

# The Pass Democrat

Quarterly Newsletter of the Pass Democratic Club—April 2021  
Visit the Pass Democratic Club website: [www.passdems.org](http://www.passdems.org)  
and the Pass Democratic Club on Facebook and Twitter (@DemocraticPass)

## Pride and Challenges!

100 days in at the end of April and most of us may not have expected what Biden has been able to accomplish thus far. The vaccines, distribution, executive orders, diplomacy and consideration of others; the excellent qualifications and diversity of those chosen to work with him. Even with seemingly insurmountable current issues such as immigration, the administration demonstrates a compassion and effort we haven't seen in years. The challenges are daunting with a bare congressional majority and rank partisanship, but if anyone can find avenues around such obstacles, Biden and his administration's experience and expertise has a better chance than most to overcome them.

The 2022 election will be defining. Can we remove representatives Duncan Hunter, Devin Nunes, Kevin McCarthy, Darrell Issa and the like throughout the county and the country? Will other states be able to turn state legislatures blue in order to contain insane pending legislation? Will Trump's followers continue their devotion to a demagogue remaking the Republican party, and how do we Democrats handle the fallout?

As the pandemic ends, we will do our part to meet the challenges to strengthen Democracy!

# WELCOME

## new members

.....

Gary Ray Campanella

Dennis Cisterna

Mical Cisterna

Elizabeth Cocchini

Marlene Doyle

Nick Parra

Christine Pike

Patricia Wayne

## Gallup poll shows largest increase in Democratic Party affiliation in a decade

Chelsey Cox, USA TODAY, 4/9/2021

More Americans identify as Democrats than Republicans by a margin that hasn't been seen in a decade, according to a report released by Gallup on Wednesday.

An average of 49% of adults age 18 and older reported Democratic Party affiliation or said they are independent with Democratic leanings throughout the first quarter of 2021, the pollster reported. The survey was conducted by phone from January-March.

In comparison, 40% of adults identified as Republican or Republican-leaning. The 9 percentage point difference is the Democrats' largest advantage since the fourth quarter of 2012, according to the report.

The remaining 11% of respondents were political independents with no partisan leanings. Democrats have typically held a 4 to 6 point advantage over Republicans. Shortly before the first quarter of the year, the gap in affiliation was virtually nonexistent before Democrats' advantage widened by 9 points.

The report also noted a 6 point increase in independents; from 38% in the fourth quarter of 2020 to 44% in the first quarter of 2021. It's the highest percentage since 2013, when 46% of survey respondents identified as independents. The rise correlates with the decline in Republican Party identification, just as in 2013, when the GOP saw a drop in the popularity during the government shutdown over the Affordable Care Act.

Party identification is asked on every survey Gallup conducts, according to senior editor Jeff Jones, who also authored the report.

"It's something that we think is important to track to give a sense to the relevant strength of the two parties at any one point in time and how party preferences are responding to events," Jones told USA TODAY.

The poll's margin of sampling error was plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Events encourage party loyalty, Jones said. Gallup's latest measurements on political affiliation were taken during President Joe Biden's inauguration – days after supporters of former President Donald Trump attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

"I think we're seeing a similar dynamic with Trump leaving office, again with the very low approval rating and (the excitement around) Biden coming into office," Jones said. Trump ended his presidency with a 29% job approval rating – his lowest ever while in office, USA TODAY earlier reported.

The passing of the COVID-19 relief package in March, a decline in new infections and deaths from the coronavirus and the push for mass vaccinations preceded a rise in affinity for the Democratic Party, according to Gallup.

Fewer people are dying from COVID-19 thanks to vaccination efforts targeting vulnerable populations. But the U.S. continues to report high levels of cases.

## Past jumps in party affiliations

The bump in Democratic affiliation following Biden's inauguration mirrors that of former President Barack Obama's first term, Jones said.

"That was really the high point that we've seen; kind of the 2006-2009 period, when really the majority of Americans either identified as Democrats outright or were independents but they leaned toward the party," he said. "Our data on this only goes back to the '90s, but it's pretty much the only time we consistently had one party with the majority of Americans on their side."

Republican advantages, though rarer and more short-lived, followed the Gulf War in 1991 – when George H.W. Bush was in office – and the 9/11 terrorist attacks during President George W. Bush's term, according to Gallup. More people also reported GOP affiliation after the 1994, 2010 and 2014 midterm elections.

