



A Hancock County Democrat

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New study finds big economic benefits from Deutch carbon pricing bill

Flannery Winchester, Citizens' Climate Lobby September 2, 2020

This week, Citizens' Climate Lobby released a working paper that projects the majority of U.S. households will benefit financially under the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 \(H.R. 763\)](#). The legislation, which is sponsored by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL-22), has 82 cosponsors.

The working paper, referred to as the "[2020 Household Impact Study](#)," was written by independent researcher Kevin Ummel, a Research Affiliate at the University of Pennsylvania and President of Greenspace Analytics. His analysis uses the most recent available economic and emissions data to assess the financial impacts of the Energy Innovation Act's carbon price and monthly dividend, finding major benefits for America's poorest households.

"The findings confirm the value of this ambitious carbon pricing policy," said Dr. Danny Richter, CCL's Vice President of Government Affairs. "The Energy Innovation Act is a great tool for cutting carbon emissions, and it can achieve those reductions while protecting the economic well-being of American families."

A few highlights from the study:

- 61 percent of households and 68 percent of individuals will see a financial benefit from this policy. The amount they receive in carbon dividends will more than offset increased costs associated with the carbon fee.
- Of America's poorest households, 96 percent will see a financial benefit.
- This policy will deliver net benefits for young households, older households, families of color, and larger families

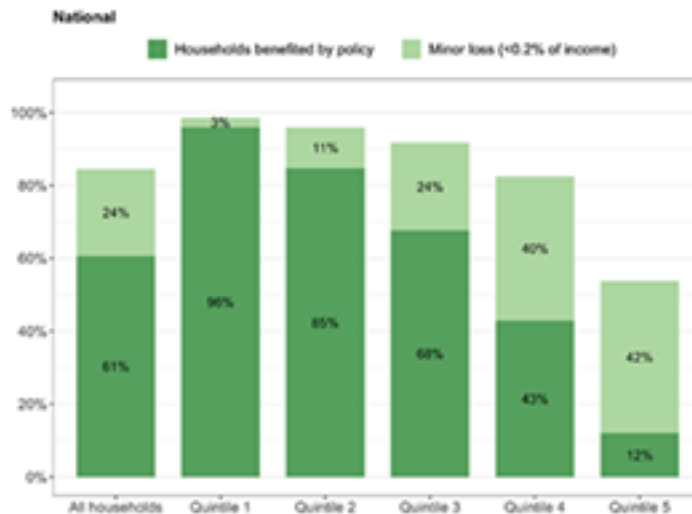
People can also change their own carbon footprint to further increase their gains from this policy. The study explains, "There are many avenues for this, from more efficient transportation (e.g., public transit), more efficient living conditions (e.g., multi-family residence), and consumer choices that consider carbon footprint." In other words, as people shift their own choices and activity to be more environmentally friendly, they will be less exposed to the carbon fee, so they will see a greater financial benefit from the monthly carbon dividend.

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New study finds big economic benefits from Deutch carbon pricing bill (continued from page 1)



Source: fivethirtyeight.com

Breakdowns of the financial impact to your congressional district or state are available upon request. To explore individual impact, CCL has also built a [Personal Carbon Dividend Calculator](#) based on this study's results. The tool enables individuals to preview how they would likely come out under this policy, based on their real expenditures and location.

“When the new Congress considers climate solutions in January, this legislation should appeal to a broad spectrum of lawmakers,” said Richter. As of today, the Energy Innovation Act already has 83 representatives signed on. “We’re working to build more support for it through the end of the year to make sure carbon pricing is included in any upcoming climate package.”

Hundreds of CCL volunteers [held virtual lobby meetings](#) in support of this legislation during the summer, and are planning another post-election lobbying push in December.

The legislation has also been evaluated by a group of five economists from Columbia University’s Center on Global Energy Policy, who published “[An Assessment of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#)” in November of 2019. The study offers another independent assessment of the Energy Innovation Act’s impacts on emissions, air pollution, and Americans’ finances, finding those impacts to be overwhelmingly positive.

