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The Hancock County Democrat



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THE HANCOCK COUNTY DEMOCRAT

MEDIA

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Does the GOP have a future?

Bruce Workman

"It is a daunting task to convince people that they have been living in a parallel universe. The good news is that this is not a precondition for the rest of America to repair its functioning democracy."¹ The latest Gallup polls show the gap between those who identify or lean toward the Democratic Party and those who identify or lean toward the Republican Party has widened from the usual Democratic advantage of 4 – 6 points to a 9-point advantage. The Republicans cannot win a straight majority in free and fair elections. Their only option is to gerrymander or prevent a significant number of Democrats from voting,

It has been the strategy of Steve Bannon and other alt-right advocates to destroy the institutions of democracy and Donald Trump was the latest and greatest instrument in the destruction of the Republican Party. Bannon and his ilk build nothing; they only destroy and they destroy from within.² If 60 percent of Republicans believe insane conspiracy theories— "In court records of QAnon followers arrested in the wake of the Capitol insurrection, [68% reported they had received mental health diagnoses](#)"³ —that is still not a very large number. The insanity movement is a big umbrella that covers fewer heads every day. As Washington Post columnist, Max Boot summed it up, "Republicans have gone down the rabbit hole where sanity and sobriety are inexplicable and indeed suspicious."⁴ Bannon planned to destroy the Republican Party and replace it a new party, perhaps with the same name but based on far-right authoritarianism—aka fascism. His plan called for Trump to be a disposable tool, but instead of just fading into retirement oblivion, Trump remained the leader of the party. Indeed the 2022 primaries are already promising to be a 'Trump loves me more' contest.

The bulk of the party is embracing Trumpism without Trump. This is not a sustainable position. Those of us who have been wondering 'how could anyone still think Trump is even a good human being,' felt some vindication after election day 2020, but the anti-Trump wave did not have long enough coattails, the Republicans actually gained seats in the house. Democrats did pick up enough Senate seats—largely due to the efforts of the two candidates and Stacey Abrams in the Georgia special elections—to make Kamala Harris the tiebreaker, effectively ending Mitch McConnell's tyrannical rule of the Senate.

The numbers of those declaring themselves independents have also grown, but many of these just do not like to identify with one party. Gallup reports, "[i]ncreased independent identification has mostly come at the expense of the Republican Party, with the 25% of U.S. adults currently identifying as Republicans down from 29% in the fourth quarter. Republican Party identification has not been lower since early 2018 and is just a few points above the low of 22% in the Gallup telephone polling era."¹ Republicans are playing to a MAGA base that is shrinking. The math does not work for them. The only way for Republicans to win on a national level is to lower the total number of non-MAGA voters to the extent that their shrunken base can comprise a majority of votes cast. The Democrats have to fight these voter suppression efforts, but with the SCOTUS taking a chicken-shit pass on voting laws, it will be a much more difficult battle than it would in saner times. This is why in those areas where the fight is possible, such as Ohio, we need to get involved early and stay involved.

Former Speaker of the House, John Boehner, in a new book said that the current Republican Party is FUBAR to traditional conservatives and devoted mostly to the creating wealth for Donald Trump and the right-wing media echo chamber. Boehner further states, "I don't even think I could get elected in today's Republican Party, anyway. I don't think Ronald Reagan could either."⁵ The implications of the insurrection of January 6, which Boehner understatedly described as "a low point for our country" seem already largely forgotten. There has been no indication that any of the inciters will be held accountable. The indifference to or even praise of the most outlandish and destructive political behavior we have seen since the Civil War has served to embolden the opportunistic republicans. **(continued on page 3)**



Does the GOP have a future? (continued from page 2)

Many of them appear to honestly believe that this level of lunacy can be maintained and exploited indefinitely. This is where the downfall of the party begins. Today's republicans have a three-prong attack on reason and democracy: Hostility to science—witness the attack on Dr. Fauci by Jim "Dirty Gym" Jordan, Racism—pro-Trump members of the House tried to create an 'America First Caucus' with a manifesto that asserted, "America is a nation with a border, and a culture, strengthened by a common respect for uniquely Anglo-Saxon political traditions. History has shown that societal trust and political unity are threatened when foreign citizens are imported *en-masse* into a country" and Authoritarianism—these guys have shown they are willing to spread big lies and support a coup to remain in power.

