

SALEM MEDIA GROUP

KFAX-AM

San Francisco – Oakland – San Jose

**KFAX-AM
PUBLIC FILE**

Quarterly Issues & Programs Report

Second Quarter 2023

(For the period covering April 1st, 2023 – June 30th, 2023)

Compiled By Craig Roberts

Prepared for the Public Inspection File July 10th, 2023

KFAX –AM
San Francisco – Oakland – San Jose
Quarterly Issues & Programs Report

This report contains an overview of the public affairs programs and announcements aired by KFAX-AM Radio for the quarter just ended. For over 98 years, KFAX-AM has demonstrated a firm commitment to serve its listeners by airing in-depth interviews with newsmakers, community activists and community leaders in an effort to address matters that affect the quality of life here in Northern California.

For over three decades, KFAX-AM has aired a Monday thought Friday program called “Life! Line with Craig Roberts”, which is presented in the peak afternoon drive time hours of 5:00-7:00 PM. Locally produced, the program seeks to address areas of interest and concern to those living in both our community of license as well as the surrounding areas well within the reach of our signal.

Topics and areas of concern addressed by the program include, for example, health matters (early cancer detection, treatment and prevention) education (home schooling, funding of public education and comprehensive student/teacher performance guidelines) women’s issues (menopausal treatment, breast cancer awareness, employment) and issues of concern to minorities (bi-lingual education, immigration issues, racism), among dozens of other topics.

Issues to be addressed are culled out from a vast list of local activists, listener feedback and interview requests from local and regional community leaders.

Additionally, the program provides opportunities for listeners to speak out on topics of concern, as well as the chance to speak directly with experts and community leaders on a variety of topics that affect the quality of life for them and their family.

The station also airs messages of thirty to sixty seconds in length throughout its broadcast schedule provided to us by a number of community-based and government-based organizations. Subjects in the recent past have included but are not limited to crime reduction, recycling program awareness, senior issues, assistance programs for parents of children with learning disabilities and immunization programs for people at risk (elderly/HIV/children).

The following is a list of problems, needs and interests compiled from over two hundred interviews from a diverse list of community leaders throughout the Bay Area and Northern California.

Problems Needs and Interests

1. Minority Challenges (discrimination, housing, employment, education).
2. Problems of the Elderly.
3. Youth and Education.
4. Unemployment, Finances, and the Economy.
5. Gender Challenges (women suffering discrimination, employment problems, and domestic violence).
6. Environment.
7. Urban Problems (overcrowding, urban blight).
8. Housing.
9. Health & Covid-19 Pandemic.
10. Crime and the Criminal Justice System.
11. Voters Rights & Elections

The following pages list some of the programs that have dealt specifically with the afore-mentioned list of issues and problems. In addition, because of the nature of our basic programming philosophy and program content, many of our programs often address one or more of these issues on a daily basis.

The station's format represents a broad diversity of opinions and views from the traditional Judeo-Christian ethic upon which our nation was founded. In addition, we air programming from many different religious and cultural backgrounds and experiences, complimenting the rich diversity of our listening audience.

A significant number of our national programmers and talk program hosts address themselves to a multiplicity of issues confronting American society today, particularly those dealing with crime, drug and alcohol abuse, racism, sexism, ethical and moral conduct, sexual mores, familial relationships, education, international relations, and terrorism.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO:

5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., April 4, 2023 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: BOB ZADEK

> Founder of LendersFunding.com and host of the longest-running libertarian talk show in the country, The Bob Zadek Show, broadcast live on 860 AM, KTRB – The Answer – every Sunday at 8am.

> Bob's passions are American history, entrepreneurship, Libertarianism and his number one fan and significant other Anne.

> author of a BRAND NEW e-book, *Secret Sauce: The Founders' Original Recipe for Limited American Democracy*. (self published)

Issue Discussed: update on progress of the school choice front; Florida's newly passed school choice bill; Cory DeAngelis book, *School Choice Myths* (CATO Institute)

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/a: [REDACTED]

www.BobZadek.com

TALKING POINTS:

The progress being made on the school choice front

- Florida just passed a big school choice bill, and more states are following suit;
- the reforms in Arizona allowing tax money to be diverted to Educational Savings Accounts, which can be spent on the schools of a parent's choosing.
- an idea in a book by Corey DeAngelis about funding students, not school systems with vouchers.

ARIZONA

☞ Once signed into law, Arizona will reclaim its title as the state with the “most expansive ESA” policy in the nation.

☞ The accounts will be available to all students, regardless of what type of school they had been attending.

☞ When families are empowered to choose the learning environment that works best for their children and that aligns with their values, everyone benefits.

School Choice Myths

“School choice has grown a lot since 1990—from zero kids taking public education funds to private schools to over a half million doing so—but progress has been slow. One reason: a constant drumbeat of myths, including that choice cripples public schools, undermines democracy, and leaves poor kids behind.”

Highlights

It tackles 12 of the biggest myths out there — a dirty dozen, if you will — and arms you with facts and logic to combat mythology wherever and for whatever reason it pops up.

Why is there substantial opposition?

“with survey responses depending a lot on the specific choice mechanisms discussed and wording of the questions, but opposition is nonetheless appreciable.

THE BIG ONE - LESS MONEY FOR GOV'T SCHOOLS

...private school choice programs, if they use funds that would have otherwise gone to public schools, take money away from public schools....

If only part of the total per-pupil expenditure follows the child into a private school, which is usually the case, there is actually more money per child in the public school.

CREAM SKIMMING ARGUMENT - TAKES THE BEST KIDS OUT

How about whether kids whose parents do not choose private schools must suffer as they are “left behind”? (For those who remember the No Child Left Behind Act, that's a big rhetorical no-no in education policy.) Intuitively it would seem that they would: more engaged and savvy families would be more likely to move, and families with less political and social capital would remain. ...

competition benefits everyone. It pushes the schools that are losing students to do better, just as competition from FedEx and UPS forces the U.S. Postal Service to deliver packages on Sundays.

BALKANIZATION?

The chapters start with the notion that school choice would “Balkanize” the country, allowing Americans to scatter into insular — and warring — communities. Americans are already highly stratified by race, income, and myriad other factors according to where they live, and, hence, what public schools they attend.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT?

“a comprehensive review of the civic outcomes research indicates that private and other chosen schools have done a much better job of instilling democratic knowledge and values than government-run schools.

DANGERS OF FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLING?

In Chapter 5, the Reason Foundation’s director of school choice Corey DeAngelis dismantles this accusation, explaining that not only does public education not actually meet the definition of a “public good” but that even if it did, in practice it may well be a public “bad.” It fuels inequality — what you get depends on where you can buy a home — and, by its one-size-fits-all, factory-like nature, essentially requires that kids be treated as identical widgets.

INEQUALITY?

In Chapter 8, Albert Cheng, an assistant professor in education policy at the University of Arkansas, grapples with the assertion that choice will mainly help the rich get richer and that the wealthy and well-connected will be better able to exercise choice than the poor.