CONTACT: Flannery Winchester, flannery@citizensclimate.org, 615-337-3642

The Real and Imagined Risks of Mail-in Voting

Bruce Workman

Several reliable sources have determined that while there is a slightly higher percentage of incidences of fraud in mail-in voting than in-person voting, it is still an insignificant number and does not affect the outcome of any race. You would not know this if you only heeded the rhetoric coming from Trump and his toadies. There are two major forces spreading disinformation about the integrity of the absentee ballot process: POTUS and intelligence agencies of the Russian Federation. Their prospective statements match each other so closely, both in timing and content, that one is left to wonder if it is a case of a collaboration of just the expected outcome of devious minds thinking alike.

The only credible threats posed by extended use of the mail-in ballot is external and have to do with threats to the vote itself. There is more danger of a qualified voter's ballot not being counted than there is of a non-qualified voter getting a ballot counted as legitimate. Another major vulnerability of mail-in voting is the assault on the delivery system. The attempts to defund and damage the United States Postal Service is really a blatant attack on mail-in voting. The hope of Trump and his Postmaster, a man whose only qualification is a history of donating to Republican candidates and causes, is to delay the handling and delivery of the mail to such an extent that deadlines will be missed and votes left uncounted.

An additional danger is the use of disinformation to cast doubt on the legitimacy of an election's outcome. The Trump and foreign agents are already engaged in spreading false narratives—a clear indication that Trump thinks he may lose a legitimate election. Much like these foreign operatives, Trump has shown no interest in preserving the integrity of our system of government.

In a July 28 [report](#), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) suggested, “The outbound and inbound processing of mail-in ballots introduces additional infrastructure and technology, which increases the potential scalability of cyber-attacks. Implementation of mail-in voting infrastructure and processes within a compressed timeline may also introduce new risk” The report goes on to say, “Physical access at election offices and warehouses represents a risk in a mail-in voting environment. Completed ballots are returned to the election office and must be securely stored for days or weeks before processing through voter authentication and tabulation processes. Managing risks to these processes requires implementing secure procedures for storage, access controls, and chain of custody, such as ballot accounting.”

Since Ohio has had upon-request absentee voting for several years, many of these systems are probably already in place. The added risk would come in the form of an unprecedented number of absentee ballots cast. During the Ohio primary on April 28, 1 of every 100 absentee ballots were rejected for various reasons: lack of or incorrect signature, deadline missed, incorrect identification number, etc. With the increased number of voters using absentee ballots for the general election we could expect more votes to be left uncounted, in total number if not the percentage. The best way to ensure that your ballot is not rejected is to use a final checklist before submitting your ballot:


- Check your ballot for stray marks which could invalidate it. If marks have been made in pen, you may need to request a replacement ballot.
- Are you allowing enough time? In Ohio: Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 2. Mailed ballots must be received at the board of elections by Nov. 13 to be counted in the final vote tally. Or absentee ballots can be returned in-person to the board of elections before the close of polls on Nov. 3. With expected delays in mail delivery, the second option may be your best bet as election day approaches.
- Does your signature match the signature on your voter registration? There is really not much you can do about this now. In the future, you can register again with your current signature. Many ballots were rejected for this reason in the April primary. Since the issue is being decided by precinct officials who are not handwriting experts, there have been lawsuits challenging this law filed by the League of Women Voters and others.
- If you are uncertain or have questions, contact an election official ASAP.

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The Real and Imagined Risks of Mail-in Voting (continued from page 3)


The danger of absentee voting is that you may be unaware of any errors and if submitted nearer the deadline, often it cannot be corrected in time. The advantage, in Ohio, is that you can track your ballot [here](#) or [here](#).

Ohio




Registration

Register to vote by Oct. 5. You can register online [here](#).




Voting early

Counties must offer early voting Oct. 6-9, Oct. 12-16 and Oct. 19-Nov. 2. Check with local election officials for locations and the exact schedule in your area.




In-person voting

At least one county (Jackson) is reducing the number of polling places. Remember to bring an acceptable photo or non-photo ID to the polls.




Requesting an absentee ballot

Any voter can request an absentee ballot without an excuse. The state is mailing absentee-ballot applications to all voters; you can also download an absentee-ballot application [here](#). Election officials must receive your application by noon on Oct. 31 (if you're not applying in person, be sure to apply early enough that your ballot has time to reach you before Election Day).



Submitting an absentee ballot

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 2 and received by Nov. 13 — or you can drop off your ballot in person by Nov. 3.



What we're watching

If a lawsuit from the state Democratic Party is successful, Ohio will have to provide an online portal for absentee-ballot requests. A separate lawsuit is challenging the state's practice of matching signatures on absentee ballots and ballot requests to those on file.