The end of the Republican Party has been predicted ever since the spectacular failure of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America", but this time really is different. We have not faced traitorous officials in high office since the early days of the republic or the American Civil War, but now have them in abundance. We have not seen the number of maniac individuals believing in crackpot conspiracies since the days of the "Know-Nothings" and the Anti-Masonic Party. The rise of Trump was largely due to people who felt they had been left out and believed Trump's opportunistic populist claims. Many later discovered that Trump was not 'one of us.' These are people that can be won over to the Democrats' side. Due to the demonizing of the word socialist ever since its association with Joe McCarthy's communists, we need new branding for the liberalism that most people favor without being fully aware. When liberal policies are polled individually, the vast majority of the public supports them. It was during times of the "New Deal" and, if not for the Vietnam War, the "Great Society" that so many ordinary Americans felt their federal government cared about them. More ways to accomplish the Democratic Party's resurgence are discussed in *The New Republic* article that follows.

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How the Democratic Party Can Create a Majoritarian Coalition: The case for forging a new politics of economic justice

Michael Kazin from *The New Republic* March 2021

I was going to post the entire article here, but since it is just under 4600 words it would take up several pages. So I decided to post a link that will open in a new browser page. For those of you viewing on your phone, I have never understood why you would do that. It's like reading a book through a peephole. Anyway, here is the [link](#)

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From the Chair: Nancy Stephani

Greetings Area Democrats and Friends. 2021 looks like a quiet year on the surface, but there is a LOT going on behind the scenes. Our state party has a new leader in Liz Walters and positions at the state level are being filled as I type to prepare us to take our state back in 2022. And we need you!

Save the Date – Monday May 10th, 2021 at 7 p.m. is our next Central Committee meeting and we need you there to meet some candidates! Zoom link at the end of this email.

Special guests and representatives from John Cranley, Cincinnati mayor and candidate for Ohio Governor, Jeffrey Agan Jr. who is running to replace Bob Latta. I will also invite a representative from Tim Ryan for Senate campaign to fill Portman's soon to be empty seat! As I hear from more candidates, they too will be invited to join us. Please plan now to attend this special meeting and invite a friend or two to join you.

Save another date! Saturday September 25th there will be a 9 county Democratic Wine Tasting and Fundraiser in Wyandot County. Tickets are only \$30 a person and many statewide candidates have already stated their intention to be there. We are helping to host and will be doing the 50/50 drawing at the event. This event was well received and attended 2 years ago, the pandemic should be under good control by then and most of the event is held outside. Pray for good weather and plan now to join us.

Our Young Dems are planning some fun events this summer. We will all be focusing on voter registration. We also need to keep an eye on the voter suppression the other side is cooking up in our state legislature and do our best to stop it. Redistricting is also going to need some eagle eyes this summer and fall.

There are tasks and fun for all of us this summer and fall as we head forward. Having Joe Biden and Kamala Harris leading the way gives us energy to put our country back together again, stronger and more united and a safe place for us all.

If you have any ideas for projects or programs, please let me or one of the officers know. We are feeling our way out of this pandemic and into a stronger and more unified community into the future. Thank you for all you do and all you are planning to do. Forward we go!

Nancy Stephani is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Central Committee Meeting and guests

Time: May 10, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81004572001?pwd=NXd2UGJzYVdVUjRPKy81WGROZGx0UT09>

Meeting ID: 810 0457 2001

Passcode: 246758

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,81004572001#,,,,*246758# US (New York)

+13017158592,,81004572001#,,,,*246758# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 810 0457 2001

Passcode: 246758

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdEjBGIPNm>

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If You Are Surprised Americans Are Having Less Babies, You Should Read the Room

Claire Osbourne Higgins

I always thought I would have a child of my own by 25, not for any real reason other than that was just what people did. They got older, got married had babies. I only knew one woman who did not have children and that was my aunt. She often seemed like the most miserable person I knew, and I thought the only way not to be her was to reproduce. When my 25th birthday arrived, I was working hard to dramatically heal from trauma and pain that left me unemployed, with a degree I could no longer use, in the early months of my recovery from heroin addiction and sitting in a prison dorm. I did not know what my future looked like or if I would ever live a life that I could be happy with. In those months I spent locked away I remember being abundantly grateful that I had not dragged a child through this life with me. Today I am 30, a Licensed Social Worker working on her masters. I am employed full-time in a job I love and am happily married, and I do not know if I would want a child now.