POOR PEOPLE MAKE BAD CHOICES?

Finally, we tackle one of the most enervating school choice myths : that low-income families will not make good choices, whether out of ignorance, misplaced educational priorities, or other potential failings. Dispelling this myth in our final chapter is Virginia Walden Ford, who has been a school choice activist for decades and who was a driving force behind enactment of the District of Columbia’s Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Drawing on the research of others and her own experience helping countless low-income families, **Walden Ford shows that far from being inept choosers, poor people “reach for that brass ring. They make good choices.”**

Chapter One: Myth: School Choice Balkanizes

“Rather than pulling us apart, choice is the key to building bridges.”

Many people with choice likely would associate with others like themselves. But that also happens without school choice programs such as vouchers or scholarship tax credits, both in American society generally and in the public schooling system that has long enrolled the vast majority of children.

THE HISTORY

Public Schools, Poor Unifiers

How have Americans come together over the centuries, first as colonists and then as countrymen? What role did public schooling play? There is insufficient space to explore this comprehensively, but the contours of American educational history are powerful: there is little evidence that public schooling unified Americans, and it may very well have been an obstacle. From the 1607 landing of British settlers in Virginia to the 19th century's common-school crusade, education was a matter left primarily to private and civil society — free people

There were attempts to create government-run schools, including the Massachusetts Bay Colony's famous 1647 "Old Deluder Satan Act," which required towns of various sizes to maintain either a teacher, or a teacher and schoolhouse.

The idea that government should control education was largely foreign to people of British extraction, and the schooling was insufficiently useful to marshal broad support.

SEGREGATION WAS ENFORCED THROUGH GOVERNMENT

A more egregious way than chosen separation in which public schooling failed to unify was by forbidding togetherness. For decades many public schools were racially segregated by law.

And while de jure segregation in the South was under legal siege after the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, many Northern governments maintained segregation more stealthily, including by placing new schools in heavily white housing areas, or busing whites to white-dominated schools.

Chapter Three: Myth: Public Schools Are Necessary for a Stable Democracy

"Public governance of our schools matters for the health of our democracy." — Diane Ravitch and Carol Burris, Washington

THE DISMAL CURRENT STATE OF CIVICS KNOWLEDGE

Only four in ten Americans can pass a basic civics quiz. That dispiriting finding, from a recent national survey of 41,000 of our fellow citizens, is merely the latest in a long line of results suggesting that most Americans are ill-equipped to fulfill their responsibilities for active and informed self-government.

The claim that only government-run schools can promote civic practices and ideals is arguably the biggest myth in the school choice debate. Though commonly repeated, it is such a whopper because the actual evidence proves it to be false. The private school advantage over public schools in nurturing the democratic values of young Americans is far greater than any advantage private schools have in boosting students' test scores.

At least five assumptions undergird the myth that public schools are necessary for a stable democracy : (1) education is a public good, (2) government organizations focus on public goals while private organizations focus on private goals, (3) public schools are more accountable than private schools, (4) public schools create unity from diversity, and (5) exit weakens voice. All five of these assumptions are highly questionable.

EDUCATION IS NOT A PUBLIC GOOD

At first blush, K – 12 schooling might appear to be a public good. Every child aged 5 to 18 is guaranteed access to some public school, at no direct charge. Unlike ships traveling the sea lanes illuminated by a lighthouse, however, children are not guaranteed free access to any particular public school. The public school system uses a variety of mechanisms — including strict residential boundaries, ability-based admission to magnet schools, and expulsions — to exclude students from the specific schools their parents want them to attend.

Elementary and secondary education are definitively not public goods. They are, at best, **merit goods, with some features of a public good, such as spillover benefits to society, and some features of a private good, such as excludability at the point of provision.**

Private schools are responsive to the parents whose loyalty they must have to continue operating. Parents have particular interests, to be sure, including the desire that their children be kept safe and nurtured in a variety of ways during the school day. Parents tend to demand that schools teach “ the whole child ” — mind, body, heart, and soul. 14

American Catholic schools, in particular, have a reputation for emphasizing the preparation of effective citizens. 16 There is no broad evidence that public schools necessarily privilege the public interest over private interests any more than private schools do.

DOES “EXIT” WEAKEN “VOICE”

Finally, the assertion that conflict in public education is a good thing is grounded in a naïve and incorrect understanding of the relationship between “ exit ” and “ voice. ” In his seminal work *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*, economist Albert O. Hirschman theorizes that the dissatisfied clients of an organization, such as a public school, have three options. 27 They can exit quietly for an alternative provider, they can complain vocally, or they can remain meekly loyal. Hirschman argues that generally, and specifically in the case of school choice, exit and voice are contrary forces.

Hirschman’s argument that exit options weaken voice and thus diminish the prospects for organizational improvement has been heavily questioned and criticized. 28 If parents cannot transfer their child to another school, no matter how unsatisfied they are with their child’s education, why would school leaders be affected by their voice ? Far from diminishing the positive effects of voice, increasing exit options via choice policies is certain to enhance the influence and practice of parental voice.

CLEAR EMPIRICAL RESULTS

Corey DeAngelis published a systematic review of 11 evaluations of the effects of private school choice on civic outcomes in 2017.³³ Six of the studies measured the effects of private school choice on student levels of political tolerance, with three concluding that the results were positive and the other three finding that students in private school choice programs were neither more nor less politically tolerant than their public school peers. Five of the evaluations examined civic engagement, which included political or voluntary activity. Three of those studies concluded that private school choice programs increased civic engagement, while the other two found that they had no effect on it.

A whopping 50 statistical findings indicate that private schooling produces significantly better civic outcomes than does public schooling. The remaining 33 findings detect no difference between the two.

Chapter Four: Myth: Private School Choice Is Unconstitutional

BEFORE 1990, NO PUBLIC FUNDS WENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The constitutional battle surrounding private school choice programs has been raging for three decades. It began with the enactment of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program in 1990, a publicly funded scholarship program that gave eligible families a grant, or voucher, to attend the eligible private school of their choice. ¹ Even though the original program did not permit families to choose religious schools, “ various school administration organizations ” and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) mounted an unsuccessful constitutional challenge to the choice program.

Throughout the 1990s, litigation followed in each state that passed a private school choice program.

The U.S. Supreme Court and at least nine state supreme courts, one state appellate court, and the territorial Supreme Court in Puerto Rico have rejected constitutional attacks against school choice programs on the merits.

ESPINOZA CASE

Moreover, the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* held that it would violate the U.S. Constitution to exclude religious schools from a private school choice program.

In *Espinoza*, the Court concluded that Montana violated the U.S. Constitution when it relied on a clause in its state constitution to strike down a school choice program because students were permitted to use their scholarships to attend religious schools. Chief Justice John Roberts explained that the “supreme law of the land condemns discrimination against religious schools and the families whose children attend them.

BLAINE AMENDMENTS

Blaine amendments are characterized by their restriction on the “ use ” or “ appropriation ” of public funds “ in aid of ” or “ for the benefit of ” “ sectarian ” schools and are found in 37 state constitutions.