Whether the Republican Party can regain advantage during the 2022 midterm elections may rely on the successes of the Biden administration, according to Jones.

"A lot of it is going to depend on how things go over the course of the year. If things get better with the coronavirus and the economy bounces back and a lot of people expect Biden can keep relatively strong approval ratings, then that will be better for the Democrats," Jones said. "But if things start to get worse – unemployment goes up or coronavirus gets worse – then his approval is going to go down. It's going to make things a lot better for the Republican Party for the midterm next year."

### #BlackLivesMatter

To justify slavery, we whites portrayed blacks as subhuman: primitive, stupid, and servile.

To justify segregation, we whites portrayed blacks as morally corrupt: ignorant, predatory, and sinful.

After civil rights, we whites portrayed blacks as evil: drug addicts, gang bangers, and welfare queens.

There has never been a point in our history when we whites have systematically and institutionally valued black lives as we do our own.

That's why #BlackLivesMatter. Period.

AMERICAN NEWSX

*There is something  
drastically wrong  
in America  
when the same  
political party  
that tries to take away  
Voting Rights,  
Civil Rights,  
Human Rights,  
Religious Rights,  
Social Rights  
and  
Constitutional Rights  
encourages people  
to take up arms  
in the fear  
that "government"  
is taking away our rights.*



There was a time in history when U.S. workers created 10 cookies. **The rich kept 9 cookies and our economy failed in 1929.**

Then as a Nation we decided that the rich should keep 3 cookies. And workers shared 7 cookies and we became **the greatest country in the world.**

Since 1971 that formula started changing. Nowadays, for every 10 cookies, **the rich keep 9 1/2 cookies and U.S. workers fight over a half a cookie.**



## Here's an idea:

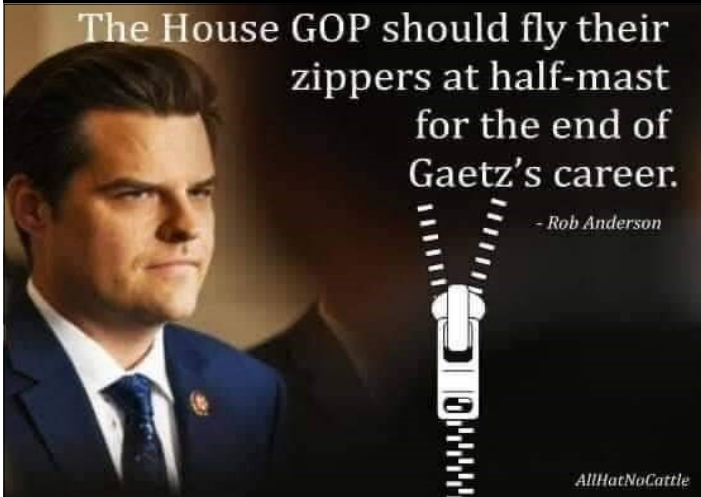
You can only purchase a gun **one time** every two years.

**It can only be a Tuesday in November.**

You must go and **wait** in line. There is only **one place** in your county. You must have **multiple** forms of ID. No one can give you water while you wait.

The House GOP should fly their zippers at half-mast for the end of Gaetz's career.

- Rob Anderson



AllHatNoCattle

1. The Keystone Pipeline was not built to carry crude oil for gasoline refining, but to carry tar sands sludge from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico to be exported. The Keystone Pipeline has ZERO to do with gasoline.
2. Gas prices are driven by two things- supply and demand.
3. The pandemic greatly reduced the demand for gasoline causing refineries to slow down production and prices to plummet.
4. As travel increased, gasoline prices started to rise, then the brutal winter storm hit.
5. The majority of refineries that supply gas to the US are located in Texas.
6. Nearly 20% of Texas refineries were offline due to the freezing temperatures, which in turn shut the gas supply off from them.

These are the facts.

## 3 Republican Lies About Welfare

LIE	FACT
Undocumented immigrants abuse the welfare system	They cannot qualify for any form of public assistance
Welfare encourages people to not work	Most welfare recipients work
Most welfare recipients are minorities	Most welfare recipients are white

facebook.com/TheSnarkyPundit

## HAVE YOU NOTICED?



**THAT RACISTS, RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS, BIGOTS AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS ALL ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY?**

## Why the "Reagan Revolution" Scheme to Gut America's Middle Class is Coming to an End

The signal was in Biden's speech, but entirely missed by the press

Thom Hartmann, March 13, 2021

As we stand on the edge of the end of the Reagan Revolution, an end signaled by one particular phrase in President Biden's speech in early March (which I'll get to in a minute), it's really important that Americans understand the backstory.