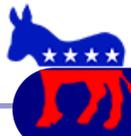
We face so many uphill battles as a nation today. What would have happened if the insurrection would have been successful on January 6th? What will happen with the climate crisis? Are there moments in our future where I may sit quietly and think “I am glad I didn’t have to drag a child through that.” Now, to be clear, none of this is to shame those with children or those who wish to have children. Your choice is valid, and I applaud your great journey of having the responsibility of raising and shaping the future.

I am too apprehensive that the future will hold only heartache and pain for those yet to be born. My husband is nearly 36 and I have just turned 30, we both are just now finally at a place in our life where we can breathe financially. I have health insurance for the first time in years and just received a bill for \$680 for lab work done. That is just under one of my husband's paychecks. The cost alone of physically delivering a child would set us back at a time where we are just getting a foundation built. He has been on the second shift at his job for the last 5 years, he has work off every Sunday and Wednesday. He has tried and failed to get on day shift, second shift hours would make raising a child hard. My student loans will be due before I know it, our house costs less than my education.

The financial responsibility that comes with raising and caring for children is something that I could consider looking past. After all, I know plenty of fantastic parents who have less. But then I consider our lack of ability to take time off work, the lack of compassion, and work-life balance. It is also hard to look past the inaction when it comes to climate change, gun violence, and healthcare. I didn’t meet a single woman in prison who had not experienced some form of a traumatic event and I couldn’t name a single woman who I got high with who had not been subjected to sexual violence or domestic violence. So many people in this country have experienced such great pain and at every turn, the systems in which we function are all broken and shattered.

I have spent a great amount of time healing and recovering and finding a life I can find joy in, I would love to care for, love, and watch a child grow up but I do not know if I can, in good faith, bring a child into the chaos of today. The failed policies of generations past have made the future seem so questionable but we are all too busy living paycheck to paycheck to really fight back.

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The latest results from the 2020 Census indicate that Ohio is going to lose one seat in the House of Representatives. The last time some thing like this happened, The Republican legislature, in a secret backroom deal, made the “Snake on the Lake” so that two Democrat ic incumbents would have to run against each other. We have more leverage this time, but don’t underestimate the guile of some politicians who would like a 12-3 majority to replace the gerrymandered 12-4 we currently have . It is important that we let those involved in the redistricting process know that we are watching and listening . No more backroom deals involving people who do not even live in Ohio/. To get involved contact [Fair Districts Ohio](#) if you think a nonpartisan approach is best or [All On The Line](#) if you favor a more partisan, progressive approach.

[Congressman Tim Ryan will be virtually attending our Hancock County Democratic Party Central Committee meeting! Monday May 10 7PM](#)

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The polls for May were started early and we have some preliminary results. There are still 26 days remaining to [enter your answers](#)

Here are the results as of April 28:

Q1. Do you favor a national primary election day like we have for the general election? (1 answer)

16 total votes

Yes 75% No 19% I'm an idiot 6%

Q2. Do you favor limiting the campaign season to 6 months before the general election? (up to 2 answers)

15 total votes

Yes 63% Shorter Season 26% No 11% Longer Season 0%

Q3. Do you favor stricter limits on campaign contributions and spending? (1 answer)

14 total voter

Yes 93% I have the attention span of a fruit fly 7% No 0%

If the person with the low attention span lasted for three questions, I say good for him or her!

Q4. Would you like to see a "Kick Jim Jordan's Ass" app? (up to 2 answers)

15 total votes

Yes 75% I am Jim Jordan 19% No 6%

The three I am Jim Jordan responses were made before the single No vote. This means that Gym not only voted three times, but he always voted in favor of a game where he gets his ass kicked by people he does not know. I am having a hard time not connecting this unusual result to his fetish for wearing soiled jocks straps as sleep masks.