Blaine proposed an amendment to the federal Constitution in 1876 to prohibit states from appropriating public money to “ sectarian ” schools. 21 The term “ sectarian ” was widely understood at that time to mean “ Catholic. ” 22 It was not a synonym for “ religious, ” as it is often understood today.

Large numbers of Catholic families were unhappy with the Protestant orientation of the public schools and, after opening their own schools, began campaigning for a proportional share of public school funds. 25

Thankfully, under Espinoza, Blaine amendments are no longer a barrier to educational choice programs that empower parents to choose religious educational options alongside nonreligious options. Of course, even before Espinoza, most state courts had concluded that it is the students themselves — not religious schools — who are the true beneficiaries of educational choice programs.

Even before Espinoza, two types of school choice programs were especially resistant to Blaine amendment attacks. It is worth exploring why.

Scholarship programs that rely on private donations incentivized by tax credits have proven largely immune to Blaine amendment challenges. This is because such programs do not involve any appropriation or use of public funds, and thus the textual analysis of most Blaine amendments, which apply only to uses or appropriations of “ public funds, ” ends before the question of whether private school programs “ aid ” or “ benefit ” parents or schools is even reached.

WORKAROUNDS

At no point does the state own the donated money legally or ever possess it physically. To find otherwise would mean that the state essentially has a claim over every cent of taxpayers ’ money. 29

Education savings account (ESA) programs have twice proven immune from Blaine amendment challenges, though they are a relatively new type of private school choice program. 30 ESAs are flexible, parent-controlled accounts from which parents may draw funds to tailor their child’s education, whether it be in the form of home educational materials, private tutoring, private school tuition, online education, or any combination thereof. ESAs thus differ from traditional voucher and scholarship programs by permitting parents to spend their child’s education dollars on more than just private school tuition.

Finally, opponents argue that if the programs are permissible, then the private schools that parents choose must be considered part of the public school system — and thus be subject to the same legal requirements as public schools. But private school choice programs do not transform private schools into public schools.

When people, including prominent education scholars, say that schooling is a public good, they likely mean that it is “good for the public.”

MILTON FRIEDMAN AND THE PIGOUVIAN SUBSIDY

A feasible policy solution to move education levels up is a negative Pigouvian tax, also known as a Pigouvian subsidy. As Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman concluded, government may have a role in funding schooling because of the theoretical positive externalities — he called them “neighborhood effects” — of education in general. 23

While education itself seems to have net-positive externalities, the case is less clear for the system of traditional public schooling we have in the United States today.

The only existing analysis on the subject estimates that government schooling, relative to a universal private school choice system, has a net-negative effect on society of about \$ 1.3 trillion dollars over each student cohort's lifetime.

In other words, relative to a universal private school choice system, government schooling is likely a demerit good.

EDUCATION IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT UP TO THE MARKET?

Many people agree that the government generally does a poor job with simple tasks such as delivering the mail or running the DMV. Then sometimes the same people turn around and argue that the government needs to perform complex tasks such as educating an extremely diverse population. But if the government cannot effectively perform simple tasks, we certainly shouldn't trust it to perform complex tasks.

If you think that education is so important that the government must run the schools, then you must also conclude that the government must run the farms and grocery stores.

School choice is an educational equalizer.

In addition to the problem of housing segregation, the best teachers are often promoted away from the least advantaged students. Teachers are paid based on years of experience rather than quality, and because the best teachers are not well rewarded financially, they are often rewarded with their choice of schools to work in instead. The best teachers tend to move to the schools with advantaged kids that are relatively easy to educate, leaving the least advantaged children with worse teachers.

Rich people can escape the government school system far more easily than poor people because spending over and above their schooling tax dollars so that their children can attend a private school is a relatively far smaller hit for them.

Educational failure is not the fault of government schoolteachers or administrators, because educating so many children of diverse needs is a job that is nearly impossible when they are crammed into classrooms based just on their ages and ZIP codes.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., April 4, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:50-6pm

Guest: **BRAD DACUS**
> President, Pacific Justice Institute

Issue discussed: *Church Finds Its Voice* program

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.PacificJustice.org or call [REDACTED]

Talking points:

Church Finds Its Voice program...

Anyone watching the news cannot help but be aware of the massive attacks on religious freedom and parental rights. Parents are frustrated over the revolting, harmful messaging in schools. People of faith are being purged from their jobs in record numbers.

EMPOWERING RESOURCES

In light of all this, pastors often say or do nothing—not because they don't care—but because they simply do not know their rights. And while Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) is busier than ever filing lawsuits from coast-to-coast, we don't have to stop there. Pastors, parents, and people of faith can take advantage of empowering resources.

TAKE BACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Let's start with the public schools. On our website, PJI.org, parents can download opt-out forms that are customized for each individual state and varying state laws. While none of the forms are fully protective from the spiritual genocide in public schools, they are significant. For example, they address these issues:

- Requesting prior notice to parents of outside speakers addressing sex or sexuality
- Opting out of sex-ed curriculum
- Refusing to allow a student to leave campus without parental consent
- Forbidding questionnaires delving into personal family beliefs

PJI.org also makes available, without charge, booklets on parental and student rights, and even an e-book, Reclaim Your School, discussing how parents, teachers, students, and churches can actually go on the offense.

FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

But what about all of the employees losing their jobs strictly because of their faith? PJI represents thousands of people across the country who were wrongfully fired for their faith. Some cases involve workers with religious convictions against taking a controversial COVID-19 vaccine. And other cases involve teachers required to use pronouns that encourage students' gender confusion, to lie to parents, and to allow teenage boys into the girls' locker rooms. But individuals in those situations don't have to wait to be fired. At PJI.org they can find preemptive resources on what they can do to protect themselves.

PASTORS HAVE FREEDOM

But the worst long-term threat to our nation's freedom is the silencing of pastors who are afraid to address modern day moral issues or anti-faith politicians. Pastors do not have to be silent. The law allows pastors tremendous freedom to discuss from the pulpit the biblical perspective on the latest issues (e.g., drag queens in schools and libraries), pending legislation (e.g., abortion bills), and even politicians' evil positions.

In fact, pastors can mobilize their church members to vote by having voter registration Sundays around Memorial Day and July 4th. Pastor Peter Mordh, who heads up PJI's Church Engagement office, stands ready to help make this happen for any church. Details for church engagement can be found at PJI.org.

Churches have historically proven themselves to be the conscience of the nation. At a time with so much assault on faith, and at the cusp of a potential growing revival, now is not the time to be silent. Now is the time to be equipped, bold, and courageous.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Go to PJI.org and select the resource for you. We ask for a quick form be completed before you access materials, but it is for our internal purposes, and we keep your information private and confidential.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Wed. April 5, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:20-5:45pm**

Guest: **DR. LOWELL BUSENITZ** (BOOZE-NEETZ)
> Professor Emeritus of Entrepreneurship of the University of Oklahoma
> Cofounder of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Oklahoma.
> top-ten researcher in the field and active in the ***faith at work movement***.