Reagan and his conservative buddies intentionally gutted the American middle class, but they did so not just out of greed but also with what they thought was a good and noble justification.

As I lay out in more granular detail in my new book [The Hidden History of American Oligarchy](#), back in the early 1950s conservative thinker Russell Kirk proposed a startling hypothesis that would fundamentally change our nation and the world.

The American middle-class at that time was growing more rapidly than any middle-class had ever grown in the history of the world, in terms of the number of people in the middle class, the income of those people, and the overall wealth that those people were accumulating. The middle-class was growing in wealth and income back then, in fact, *faster* than were the top 1%.

Kirk postulated in 1951 that if the middle-class got too wealthy, we would see an absolute collapse of our nation's social order, producing chaos, riots and possibly even the end of the republic.

The first chapter of his 1951 book, [The Conservative Mind](#), is devoted to Edmund Burke, the British conservative who Thomas Paine visited for two weeks in 1787 on his way to get arrested in the French revolution. Paine was so outraged by Burke's arguments that he wrote an entire book rebutting them titled [The Rights Of Man](#).

Burke was defending, among other things, Britain's restrictions on who could vote or participate in politics based on wealth and land ownership, as well as the British maximum wage.

That's right, [maximum wage](#).

Burke and his contemporaries in the late 1700s believed that if working-class people made too much money, they would challenge the social order and collapse the British form of government. So Parliament passed a law making it illegal for employers to pay people *over* a certain amount, so as to keep wage-earners right at the edge of poverty throughout their lives. (For the outcome of this policy, read pretty much any Dickens novel.)

Picking up on this, Kirk's followers argued that if the American middle-class got too rich there would be similarly dire consequences. Young people would cease to respect their elders, women would stop respecting (and depending on) their husbands, and minorities would begin making outrageous demands and set the country on fire.

When Kirk laid this out in 1951, only a few conservative intellectuals took him seriously. People like William F. Buckley and Barry Goldwater were electrified by his writings and line of thinking, but Republicans like then-President Dwight Eisenhower said, of people like Kirk and his rich buddies, ["Their numbers are negligible and they are stupid."](#)

And then came the 1960s.

In 1961, the birth control pill was legalized and by 1964 was in widespread use; this helped kick off the modern-day Women's Liberation Movement, as women, now in control of their reproductive capacity, demanded equality in politics and the workplace. Bra burning became a thing, at least in pop culture lore.

By 1967, young people on college campuses were also in revolt; the object of their scorn was an illegal war in Vietnam that President Johnson had lied us into. Along with national protest, draft card burning was also a thing.

And throughout that decade African Americans were increasingly demanding an end to police violence and an expansion of Civil Rights. In response to several brutal and well-publicized instances of police violence against Black people in the late 1960s, riots broke out and several of our cities were on fire.

These three movements all hitting America at the same time got the attention of conservatives and Republicans who had previously ignored or even ridiculed Kirk back in the 1950s. Suddenly, he seemed like a prophet.

The Republican/Conservative “solution” to the “crisis” these three movements represented was put into place in 1981: the explicit goal of the so-called Reagan Revolution was to take the middle class down a peg and end the protests and social instability.

Their plan was to declare war on labor unions so wages could slide back down again, end free college all across the nation so students would be in fear rather than willing to protest, and increase the penalties Nixon had already put on drugs so they could use those laws against hippy antiwar protesters and Black people.

As Nixon’s right hand man, [John Ehrlichman](#), told reporter [Dan Baum](#): “You want to know what this was really all about? The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and Black people. Do you understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or Black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and

Blacks with heroin and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

While it looks from the outside like the singular mission of the Reagan Revolution was simply to help rich people and giant corporations get richer and bigger, the ideologues driving the movement actually believed they were helping to restore safety and stability to the United States, both politically and economically.

The middle class was out of control, they believed, and something had to be done. Looking back at the “solutions” England used around the time of the American Revolution and advocated by Edmund Burke and other conservative thinkers throughout history, they saw a solution to the crisis...that also had the pleasant side effect of helping their biggest donors and thus boosting their political fortunes.