● New due to the pandemic

Despite denials by the Trump team, we now know, via the intelligence community and the Senate Intelligence Committee report, that Russian intelligence services interfered in the 2016 election. We also know (same sources) that Paul Manafort, former Trump campaign chairman, collaborated with a Russian intelligence officer during that period and "... Russian President Vladimir Putin was personally behind the hack and leak operation that published stolen Democratic Party emails..." (SIC report).

Since little action was taken as a result of election tampering by foreign agents, there is no reason they would not try again in 2020, as they did in 2018. A recent statement from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence confirmed that Russia and at least two other nations are currently actively engaged in campaigns to influence elections and discredit our national democratic principles. The statement lists the major actors like China, Russia, and Iran in that order. This appears to fall in line with Trump's position and AG Barr's statement to CNN that China is the biggest threat to our elections. Intelligence analyses contradict this and state that, as in 2016, Russia is still the major player. Whether this is a matter of intentional misinformation or simply a case of "you lie, and I'll swear to it" is unclear.

The release by the ODNI discloses that the three nations mentioned have different goals and methods of attack. The Russians still favor the "idiotskiy aktiv", Trump, by boosting his candidacy and using a range of measures to denigrate his opponent.

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The Real and Imagined Risks of Mail-in Voting (continued from page 4)

The Russians see Biden as part of “an anti-Russia ‘establishment.’”, due to his support of the anti-Russian movement in Ukraine as Vice President. It is no surprise that they would prefer the idiot asset over someone with enough integrity to oppose the despotic policies of Vlad the Terrible. The ODNI views China as opposing the reelection of 45. China views him as erratic and unpredictable. Don’t we all? They will be a little more subtle in their approach as they are not seeking to damage relations with potential successors. Iran feels betrayed over the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal and the restoration of sanctions. In words of William Evania, Director of The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NSCS), “– We assess that Iran seeks to undermine U.S. democratic institutions, President Trump, and to divide the country in advance of the 2020 elections. Iran’s efforts along these lines probably will focus on on-line influence, such as spreading disinformation on social media and recirculating anti -U.S. content.” Since Mark “The Lizard King” Zuckerberg has shown no inclination to risk ad revenues by monitoring and suppressing controversial disinformation, we can expect Facebook to once again be the platform of choice for the three nations.

I should mention another potential problem posed by extensive mail-in voting and that is the “red mirage” and the “blue shift.” A recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll shows that 66% of Trump supporters plan to vote in person on election day and only 11% plan to vote by mail. In the same poll, 47% of Biden backers indicated they would vote by mail while only 26% said they would vote in person on November 3. 20-21% of all groups (including Independents) plan to vote early in person. The “blue shift” helped several Democrats win close contests after election day 2018 when absentee ballots were counted. The final results from Election 2020 in Ohio will be released on Nov. 24, three weeks after the election.

With the numbers indicated in the poll, we can expect a much more dramatic shift in the 2020 elections. There is the danger that, without early counting of absentee ballots, the “red mirage” will emerge on election night and Trump will declare himself the victor. This would result in a constitutional crisis and lawsuits that would make the 2000 election look normal. I hope that election night coverage is confined to voting news and not early results. News about problems voting or human-interest stories could be reported as usual. Exit polls should not be taken or ignored. Elections results should either be not reported or reported as too early to call. No races should be called on election day. It is doubtful we could ever agree to get all news outlets, especially the shadier cable news ones, to cooperate in this. The best advice I can leave you with is to vote early, but unlike Trump, I will not encourage you to vote often.



Source: The Austin Bulldog

PayPal and ActBlue

Bruce Workman

At the August 10 meeting of the Hancock County Democratic Party, I suggested we look into adding ActBlue as a source for collecting contributions. I was somewhat surprised when my suggestion was met with the type of reaction usually reserved for the discovery of a turd in the punch bowl. There was no discussion beyond a few statements denigrating ActBlue and quick dismissal of the idea. It was as if I had proposed decorating our booth with Biden balloons made of lead. For a time, I was uncertain if the response was directed at the proposal or the speaker, so I did not proceed any further.

Since I do not have any financial or personal interest in ActBlue, I would normally have let the incident pass without comment, But the arguments made against the proposal were not entirely correct and I would like to rectify that.