Issue discussed: living a life of faith AT WORK; how to bring our faith to work with us in this increasingly hostile culture; using entrepreneurship to make our world/community better; How can we meld our spiritual gifts with our vocational talents

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.LowellBusenitz.com

How We Work Has Changed Radically, God’s Place in Our Work Has Not

Faith-to-Work paradigm shift sees God in our work and relationships

Denver, Colorado – “How we work has changed forever” says *Forbes* magazine. As more people refuse to go back to a traditional workplace setting; preferring to work remote, employers have scrambled to find a way to accommodate and adapt. Technology enables more people to do what they did before from their home or a remote office. This has freed workers to maintain a healthier work-life balance while still contributing their skills.

But that’s not enough according to Lowell Busenitz, Professor Emeritus from the University of Oklahoma. He believes people need more than convenient workspace, hours, or even better pay. Instead, he believes we need a purpose in what we do. “Since our work is a major part of who we are, to be able to integrate our work with our God-breathed individuality, spiritually, and relationships is to engage with soul work,” he says.

The author of SOUL WORK (Hendrickson-Tyndale), Busenitz is an advocate of the faith-to-Work movement. "We take what is learned from our faith gatherings and carry it forward into Monday to Friday." We have bought into the mythology of the sacred/secular divide, a divide that doesn't exist for us as followers of Christ. He goes further and says, "Instead of taking God to work, God is already there and embedded in our work." This paradigm shift integrates work and faith.

"Engaging with entrepreneurship is a pathway to God," explains Busenitz. When we begin to see our work as an extension of our spiritual gifts melding with our vocational talents, we find greater purpose. "With God, work can become transformational . . . we find that insights into God and connecting with Him are available in abundance through our work." Instead of looking at work as drudgery, says Busenitz, we can see it through God's eyes, "Work was God's idea first."

Work is an amazing catalyst for flourishing with God. It can be a spiritual facilitator that enables you to see, touch, feel, taste, and smell the God who is already there. Your entrepreneurial pursuits present an abundance of opportunities for you to flourish spiritually.

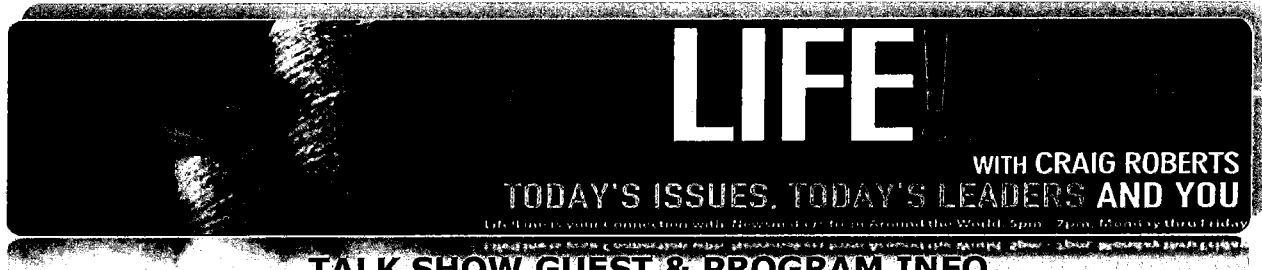
Soul Work: Finding God in Your Entrepreneurial Pursuits...

- helps you overcome those obstacles in your workplace that may hinder you from experiencing the fullness of Christ. Building from a biblical foundation, he shares a new paradigm for enhancing your relationship with God through your job. Instead of bringing your faith to your workplace, find God in your workplace by learning:

How to identify God in your work

How to discover Jesus' deep interest in your work

How your work can deepen your faith



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu. April 6, 2023 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **PASTOR RODNEY SMITH**

> Born and raised in the 'show me' state (Missouri), this St. Louis native has been in the AME Church his entire life. He is a former Young People's Division (YPD), President and pastor's kid. Dedicated to the call on his life, he grew up praying and believing God would allow him to be used for his glory. Rodney knew he was called for a purpose and destined for greatness. His mother instilled the power of prayer which ultimately led him to where he is today.

Dr. Smith pastored in Alabama at St. John AME Church, Fort Mitchell, AL (2016-2020), Parks Chapel AME, Dothan, AL (2010-2016), and Historic Cherry St. AME , Dothan, AL (2008-2010). An active clergyman within his district, he served as the Assistant Treasurer for the Ninth Episcopal District Finance Committee, a member of the Board of Examiners for the Northeast Conference, Director of Church Growth & Evangelism Northeast Conference, and a member of the AME Connectional General Board. Dr. Smith has traveled throughout the connectional AME Church preaching and teaching at Connectional Biannual Lay meetings. Dr. Smith is an author and seminar facilitator.

One of his greatest blessings is the family God has given him. He has been married to Rev. Amittia Bradley Smith, former college queen, and partner in ministry. Together, this anointed couple are the parents of three beautiful children, HoneyRose, Royal, and Rodney Jeremiah.

Issue Discussed: First AME of Oakland... after the fire.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.FAMEOakland.org

Church Phone number [REDACTED]

'We will rise again': A devastating fire won't stop the East Bay's oldest Black church

This isn't the first time in its 165-year history that Oakland's First African Methodist Episcopal Church has had to rebuild.

One week after a fire gutted their building on Telegraph Avenue, members of First African Methodist Episcopal church walked tentatively into Temple Beth Abraham, a synagogue on MacArthur Boulevard that for the near future is serving as the congregation's temporary home on Sundays.

The service opened with a reading of "Still I Rise," a poem by Maya Angelou about succeeding over adversity and critics. During his sermon, First A.M.E. Pastor Rodney D. Smith drew from the Bible story of Shadrach, Mesach, and Abednego, three Hebrew men who were thrown into a furnace for refusing to bow to an image of King Nebuchadnezzar. The men survived, with God by their side.

"Sometimes we don't know why God allows certain things to happen, but one thing is for certain: We will rise again," he said. "Sometimes things have to burn down to build something greater."

Established in 1858 as Shiloh African Methodist Episcopal Church, First A.M.E. is the oldest Black church in the East Bay. A fire broke out on the night of Sunday, Feb. 19, decimating the stately building on the corner of 37th Street and Telegraph Avenue. Seventy Oakland firefighters responded to the blaze, which was under control by early Monday morning. The water from the hoses and recent storms have only added to the damage, Smith said.

The Oakland Fire Department is working with police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to investigate the cause of the fire, but no evidence so far has shown that the church was maliciously targeted, an OFD spokesperson said.

Because of the damage, the building has been red-tagged, which means no one is allowed inside without permission from the city of Oakland.

It's not the first time in its 165-year history that the church has had to rebuild, and church leaders see this as an opportunity for First A.M.E. to fulfill its mission of spreading its doctrine and helping those in need while they're in the spotlight.