Reagan massively cut taxes on rich people, and raised taxes on working-class people 11 times. For example, he put a tax on Social Security income and unemployment income, and put in a mechanism to track and tax tips income all of which had previously been tax-free but were exclusively needed and used by middle-class people.

He ended the deductability of credit-card, car-loan and student-debt interest, overwhelmingly claimed by working-class people. At the same time, he cut the top tax bracket for millionaires and multimillionaires from 74% to 25%. (There were no billionaires in America then, in large part because of previous tax policies; the explosion of billionaires followed Reagan’s, Bush’s and Trump’s massive tax cuts on the rich.)

He declared war on labor unions, crushed PATCO in less than a week, and over the next decade the result of his war on labor was that union membership went from about a third of the American workforce when he came into office to around 10% at the end of the Reagan/Bush presidencies. It’s at 6% of the private workforce now.

He and Bush also husbanded the moribund 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT, which let Clinton help create the WTO) and NAFTA, which Clinton signed and thus opened a floodgate for American companies to move manufacturing overseas, leaving American workers underemployed while radically cutting corporate labor costs and union membership.

And, sure enough, Reagan's doubling-down on the War on Drugs was successful in shattering Black communities.

His War on Labor cut average inflation-adjusted minimum and median wages by more over a couple of decades than anybody had seen since the Republican Great Depression of the 1920s and '30s.

And his War on Colleges jacked up the cost of education so high that an entire generation is today so saddled with more than \$1.5 trillion in student debt that many aren't willing to jeopardize it all by "acting up" on campuses.

The key to selling all this to the American people was the idea that the US shouldn't protect the rights of workers, subsidize education, or enforce Civil Rights laws because, "conservatives" said, government itself is a remote, dangerous and incompetent power that can legally use guns to enforce its will.

As Reagan told us in his first inaugural, government was not the solution to our problems, but instead *was the problem itself*.

He ridiculed the formerly-noble idea of service to one's country and joked that there were really no good people left in government because if they were smart or competent they'd be working in the private sector for a lot more money.

He told us that the nine most frightening words in the English language were, "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, billionaires associated with the Republicans built a massive infrastructure of think tanks and media outlets to promote and amplify this message.

It so completely swept America that by the 1990s even President Bill Clinton was saying things like, "The era of big government is over," and "This is the end of welfare as we know it." Limbaugh, Hannity and other right-wing radio talkers were getting millions a year in subsidies from groups like the Heritage Foundation. Fox News today carries on the tradition.

Which brings us to President Joe Biden's speech.

Probably the most important thing he said in that speech was almost completely ignored by the mainstream American press. It certainly didn't make a single headline, anywhere.

Yet President Biden said something that Presidents Clinton and Obama were absolutely unwilling to say, so deeply ingrained was the Reagan orthodoxy about the dangers of "big government" during their presidencies.

President Biden said, "We need to remember the government isn't some foreign force in a distant capital. No, it's us. All of us. We, the people."

This was an all-out declaration of war on the underlying premise of the Reagan Revolution. And a full-throated embrace of the first three words of the Constitution, "We, the people."

In March, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt talked about the "mysterious cycle in human events." He correctly identified the end of the Republican orthodoxy cycle of the 1920s, embodied in the presidencies of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, of deregulation, privatization and tax cuts.

(Warren Harding in 1920 successfully ran for president on two slogans. The first was "A return to normalcy," which meant dropping Democratic President Woodrow Wilson's 90% tax bracket down to 25%, something Harding did in his first few years in office. The second was, "Less government in business, more business in government." In other words, *deregulate* and *privatize*. These actions, of course, brought us the Great Crash of 1929 and what was known for a generation as the Republican Great Depression.)



Americans are now watching, for the third time in just 30 years, a Democratic president clean up the economic and social debris of a prior Republican presidency.

They're starting to figure out that crushing the middle-class didn't produce prosperity and stability, but instead destroyed tens of millions of people's lives and dreams.

And they're seeing the hollowness of the Republican's promises as we all watch, aghast, as the GOP scrambles to mobilize the last remnants of its white racist base, at the same time waging an all-out war on the ability of Black, young and working-class people to vote.

President Biden's speech was the beginning of the end for the Republicans, although it appears only a few realize it.

Let's hope the damage the GOP has done over the last 40 years isn't so severe that America can't be brought back from the brink of chaos and desperation.

Hopefully, it's a new day in America.