There was the comment that clicking on an ActBlue link takes you directly to PayPal. PayPal is just one of the vehicles ActBlue will accept for donations along with VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. ActBlue is not merely a middleman for PayPal. The argument that ActBlue charges higher fees is correct. ActBlue charges 3.95% of the donation while PayPal's fee is 2.9% + \$.0.30 per donation. ActBlue is and always has been focused on security and compliance with campaign finance laws. In Ohio, a contribution, or total contributions by an individual or entity, of greater than \$100 must include the donor's occupation and employer when reported. This is already included on ActBlue donation forms, but a PayPal form needs to be customized to include this information.

Another statement was made that did not make sense to me. It was asserted that ActBlue was somehow involved in mandating the hosting and design of county party websites in the past. This did not like something they would do or have any reason for doing. I decided to ask someone at ODP who might be able to shed some light on this. George Clark, Mobilization Manager, was not aware and did not know anyone aware of ActBlue ever being anything more than a reliable method for Democrats to collect donations. He also added the following endorsement of ActBlue:

"ActBlue is always our first recommendation for county parties to collect donations. It is used by virtually every candidate and Democratic organization out there and is the absolute gold standard for online fundraising. Part of that is due to its consistency. The format is the same for EVERYONE from Joe Biden on down. That said there are lots of features you can customize on ActBlue to make it geared toward your organization."

"ActBlue has been around a while but they have transitioned into the juggernaut of online fundraising over the past few years. If you are considering any form of fundraising mechanism for online donations, it is my and ODP's recommendation that you go with ActBlue if you can. It's simply the best at it."

I have used PayPal for years, both as a consumer and a business, but I will never use it to donate. Applying for an ActBlue account requires more diligence than applying for a PayPal business account. An employer tax ID is usually sufficient for PayPal while ActBlue even requires proof that the treasurer is a Democrat. It is much easier for someone to create a business or PAC with a name similar to a charitable organization on PayPal. With ActBlue, I can be more certain that I am donating to whom I think I am. Of course, this would not be the case with an organization like ours, where we know all the players.

So, there you have it. Few candidates use PayPal for donations, mostly due to concerns about compliance with federal and state campaign laws. The DNC, ODP, and nearly every Democratic candidate use ActBlue, but what the hell do they know!

Obviously, the party can decide to take donations any way they decide, as long as the consequences are known. My only objection is to decisions that are made without discussion and based on individual bias.

With all that said, I am not angry with anyone nor am seeking to start a revolution. I just think there should be more open discussions about ideas during our meetings.

White Supremacy Is Deadly for Everyone—Even White People

Nathalie Baptiste, *Mother Jones* September 4, 2020

The virus, like bullets, doesn't care about your little red hat.



Source: Chris Tuite/AP

This spring, photos and videos of mostly white so-called [lockdown protesters](#) in Michigan acting anything but peaceful went viral. They demanded that state lawmakers end the public health restrictions designed to curb the spread of COVID-19. Though they were armed and taunting police officers, law enforcement officials did not respond violently.

Late last month, a similar scene played out in Boise, Idaho. Armed and unmasked protesters [stormed the statehouse](#) in order to get into a coronavirus hearing. Even though they were carrying weapons and shattered a glass door while protesting, law enforcement officials declined to intervene or arrest any of them. Fearing for her own safety, a Democratic lawmaker left the hearing, [but state troopers told local media](#) that they didn't attempt to arrest any of the protesters because they feared doing so would escalate violence.

A few days later, [Kyle Rittenhouse](#), a 17-year-old Donald Trump supporter went to Kenosha, Wisconsin, with a gun. He shot three racial justice protesters, killing two. Despite the heavy police presence at the scene, Rittenhouse crossed state lines and returned to his home in Illinois. He was not arrested until the following day.

Let's be clear: When violent white people are going unchecked by police, the end result will hurt us all.

Harming Black and Brown people and liberals is central to the Trump presidency, and their hard line approach is considered to be an excellent reelection strategy. But there's a link between his response to the coronavirus pandemic and to the racial justice protests: Both have been guided by his unquestioning belief in the superiority of whiteness, leading to devastating results for diverse communities. His white supporters shouldn't believe that they can somehow insulate themselves from mounting violence and an unchecked deadly epidemic. White supremacy is deadly for everyone—even white people.