"I'm out here because the work continues. This is just a building, but the ministry we do is beyond this building. The ministry we do is for our community and the people." (Pastor Rodney Smith)

"Ironically, [during] Black History Month, the oldest (Black) church in the East Bay burns down, but what we do know is we're going to rise above the ashes," Smith said during the Sunday service on Feb. 26. "F.A.M.E. is now America's church and you're going to see people from all across the United States step up to the plate because this is an opportunity for Oakland."



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu, April 6, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-5:45pm

Guest: **KAREN ROSEBERRY**

> California ProLife Council Spokesperson and Executive Director of Care Net Women's Resource Center.

Issue discussed: the abortion pill.... Pharmacies are now distributing it but some pharmacies are NOT going to do it in states where abortion is restricted.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u: n/a

www.CaliforniaProlife.org

Walgreens won't distribute abortion pills in states where GOP AGs object

The decision is the latest to demonstrate how widely abortion access can vary state to state in a post-Roe America.

Nearly two dozen Republican state attorneys general wrote to Walgreens in February, threatening legal action if the company began distributing the drugs.

The nation's second-largest pharmacy chain confirmed Thursday that it will not dispense abortion pills in several states where they remain legal — acting out of an abundance of caution amid a shifting policy landscape, threats from state officials and pressure from anti-abortion activists.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., April 18, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **BRAD DACUS**
> President, Pacific Justice Institute

Issue discussed: The Post Man v. the Post Office; Calvary Chapel SJ update;

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.PacificJustice.org or call [REDACTED]

The Post Man v. The Post Office

WASHINGTON – Gerald Groff wanted to spend his Sundays at church. His employer, the U.S. Postal Service, wanted him delivering packages.

That simple dispute between an employee and his managers sparked one of the most significant religious cases to reach the Supreme Court in years – with the potential to shift the balance of power between employees and employers over weekend schedules, dress codes and how workers conduct themselves around colleagues.

The appeal raises a basic question with potentially sweeping consequences: How far must large employers go to accommodate the religious needs of their workers? For Groff, an Evangelical Christian who told his boss in 2017 that he wouldn't cover Sunday shifts because of his faith, the answer became a personal and painful one.

"I lived under a cloud of thinking any day I could report to work...and then be told that I was terminated," said Groff, a 45-year-old Pennsylvanian who resigned from the Postal Service in 2019. "Two years of just pretty much every day was tough."

For nearly five decades, similar disputes have been guided by a 1977 Supreme Court decision that allows employers to deny religious requests if they present more than a trivial cost. That standard, Groff's attorneys say, means companies could decline to alter schedules to account for a sabbath or allow an employee's religious dress in too many circumstances.

In practice, the government argues, the standard is often read by courts to require employers to accommodate such requests.

Groff is asking the Supreme Court to toss that standard. But his critics fear what the court's conservative majority might come up with as a replacement. And they're concerned that new standard could lead to workplace discrimination.

"There's a huge can of worms that this opens up," said Rachel Laser, president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "Letting people shift the cost of exercising their religion onto their co-workers in a way that harms their co-workers is the opposite of equality."

The court will hear arguments in Groff v. DeJoy on Tuesday.

How Amazon packages delivered a sweeping religious dispute

Groff started at the Postal Service after years of missionary work in Africa and Asia. He wanted a career that would allow him to keep his sabbath, and since mail isn't delivered on Sundays, the job seemed to be a safe bet. Everything changed when the USPS signed a contract with Amazon in 2013 to deliver packages on weekends.

His supervisors initially exempted Groff from working Sundays as long as he covered other shifts. But their attempts to find volunteers for those days didn't always work, and by 2018, Groff had missed 24 Sunday shifts. Disciplinary measures began mounting.

Groff said he didn't hear grumbling from colleagues.

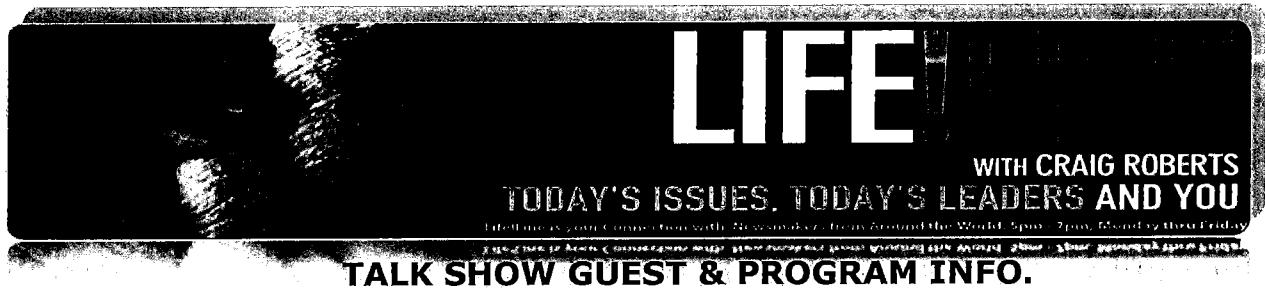
"If they had to work a Sunday for me, I could remind them that I may have worked Thanksgiving for them," said Groff, who is represented by First Liberty Institute, a group that has brought several successful religious claims to the nation's highest court.

Still, at least one industry group and several unions opposing Groff worry about the fallout if more employees become entitled to time off for religious holidays and sabbaths. A new standard, some fear, could make a mess of seniority systems that have been negotiated to deal with shifts few want to work.

"Most pilots would prefer not to fly a trans-continental redeye on Christmas Eve," Airlines for America, a trade group, told the court in a brief last month. Seniority systems, the group said, ensure that "pilots are assigned to all the flights that need to be flown."

Groff's case could affect more than a company's scheduling, experts say. A win for Groff, for instance, might help a teacher who, based on religious beliefs, declines to use transgender pronouns in the classroom. It could give a boost to pharmacists who decline to fill birth control prescriptions based on religion.

"This case is a wolf in sheep's clothing," Laser said.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., April 18, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-6pm

Guest: **SAM BLACK**

- > Author of the upcoming release, **"The Healing Church: What Churches Get Wrong About Pornography and How to Fix It"** (Morgan James Faith Publishers)
- > Former journalist and an expert in the field of pornography recovery.
- > Since 2018, he's served as the **Director of Recovery Education at Covenant Eyes**, one of the world's leading accountability software applications.
- > He's also edited 16 books on the impact of porn addiction and regularly speaks at parenting, leadership and men's events across the country.

Issue discussed: his soon to be released book (May), ***The Healing Church: What Churches Get Wrong About Pornography and How to Fix It.***

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u: n/a

www.TheHealingChurch.com

And it's important to know that this book/teaching is *not* another purity sermon, not the same old "Don't do it ... God hates that ... Jesus is watching you" message on pornography.

What it *is* is ***a primer for church leaders on pornography strongholds and how they're undermining every one of their ministries, why they can't look the other way and how to be a safe place with safe processes, where it's okay for people to come as they are...but not stay as they are.***

Some staggering statistics:

- ***Two-thirds*** of men and a third of women who attend church regularly say they struggle with pornography. Yet only **7%** of churches offer specific resources and support to their congregations.