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**Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-36)** DC Office (202) 225-5330  
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**CA State Senator Mike Morrell (R-23)** State Capitol Office (916) 651-4023  
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**Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Hewitt (5)**  
Riverside Office 951)955-1050 Perris Office (951)210-1300

### PASS DEMOCRATIC CLUB Wednesday, May 5th via Zoom, 7PM

#### Executive Board Members:

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2nd VP VOTER REGISTRATION AND  
POLITICAL ACTION—vacant  
RECORDING SECRETARY—Colleen Wallace  
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TREASURER – Leeann McLaughlin

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PROGRAM—DeniAntoinette Mazingo  
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SCHOLARSHIPS—vacant



In light of gerrymandering efforts and Republican state legislators attempts to restrict voting rights, and knowing that their base is shrinking and demographics are shifting, this is their latest attempt to solidify Republican power. There are no ethical boundaries they will not cross, and no moral depths to which they will not stoop, to control their warped vision of our country's future.

## **Idaho lawmakers hear pitch to absorb three-fourths of Oregon**

Keith Riddler (AP), April 12, 2021

Idaho lawmakers appeared intrigued but skeptical on Monday when pitched a plan to lop off about three-fourths of Oregon and add it to Idaho to create what would become the nation's third-largest state geographically.

Representatives of a group called Move Oregon's Border For a Greater Idaho outlined their plan to a joint meeting of Idaho lawmakers from the House and Senate on Monday.

The Idaho Legislature would have to approve the plan that would expand Idaho's southwestern border to the Pacific Ocean. The Oregon Legislature and the U.S. Congress would also have to sign off.

Supporters of the idea said rural Oregon voters are dominated by liberal urban areas such as Portland, and would rather join conservative Idaho. Portland would remain with Oregon.

"There's a longtime cultural divide as big as the Grand Canyon between northwest Oregon and rural Oregon, and it's getting larger," Mike McCarter, president of Move Oregon's Border for a Greater Idaho, told Idaho lawmakers.

If everything falls in line with Oregon, supporters envision also adding adjacent portions of southeastern Washington and northern California to Idaho. Backers said residents in those areas also yearn for less government oversight and long to become part of a red state insulated from the liberal influence of large urban centers that tend to vote Democratic.

"Values of faith, family, independence. That's what we're about," said Mark Simmons, an eastern Oregon rancher and former speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives. "We don't need the state breathing down our necks all the time, micromanaging our lives and trying to push us into a foreign way of living."

President Joe Biden easily won Washington, Oregon and California in November, while President Donald Trump carried Idaho with 64%. The Idaho House and Senate each have supermajorities of Republicans.

The group's strategy has been to get advisory votes in Oregon counties likely to make the switch. But last November the group had mixed success with two counties opting to join Idaho but two wanting to stay a part of Oregon. Supporters blamed the setback on the coronavirus pandemic and an inability to get their message out. Five more Oregon counties are expected to vote on the matter in May.

The county votes carry no weight, but are intended to potentially sway lawmakers to ultimately approve the plan.

Republican Rep. Ben Adams, one of Idaho's more conservative lawmakers who gave a fiery speech on the House floor last week revolving around freedom, said his interest was piqued but wondered

why Oregon lawmakers would agree to the plan.

"How is it being received right now by the state of Oregon?" he asked. "How hard would they be fighting to make it not happen? Most states don't like to lose their resources to their neighbors."

McCarter said he's had no contact with the state government but expects supporters will make themselves known eventually.

"I believe that there are a lot of people standing on the sidelines watching this particular issue," McCarter said. "Is there any traction to it? Is there anything behind it?"

He said the votes coming up in the five counties in May could be an indicator.

Democratic Sen. Michelle Stennett, who represents one of the few liberal-leaning areas of Idaho that include the resort towns of Ketchum and Sun Valley, wondered how people in Oregon making a minimum wage of \$11.25 would like a pay cut to Idaho's minimum wage of \$7.25.

There were also questions about paying for roads, schools, prisons and state employee retirement obligations. Idaho also prohibits any marijuana use, including medical. In Oregon, recreational pot is legal.

Simmons and McCarter agreed there were many problems that needed to be worked out before Idaho could absorb rural areas of surrounding states.

"There are a lot of details, a lot of details," Simmons said. "And before we can even begin to discuss the details, we have got to see a significant majority of counties in Oregon stepping up to support it."