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White Supremacy Is Deadly for Everyone—Even White People (Continued from page 7)

The United States has a long history of turning a blind eye to violent white ideology while focusing on scapegoating other communities like Muslims, immigrants, and now Antifa. Despite years of [warnings about white supremacist violence](#) from its own intelligence, government officials seem hellbent amplifying warnings about anti-fascists, even as violence among white nationalists and other far-right groups escalates. The Trump administration seems to accept violence perpetrated by white extremists—not considering it violence at all, but a form of patriotism—and has blamed any bloodshed on their opponents.

In a recent interview, Attorney General William Barr lied and said systemic racism was not a problem in this country. He insisted that the notion that Black people are disproportionately killed by police is a [false narrative](#). Not that he was trying to change anyone's mind. His objective seems to have been to delegitimize the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests. It is not a big leap from his comments to giving Trump supporters a free pass to harass, intimidate, and even kill protesters. After all, they're not really protesters at all—just violent thugs who are out to inflict violence on law enforcement and nice suburban families. Comments like Barr's are an eloquent bat signal to people like Rep. Clay Higgins (R-La.), [who threatened to shoot Black protesters](#), and to cops themselves. Not to mention freelancers like Rittenhouse who now faces murder charges.

But encouraging violence has a high cost. In May, two officers protecting a courthouse were shot and one [killed in Oakland, California](#), while a Black Lives Matter protest occurred a few blocks away. After law enforcement official caught the suspect, it turns out he was a far-right extremist trying to foment a race war by using the protests as cover. A similar incident occurred in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#), when a militia group showed up to a protest with weapons. And yet, the right-wing universe is singularly focused on Antifa, even going as so far to spread conspiracy theories about a plane full of thugs coming to harm Republicans and their supporters. Sir, the call is coming from inside the house.

But let's not disconnect escalating violence at protests from the coronavirus, which has infected more than [6 million people and killed approximately 187,000 people](#) in the United States since it began spreading widely earlier this year. The Trump administration refused to take it seriously, [downplayed its severity](#), and then [demanded states lift public health restrictions early](#). About the only concrete action Trump took to fight the pandemic was to ban planes from China—which did not accomplish much—where the virus first emerged. Throughout the overwhelming public health crisis, the president has continued to use China as the scapegoat, referring to COVID-19 with xenophobic terms like "[China virus](#)" and the "[Kung flu](#)." While spending his time demonizing China he could conveniently ignore the devastating toll it was having in his own country.

The virus has [disproportionately affected communities of color](#), which may explain the diminished sense of urgency from Trump and other Republican officials. If it only impacted the kind of people who wouldn't vote for Trump anyway, who cares? His supporters were protesting restrictions, going viral on social media for refusing to wear masks at their grocery stores, and—taking their cues from the president—denying its severity. Yes, [Herman Cain](#), one of his most ardent Black supporters, died from it. Illustrating with tragic clarity that just because people of color are disproportionately getting sick, doesn't mean that white people or Trump supporters are immune.

Last month, 400,000 people gathered in Sturgis, South Dakota for a [10-day motorcycle rally](#). Many rally-goers were a good representative of Trump's base: older, white, and plenty of red Make America Great Again hats dotted the crowd. Attendees eschewed masks and social distancing and gathered in bars, tattoo parlors, and other businesses, largely without masks. So far, [260 cases in 11 states](#) have been linked to the rally and [one man in Minnesota is dead](#).

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White Supremacy Is Deadly for Everyone—Even White People (Continued from page 8)

At the Democratic National Convention [one speaker](#) blamed her father’s COVID death on Trump. Kristin Urquiza said her dad Mark Urquiza believed Trump when he insisted that the virus would go away. “One of the last things that my father said to me was that he felt betrayed by the likes of the president,” Urquiza said in a [video](#). “His only preexisting condition was trusting Donald Trump.”

While Trump and his allies are happy to frame the protests as an unjust war on cops, his own inaction on the coronavirus is killing more police officers than anyone else. According to [Officer Down Memorial Page](#) and the [National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund](#), two non-profits that track law enforcement deaths, 100 police officers have been killed by COVID-19 this year. That’s more than all other causes like gun violence and car accidents combined. While Trump and his allies make wild claims that Antifa or protesters or looters are out to murder police officers, it’s really his own incompetence.

Donald Trump is staking his re-election campaign on inciting violence while ignoring the very real devastation the coronavirus pandemic has caused. But it’s to his own detriment. The virus, much like bullets, doesn’t care about your little red hat.