- **More than one-third** of men attending church are locked in a continuous struggle with pornography.
- Porn isn't what it used to be. **Fifty-two percent (52%) of teens have been exposed to violent pornography. This includes acts such as choking, slapping, gagging, hitting and crying**
 - Among younger Christian men, **36%** say they use porn **daily**.
 - Church attendance and prayer activity decline significantly when porn is used.
 - Porn is not just a problem with men. One study showed that **73% of women** (mainly between the ages of 18 and 35) have used porn in the last six months and 26% in the last week
 - Those who lead and teach us and our kids are struggling, too. **21% of youth pastors and 14% of pastors** admit they currently struggle with porn use.

Looking at those numbers, you can see why Sam's book is a critical read. Not only because the situation is so dire, but again because this is a message that will help church leaders become the place those they lead get help—not shamed.

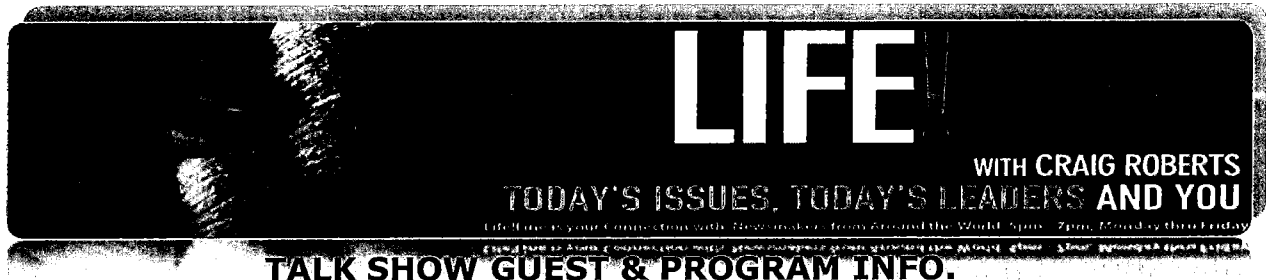
Pastors and church leaders are well aware of the issue of pornography—thanks to decades of studies and Christian blog and magazine articles—however the local church is caught in a painful trap. When Christians are too ashamed to admit their struggle, church leaders aren't able to directly support those who are actively struggling; when church attendees do find the courage to seek help, they often receive ineffective support from pastors and ministry leaders due to lack of proactive planning.

As a former journalist and current Director of Recovery Education for Covenant Eyes, Sam Black understands the stronghold pornography can have on an individual's life. His writing in *The Healing Church* actively addresses these issues and provides clear guidance for ministry leaders as they support those who seek to live in freedom.

In *The Healing Church*, ministry leaders will discover how to create safe spaces and apply processes that restore those trapped in compulsive behaviors with pornography. Sam Black outlines the most successful examples from churches currently providing meaningful aid and includes stories of Christians who found healing from porn strongholds, as evidence of the type of healing that pastors and church leaders can provide.

In researching this book, Sam Black conducted more than 70 interviews not only with pastors, counselors, and ministry leaders, but also with everyday people who recovered from a secret life of sin and are helping others who feel trapped by porn and unwanted sexual behaviors. *The Healing Church* affirms how those who experience true brokenness and surrender to discipleship and life change become strong servants to the Body of Christ and healthier as people overall. When the selfish become selfless, when the idolators learn to worship Christ, when the prideful become meek, they become more fulfilled as servants and filled with purpose.

Today, the local church has choices. It can largely ignore the problems of pornography because they are too unseemly. It can chastise, rebuke, and cast out, which sends more people into hiding. Or it can lead people through a grace-filled process to the foot of the Cross, where strongholds are crushed and where stronger servants arise.



PROGRAM DATE: Thu., March 17, 2022 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:15pm

Guest: **PROFESSOR JOHN SWARTZBERG**

- Clinical Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley
- Professor, Emeriti Academy, School of Public Health
- **Division of Infectious Diseases & Vaccinology**
- Chair, Editorial Board, UC Berkeley Health & Wellness Publications

Issue discussed: update on Coronavirus

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u: [REDACTED]

www.PublicHealth.Berkeley.edu

Coronavirus Update

Global COVID case tally climbs in latest week, breaking streak of declines that began in January

Last Updated: March 16, 2022 at 10:32 a.m. Market Watch

Just over 11 million new cases were counted in week through March 13, while 43,000 people died, according to WHO data

The World Health Organization said Wednesday that the number of new COVID-19 cases reported globally rose in the week through March 13, breaking the streak of declining numbers seen since the end of January.

New global cases rose 8% to just over 11 million in the week, and just over 43,000 people died, the agency said in its latest weekly epidemiological update.

By region, cases rose 29% in the WHO's Western Pacific Region, rose 12% in the African Region and were up 2% in the European Region, which includes parts of the former Soviet Union that are closer to Asia.

Cases fell 24% in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, were down 21% in South-East Asia and were down 20% in the Americas.

"These trends should be interpreted with caution as several countries are progressively changing their testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently numbers of cases detected," the WHO said.

Separately, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the omicron subvariant BA.2 now accounts for about 23.1% of all COVID cases in the U.S., up from 13.7% a week ago.

The BA.2 subvariant has been designated a variant of concern by the World Health Organization and "appears inherently more transmissible than BA.1," the organization said in February. BA.1, another subvariant of omicron, made up an estimated 66.1% of all cases in the U.S., while the originally identified omicron is 10.8% of all cases, according to data gathered for the week ending March 12.

The WHO did not mention a new variant that has been unofficially named deltacron because it combines elements of the delta and omicron variants. The agency has said it's closely monitoring that variant but that there's not enough data yet to know if it's more transmissible or more risky.

The U.S. COVID numbers continue to decline, and the nation is now averaging 32,094 new cases a day, according to a New York Times tracker, down 46% from two weeks ago. The average daily number of hospitalizations stands at 26,436, down 44% from two weeks ago. Deaths are averaging 1,226 a day, down 36% from two weeks ago, but still an undesirably high number.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **SUSAN SHELLEY**

> President of Communications for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

Issue Discussed: Update on the effort to repeal the California Death Tax and restore Prop. 58 and Prop.193 to the California state constitution and restore taxpayer protections to families who are hit with a massive property tax increase after the passing of a loved one.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u:

www.HJTA.org

www.Reinstate58.hjta.org

April 2023 Action Alert Update! More time to build support for SCA 4 to Repeal the Death Tax

Thank you for your phone calls and advocacy to help advance Senate Constitutional Amendment 4 (SCA 4). We're very pleased to tell you that Sen. Kelly Seyarto, the author of SCA 4, asked to have it pulled off the agenda of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee's April 19th hearing because more senators are interested in signing on in support of the measure. At this time, it appears that the committee will hold a special hearing on SCA 4 on May 10.

So we're at a critical moment and we need your help more than ever. Please call your representatives **findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov** — and **ask them to become co-authors of SCA 4**. Even if you have already called, a polite follow-up call to ask if they'll become co-authors will be very helpful.

