that do, about 72% use SSL. I believe it is up to the individual webmaster to decide whether or not to use encryption, but I also think that the webmaster has a duty to explain to the users how and why he or she arrived at that decision.



What is SSL?

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Oh, What A Relief It Is

Bruce Workman

When I hear everyone complaining about how terrible 2020 was, I can only partially agree. Yes, the pandemic threatened health, created economic problems, and generally sucked in many ways, but 2020 was also the year when people voted in record numbers under unprecedented conditions to defeat the nightmare known as Trump.

2016 was the year that bit the big one for me. Early in the year, I heard union workers stating support for Trump, at that time I thought both that Trump winning was impossible and certain union workers were idiots. Later that year, I was fired—I prefer this to “let go” which implies consent or terminated which has lethal connotations—I filed for unemployment for the first time in my life, I sued my former employer, my wife received her first traffic ticket in over 30 years, a monster was elected president, I contracted a cold or influenza that turned into pneumonia and led to 28 days of hospitalization (extending into 2017), and a doctor told me I had no more than 5 years to live—at least I am proving that one wrong. The only bright spot is that the settlement netted me more than the other people who were “let go” and signed away their rights. A recruiter was concerned that suing a former employer might hurt my prospects, but I was 63 and still had two solid interviews set up and one solid job offer when I contracted pneumonia. Of course, I had to cancel the interviews, decline the job, and file for SSDI. All in all, 2016 sucked for me.

I knew about Trump before he was a reality TV celebrity. I had watched the documentary about Trump’s golf course in Scotland and his treatment of the local environment and the residents. I had read articles about his less than ethical ventures in New York newspapers and national news magazines. I knew him to be a con man and was not the least bit fooled during his campaign. I knew he was a racist asshole before he even announced his decision to run for President.

I stayed in touch with some of my former coworkers via Facebook. In the days after the election, some made remarks similar to ‘If we could survive 8 years of Obama, you can survive 4 years of Trump’. I quickly deduced four things from the presented hypothesis: (1) This was a false equivalence (2) They didn’t have confidence in Trump’s reelection chances. (3) They were morons—I had previously suspected as much. (4) I had no further desire to communicate with them.

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Oh, What A Relief It Is

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Election night 2016, left me deeply depressed. I was unsure if the country and I would survive. Although I held out a small hope that enough electors would act on conscience to confirm the result of the popular vote—quick fact Republican have controlled the White House 12 of the last 20 years but only 4 of the years was the result of both an electoral college and popular vote win—but I never considered alleging election fraud or threatening public officials.

The following four years were like a prison sentence, preparing for parole and avoiding getting shived. I spent an unhealthy amount of time being angry and fearful. For a brief time, I held out hope that Republicans might find the patriotism and moral courage they displayed during the Nixon administration. That hope dissipated quickly. Almost weekly, Trump said or did something that should have destroyed his presidency. Instead, with the disgustingly loyal support of Republicans, everything slid off like a fried egg in a Teflon skillet. Even an impeachment for conspiring with a foreign agent to help secure his reelection wasn't enough to move the Republican cowards in the House and Senate.

For me, the Trump presidency was a nightmare lasting over 4 years. The November 2020 election provided only a partial awakening from the nightmare. Trump and his crazy supporters still managed to keep rational people worried. It wasn't until January 20, 2021, that I was finally able to say, 'what a relief!'. The only thing left to do is to hold all of those who supported the insurrection of January 6 accountable, but we finally have the time and opportunity to do so and move on to bigger and better things.



We now have a new President and Vice-President and the Democrats have control of the legislature . As Jack Nicholson (as President James Dale) exclaimed in *Mars Attacks* “I want the people to know that they still have 2 out of 3 branches of the government working for them, and that ain't bad.”

February is Black History Month

[I have a dream speech](#)

I am announcing a new feature on THCD called “Gab Watch” This will be a regular feature in future issues , unless I receive numerous objections. Gab is older than Parler and since Twitter and Facebook accounts have been closed and Paler has been shut down. It is now the go to forum for QAnon and assorted white supremacy and RWNJ groups. I will be monitoring a reposting select entries from the QAnon group and others. It is better to know what the crazies are up to! Since one of the most popular posters on Gab chose the name CatTurd, I decided to select SquirrelFart.



Gab Watch by SquirrelFart

Ivanka Trump@IvankaGBTrump 1h · QAnon

Join the force: Support the Trump News Network! and get a chance to win \$1 Million. We are doing a massive fundraiser and have already sold more than 100,000+ Mugs.

If only 10% of you can chip in \$15 Dollars or more we could finance our goal of creating a modern news network successfully for today. Shop the Mug in the profile Now! Attach your receipt for a follow. <https://getempire.com/products/keep-america-great-tru> New PAC Will Provide Home and Voice For Restoring Election Integrity

<https://uncoverdc.com/2021/01/24/new-pac-will-provide-home-and-voice-for-restoring-election-integrity/>

On Friday, Sidney Powell in concert with Joseph Flynn, brother of General Michael Flynn, and MyPillow's Mike Lindell, announced the formation of their Restore the Republic PAC. In a statement to UncoverDC on Saturday, Powell said, "There are 80 million Americans who love God, family, and this great Republic. Both political parties failed them miserably. We will be their home and their voice." Powell is listed in the Jan. 22 Federal Election Commission(FEC) filing as the Custodian of Records for the PAC and lawyer, Jesse Binnall is Treasurer.

Nick Frechen@NickFrechen 4h ·

The politicians and deepstate are basically calling half the country domestic terrorists. The half with all the weapons that also make up a majority of the military. With more and more people realizing Joe Biden is a demented left wing puppet propped up by a corrupt marxist media. The mind control matrix is going to break soon. It's going to be amazing to watch. You can only twist reality so much before it snaps back.



GenFlynn
@GenFlynn

9h ago ···

"Today we are proud to announce the formation of Restore the Republic PAC, which will be dedicated to supporting candidates who will fight vigorously for our Constitutional rights, freedom of speech, and the sacred right of free and fair elections" Founder Sidney Powell
... <https://restoretherepublicpac.com>

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[Fundraising split between candidate to replace Portman and the ODP](#)



This Month's Cartoons



SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



January 25, 2021

The Hancock County Democrat



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