Our Long, Forgotten History of Election-Related Violence Jelani Cobb, *The New Yorker*, September 6, 2020

President Trump has sparked dangerous lawlessness, but killing and destruction linked to political antagonisms are nothing new for this country.



Illustration by João Fazenda

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Our Long, Forgotten History of Election-Related Violence (continued from page 9)

In the fall of 1856, according to news reports, a Baltimore resident named Charles Brown was “peaceably walking along the street” when he was shot dead. It was a local Election Day, and Brown was in the vicinity of a Twelfth Ward polling place. Democrats attempting to enter it had been repelled by supporters of the American Party, better known as the Know-Nothings. For some two hours, the groups exchanged gunfire in what the Baltimore American described as “guerrilla warfare.” Brown was one of five people killed, and the newspaper marvelled that more lives were not lost. This was not an uncommon event. The American Party, a group defined by its truculent nativism, frequently deployed violence to political ends, particularly against immigrant voters. As Richard Hofstadter and Michael Wallace, in their book “American Violence: A Documentary History,” wrote of Baltimore, “In many districts immigrants were stopped from voting entirely.”

The United States is considered one of the most stable democracies in the world, but it has a long, mostly forgotten history of election-related violence. In 1834, during clashes between Whigs and Democrats in Philadelphia, an entire city block was burned to the ground. In 1874, more than five thousand men fought in the streets of New Orleans, in a battle between supporters of Louisiana’s Republican governor, William Kellogg, and of the White League, a group allied with the Democrats. And the nation’s record of overlooking the violent prevention of Black suffrage is much longer than its record of protecting Black voters. The general public tends to view such calamities as a static record of the past, but historians tend to look at them the way that meteorologists look at hurricanes: as a predictable outcome when a number of recognizable variables align in familiar ways. In the aftermath of events in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Portland, Oregon, we are in hurricane season.

Following the release, on August 23rd, of a video showing Officer Rusten Sheskey shooting Jacob Blake, an unarmed twenty-nine-year-old Black man, seven times in the back, protesters poured into the streets of Kenosha. Some of them engaged in looting, and, two nights later, Kyle Rittenhouse, a seventeen-year-old with an AR-15-style rifle, reportedly crossed state lines, from Illinois, to defend property in the city. According to prosecutors, he shot three protesters, two of them fatally. Several nights later, a caravan of Trump supporters drove through downtown Portland, where anti-police-brutality protesters have been gathering for months, and fired paintballs and pepper spray into the crowd. Aaron J. Danielson, a supporter of the right-wing group Patriot Prayer, was shot dead; the suspect, Michael Reinhoehl, an Antifa supporter, was fatally shot by law-enforcement officers last Thursday, as they attempted to apprehend him south of Seattle.

Throughout these horrendous developments, Donald Trump has been at cross-purposes with the calling of his office. He has sown conflict where none existed and exacerbated it where it did. On a visit to Kenosha, Trump did not mention Blake, who has been left partially paralyzed. But he has said that Rittenhouse, who has been charged with homicide, was likely acting in self-defense, claiming—without offering any evidence, as is the President’s habit—that Rittenhouse “probably would’ve been killed by protesters.” In 2013, when President Obama spoke about Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black seventeen-year-old who was shot to death in Sanford, Florida, he addressed racism but not the particulars of the case, so as to not interfere with legal proceedings. Republicans were nevertheless quick to accuse Obama of impropriety. Seven years later, Party leaders have made no such complaints about Trump’s advocating for Rittenhouse.

The Trump Presidency has been an escalating series of insults, each enabling greater violations of norms, ethics, and laws. That pattern now seems poised to upend democracy itself. It began even before Trump took office, when he refused to release his tax returns; claimed that his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, should be in jail; and openly enlisted a foreign adversary to help achieve that end. This year, he has removed five inspectors general from their posts and, with the assistance of Attorney General William Barr, corrupted the Department of Justice to such a degree that we are now unsure of the legal meaning of the word “guilty” when applied to a Trump-connected defendant.