Please ask your friends and neighbors to call, too. SCA 4 affects every California family — not just homeowners, but many renters, too. Family-owned apartment buildings that are reassessed to market value after a death in the family may have to be sold because the new tax bill is unaffordable.

No family should ever be taxed out of the property their parents worked so hard to acquire.

April 2023

REPEAL CALIFORNIA'S DEATH TAX

By Jon Coupal

I got hit by a car last year while riding my bicycle. But not just any car — it was a remote-control car being operated by a teenager in my neighborhood who directed the miniature missile right through a stop sign. And while not as large as a real automobile — it weighed about 10 pounds — it was heavy and fast enough to knock my bike out from under me and turned my back wheel into something resembling a fortune cookie.

Surprises can be nasty. And some surprises are far more serious than a broken bike and a mild case of road rash.

Under the category of very serious surprises is what is happening to California families who, while grieving the loss of a family member, are shocked to see massive increases in property taxes from inherited homes and other real estate. It started in November 2020, when voters narrowly passed Proposition 19, which repealed an important taxpayer protection from the California Constitution that taxpayers have relied on.

The passage of Prop. 19 had the effect of resurrecting the death tax on property that voters had eliminated back in 1986. Since Prop. 19's passage, thousands of families have personally encountered the unwelcome and cruel return of the death tax, which is triggered on the date of the passing of the last surviving parent or, in some cases, grandparent. Their home or small business is reassessed to current market value and then their children or grandchildren who inherit the property are shocked to see a massive increase in the property tax bill.

The resurrection of the death tax upended the long established law concerning the transfer of property between parents and their children. Because of Prop. 19, many families are now forced into the unwanted sale of a family home or rental housing property because they cannot afford the property taxes.

Backstory: In February of 2021, Proposition 19 went into effect in California. Those who inherit property have one year to make it their permanent residence otherwise it will be reassessed at market value which leads to a significant tax increase.

Coalition to Repeal the Death Tax. This initiative aims to restore Prop. 58 and Prop. 193 to the California state constitution and restore taxpayer protections to families who are hit with a massive property tax increase after the passing of a loved one.



PROGRAM DATE: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-5:45pm

Guest: **LAINÉ LAWSON-CRAFT**

- > Award-winning author. New book: ***The Parent's Battle Plan: Warfare Strategies to Win Back Your Prodigal*** (Chosen Books) released last month
- > Founder and publisher of *WHOAWomen* magazine (2010-2018)
- > Regularly hosts online challenges and masterclasses as well as Facebook Live events that reach thousands.
- > ***Livin' Lively with Laine*** podcast has encouraged women around the world, and her ***Warfare Parenting*** podcast educates, equips, empowers, and encourages parents of adult children.
- > Laine and her husband, Steve, have three children and live in Florida

Issue discussed: new book, ***The Parents Battle Plan; A Battle Plan to Bring Back Prodigal Children*** (Chosen Books)

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.LaineLawsonCraft.com

Bestselling author Laine Lawson Craft gives parents a battle plan to bring back their prodigal children in new book, ***The Parent's Battle Plan***

Fort Walton Beach, FL. (Feb. 7, 2023) - Parenting has always been hard, but it's even harder in today's dark world. Children are bombarded with technology, pressures, and substances that can lead to devastating repercussions for not only the child, but also their family.

So how are parents equipping themselves to protect their children from succumbing to this obvious spiritual attack?

What can parents do to bring their children back when they continue making self-destructive life choices?

Laine Lawson Craft's new book, *The Parent's Battle Plan: Warfare Strategies to Win Back Your Prodigal* (Chosen Books) offers parents a tried-and-true spiritual battle plan for navigating this difficult season of life.

Craft gives hope through real-life experience, sharing her own story of praying three very wayward prodigal children home and reminding parents that they're not alone in their journeys.

"I realized that what I was doing as a parent wasn't working," said Craft. "It seemed that my emotional pleas, rules, and religion weren't helping me bring my children back to who I knew they were. I made it my mission to partner with God at a whole new level and created a new way of parenting—one that would bring my children back home and heal our family. And now I'm sharing all I learned in hopes that other parents can bring their children back from the depths so they too can be whole, healed, and free."

Through the battles, Laine has found herself in the darkest depths, and has dedicated her life to equipping parents with the tools necessary to fight the dark world at war with their wayward children and, ultimately, find peace.

You are not alone--there is hope and healing for every hurting heart.

Today's technology has made sinful experiences and deadly choices accessible to our teenagers and young adults with just a click. And parents are left with the disappointments--and devastating fallout--of their children's choices.

Through sharing her own story of praying three very wayward prodigals home, Laine Lawson Craft offers not only hope and insight, but also a practical, tried-and-true battle plan for parents walking this heartbreaking season of life. You'll discover how to

- handle the emotional roller coaster of trust
- deal with your children's self-destructive choices
- pray emboldened by God's promises
- fight for your child's destiny

You can win the war of darkness over your children--even when you don't get the miracle you asked for.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- How do we fight for our child's destiny?
- How can parents navigate the emotional roller coaster of trust?
- How can parents learn to deal with the painful consequences of their child's self-destructive choices?
- How to pray, emboldened by God's promises

"An important reminder that God sees our needs, hears our hearts' cries and responds!"
--CANDACE CAMERON BURE, actress, producer and New York Times bestselling author

"You'll find light and hope in the sometimes difficult yet always rewarding journey of raising a child."
--ROMA DOWNEY, beloved actress



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.

5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:50-6pm

Guest: ***KAREN ROSEBERRY***

> California ProLife Council Spokesperson and Executive Director of Care Net Women's Resource Center.

Issue discussed: The deadline for arguments to the Supreme Court regarding the 5th circuit ruling that rolled back the FDA expansion of Mifepristone was yesterday – what next?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u: n/a

www.CaliforniaProlife.org

Note: This is the latest updated (5 days ago), most detailed article I could find,

DOJ will take emergency dispute over medication abortion rules to the Supreme Court

The Justice Department will take an emergency dispute over medication abortion drugs to the Supreme Court, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday.

Garland's announcement comes after a federal appeals court overnight froze parts of a Texas judge's order that would have suspended the US Food and Drug Administration's approval of a medication abortion drug. But the US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals only partially granted the request by the Justice Department and the drug's manufacturer to put US District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's ruling on hold, with the appellate panel effectively making the drug harder to obtain by leaving in place aspects of Kacsmaryk's ruling that will reverse moves by the FDA that expanded access to medication abortion pills.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Thu., April 20, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45p

Guest: **JOE MURRAY**

> a Tennessee educator, attorney, and a former speechwriter for Patrick Buchanan. He is the author of "**Take Back Education**," out January 11th

Issue Discussed: update on Trump indictment/explain constitutionality of indictment/case; 2024 field for President.... who is in? He's ready to talk about anything...