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WORD OF THE MONTH

FIL-I-BUS-TER**NOUN/VERB****by John Patrick Leary**

In the summer of 1855, William Walker, a ruthless, ambitious, famously short Tennessean, invaded Nicaragua with a private militia, declared himself president, and reintroduced slavery. For his brief reign, he was, as one of his biographers recently put it, a “five-foot-five colossus astride the isthmus.” But of all the nicknames he ever earned, Walker particularly hated being called a “filibuster”—because it marked him as a brigand and a thief.

Today, whenever the Senate filibuster is in the news, people note the strange word’s probable origins in a seventeenth-century Dutch word for “freebooter” or pirate. Few go much further than to imply that the politicians obstructing Senate business bear some resemblance to the buccaneers who interrupted colonial wartime trade. Unflattering as this analogy may be, it isn’t the word’s most relevant history in the United States. In the two decades before the Civil War, private militias that recruited heavily in the slaveholding South, but enjoyed support elsewhere in the country, invaded nations in Latin America. Denounced as *filibusteros* by their would-be subjects, and alternatively praised and prosecuted as filibusters back home, they styled themselves as statesmen and freelancers serving the sacred cause of Manifest Destiny. Some of the invaders set up nominally independent republics. Others, like Narciso López, a Venezuelan who twice invaded Cuba with support from Mississippi’s governor, sought to annex new slave territories. The word filibuster, though, lived on as a furtive attempt to defend slave interests and, after that, white supremacy by subverting legitimate political procedure. This, and not the Jolly Roger or Blackbeard’s gold, is the legacy of Walker and of another Southerner with a passion for minority rule, Mitch McConnell.

McConnel is hardly as unscrupulous as, say, Charles Eldredge, a Wisconsin Democrat who filibustered an 1871 bill to suppress the Ku Klux Klan, or Richard Russell, a Georgia segregationist who filibustered anti-lynching laws in the 1930s, or Strom Thurmond, who spoke on the Senate floor for 24 hours to interrupt the passage of the 1957 Civil Rights Act. But McConnell, whose recent accomplishments include filibustering a revised Voting Rights Act, is their descendant.

By 1900, the oldf paramilitary sense of “filibustering” for slavery and empire had mostly given way to its new parliamentary meaning, roughly synonymous with “obstructing.” But the word remained associated with efforts to preserve or expand white rule. William Walker has always been better known in Central America, where he is buried and hated, than he is in the United States. But his legacy lives on in his home country. Exiling the “filibuster” from our political vocabulary would be one way to start burying him here, too.

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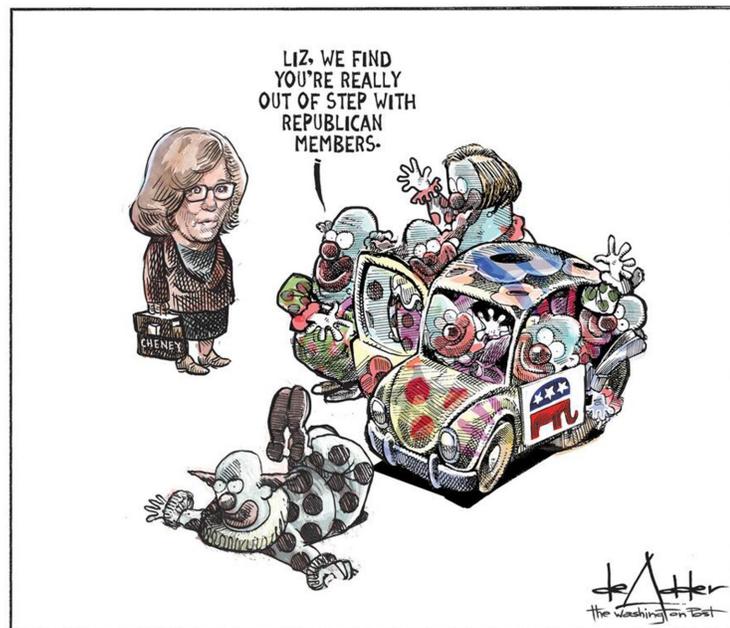
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ABOUT

“The Hancock County Democrat “ is an official publication of the Democratic Party of Hancock County, Ohio.

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