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Our Long, Forgotten History of Election-Related Violence (continued from page 10)

The likelihood of political violence was also apparent from the start. Trump’s 2016 rallies tipped over into displays of aggression directed at the media and at those who opposed him. Such is the chaos of today that we’ve nearly forgotten that, two years ago, Cesar Sayoc mailed pipe bombs to Obama, Clinton, and fourteen others he believed had treated Trump unfairly. Sayoc pleaded guilty; his lawyers described him as “a Donald Trump super-fan” who suffered from mental illness, leaving him vulnerable to the antagonisms of the political climate. The twenty-one-year-old Patrick Crusius was charged with fatally shooting twenty-three people in El Paso last year. The language of an anti-immigrant manifesto he allegedly posted before the shooting was noted for its echoes of Trump’s rationalizations for building his border wall. (Crusius pleaded not guilty.) This May, the Michigan legislature temporarily shut down, after armed militia members entered the capitol to protest the state’s stay-at-home order. A couple of weeks earlier, Trump had tweeted, “LIBERATE MICHIGAN!”

The Transition Integrity Project, a nonpartisan group of academics, journalists, and current and former government and party officials, recently released a report outlining a number of election scenarios that are both plausible and terrifying. Trump has primed his followers with repeated warnings of voter fraud, so there is a real possibility that they may denounce as illegitimate any outcome in which he loses. Beyond that, the report suggests, the Administration could seize mail-in ballots in order to prevent them from being counted, or pressure Republican-controlled legislatures to certify results before all mail-in ballots have arrived. The authors conclude that “voting fraud is virtually non-existent, but Trump lies about it to create a narrative designed to politically mobilize his base and to create the basis for contesting the results should he lose. The potential for violent conflict is high, particularly since Trump encourages his supporters to take up arms.”

This is where we are—at the perilous logical extension of all that Trump represents. A weather forecast is not a prediction of the inevitable. We are not doomed to witness a catastrophic tempest this fall, but anyone who is paying attention knows that the winds have begun to pick up.

Published in the print edition of the [September 14, 2020](#), issue, with the headline “Violent Winds.”



(Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Saturday September 12, 2020 **Biden/Harris Booth 10AM-1PM w/Hancock County Young Democrats**
[Soul Squad Summit](#) 2PM-6PM

Sunday September 13, 2020 [We're Tailgating for Joe! Brown Tailgate!](#) 11AM-1PM
[Great Lakes Region Textbank](#) 12PM-1PM

Monday September 14, 2020 [Wood County - Battleground Phonebank](#) 5PM-7PM
[Hancock County Democrats September Meeting](#) 7:30PM-

Tuesday September 15, 2020 [Hancock County - Battleground Phonebank](#) 5PM-7PM
[Digital Community Training](#) 8PM-9PM

Wednesday September 16, 2020 [Northern Ohio Do-or-Dialer](#)

Thursday September 17 2020 [Digital Community Training](#) 3PM-4PM
Biden/Harris Booth 4PM-6PM w/the Dynamic Duo and friends

Friday September 18, 2020 [National Black Voter Day Relational App Event](#) 6PM-8PM
“A Hancock County Democrat” published, in all probability

Mixed Media

[June 19 Audio of Trump and Woodward on White Privilege](#)

[Video: Trump says he knew Covid-19 was deadly even though he downplayed it](#)



A Hancock County Democrat



Corrections, Links and Random Thoughts

“A Hancock County Democrat “is a weekly newsletter and is not approved by any formal organization of the Democratic Party.

Guest submissions are welcome. Please submit any work you would like to see published here to : [Bruce Workman](#)

Correction: Write in Mary E. Harshfield on your ballot. State Representative District 83 Flush the dirty Jon.

The new party website is located at: <http://hancockcountydems.org>

There are a lot of hyperlinks in the newsletter. A big reason is that it is easier than footnotes for citing sources. I would suggest leaving your browser open, right-clicking on the link, and selecting “open in new window”.

I recently received a survey from the Trump campaign which included a postage-paid return envelope. Given the loaded questions, I answered them all in the most anti-Trump way possible. For example, when asked to choose between supporting Trump’s law and order or the “continuing violence by Antifa and BLM protestors”, I chose the violence. I finished by writing “YOU SUCK!” in the comment section, placed the survey in the return envelope, then sealed and mailed it. I see in my “Informed Delivery Daily” that I am receiving something from the “Republican Presidential Task Force,” so I can look forward to that. I only hope there is a postage-paid envelope inside. I believe it is our solemn duty to waste Republican campaign funds, even in small amounts, and I intend to continue doing my part.