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u: [REDACTED]

www.JoeMurrayEnterprises.com

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. gains sizable chunk of Biden voters at presidential launch: poll

Long-shot Democrat candidate Marianne Williamson took home 5% of Biden's supporters

President Biden lost a sizable chunk of supporters to his new Democratic challenger at the outset of his challenger's campaign, according to a new poll.

A new USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll has Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. taking a double-digits' worth of voters from Biden at his campaign's formal launch. Fourteen percent of Biden's 2020 voters flocked to Kennedy when the son of the late Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Sr. announced his candidacy for the White House earlier this month.

The phone survey of 600 Biden voters from 2020, who were identified via national and state polls between 2020 and 2022, found that 67% of his supporters are still behind him.

Kennedy took home 14% of Biden's 2020 voters in the survey, while long-shot Democrat candidate and spiritual adviser Marianne Williamson brought in 5%



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., April 25, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: BOB ZADEK

- > Founder of LendersFunding.com and host of the longest-running libertarian talk show in the country, The Bob Zadek Show, broadcast live on 860 AM, KTRB – The Answer – every Sunday at 8am.
- > Bob's passions are American history, entrepreneurship, Libertarianism and his number one fan and significant other Anne.
- > author of a BRAND NEW e-book, *Secret Sauce: The Founders' Original Recipe for Limited American Democracy.* (self published)

Issue Discussed: Can someone's social media posts be considered a crime; what's up with Clarence Thomas?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/a: [REDACTED]

www.BobZadek.com

TALKING POINTS:

Should a satirical piece of "fake news" from 2016 be illegal?

At the time, it may have fooled some people into voting online.

More recently, the disseminator – infamous meme-maker "Ricky Vaughn" – has been charged with a crime.

In Tablet Magazine, Eugene Volokh searches in vain for the statute he violated:

It's not obvious that deceiving someone into voting in an invalid way qualifies as "injur[ing]" or "oppress[ing]." But if the statute does cover deception, then there's nothing in the text limiting such deception to speech about the mechanics of voting. Alleged lies about the government or

national security or the economy could also be prosecuted, if the government thought they were intended to discourage people from voting. Some might applaud that, on the theory that the law should do more to punish political lies generally. But as we saw above, many courts are quite skeptical about general bans on lies in elections.

Are Douglass Mackey's Memes Illegal? Tablet Magazine

The case of notorious internet troll 'Ricky Vaughn' BY EUGENE VOLOKH

FEBRUARY 09, 2021

In 2016, a Florida man named Douglass Mackey (using the online alias "Ricky Vaughn") allegedly conspired to distribute a meme aimed at deceiving pro-Hillary voters.

Four years later, Mackey is now being prosecuted (as to this and as to other memes) for violating 18 U.S.C. § 241, a federal law that punishes conspiracies "to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person ... in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution"—namely, the right to vote. Lying to voters in a way that keeps them from voting, the theory goes, is a crime.

UPDATE: Since then, Douglas Mackay was found guilty:

Prosecutors argued that Mackey posted the images to trick Black voters and women in particular, pointing to his past posts describing Black people as "gullible" and saying women shouldn't be allowed to vote.

"The defendant did this for the most simple, straightforward and obvious reason of all — that he wanted people to fall for it," Assistant U.S. Attorney Turner Buford told the jury.

Mackey testified that he was only posting non-serious "memes" that he didn't think anyone would take seriously. Even though he was a member of the group chats where the fake ads were workshopped, he claimed he "had the group on mute" and wasn't paying attention to the stream of messages.

"It was no criminal conspiracy. It was the internet," defense lawyer Frisch said in his closing argument. He added that although roughly 4,900 people called the vote-by-text number, "No one was tricked."

"If a single voter was tricked, the government would have called that person as their first witness," he said.

Brooklyn US Attorney Breon Peace said in a statement that the verdict proves "the defendant's fraudulent actions crossed a line into criminality and flatly rejects his cynical attempt to use the constitutional right of free speech as a shield for his scheme to subvert the ballot box and suppress the vote."

Is this sort of prosecution constitutional? After all, people often lie in political campaigns. Candidates do it, activists do it, political operatives do it. Can election lies simply be outlawed?



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **LAINÉ LAWSON-CRAFT**

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"I realized that what I was doing as a parent wasn't working," said Craft. "It seemed that my emotional pleas, rules, and religion weren't helping me bring my children back to who I knew they were. I made it my mission to partner with God at a whole new level and created a new way of parenting—one that would bring my children back home and heal our family. And now I'm sharing all I learned in hopes that other parents can bring their children back from the depths so they too can be whole, healed, and free."

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**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-6pm

Guest: *PROFESSOR JOHN SWARTZBERG*

- Clinical Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley
- Professor, Emeriti Academy, School of Public Health
- **Division of Infectious Diseases & Vaccinology**
- Chair, Editorial Board, UC Berkeley Health & Wellness Publications

Issue discussed: Bay Area/nation update on Coronavirus

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u: [REDACTED]

www.PublicHealth.Berkeley.edu

California's COVID emergency is ending. How will it change your life?

California's 3-year-old COVID-19 state of emergency will lift Tuesday — a development that reflects the dawn of a next, hopeful phase of the pandemic, even as officials and experts say continued vigilance and preparation are necessary to maintain the current promising trajectory.

Though the global pandemic itself is not over, rescinding the health emergencies issued during the outbreak's early days by all levels of government acknowledges the degree to which the overarching COVID threat has ebbed, allowing many residents to largely or entirely return to pre-outbreak normalcy.

With robust community immunity — both through vaccination and natural infection — the availability of updated boosters and effective therapeutics, as well as a well-worn toolbox of non-pharmaceutical interventions, many events and activities are safer today than they have been in years.

“While the threat of this virus is still real, our preparedness and collective work have helped turn this once crisis emergency into a manageable situation,” California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said.

COVID emergency declarations are ending. What does that mean for California?

Since the future is not set in stone, officials and experts say it’s important to remain prepared to tackle COVID’s continuing impacts, as well as any new tricks the coronavirus may yet have up its proverbial sleeve. Rescinding emergency declarations may also change how residents access vital resources such as vaccines, treatments and tests.

“As we have experienced throughout the pandemic, there are no absolutes,” said Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer. “There’s a temptation to say the pandemic is ending and, for some, this experience is very real. For others, they continue to feel the impact daily — whether it is living with the loss of a loved one, the economic toll of the pandemic or the effects of long COVID.”

But given that “we didn’t see a large winter surge and that our hospitalization and death rates have remained stable is positive,” she added during a recent briefing. “I’m optimistic about this next phase.”

Here’s what you need to know.

COVID-19 deaths top 100,000 in California: ‘Nobody ... anticipated this toll’

Why is California ending its emergency?

Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled the timeline for ending the state of emergency last October, saying California has built up the resources necessary to continue combating COVID-19 without the additional flexibility the declaration provided.

“The state of emergency was an effective and necessary tool that we utilized to protect our state, and we wouldn’t have gotten to this point without it,” he said in a statement at the time. “With the operational preparedness that we’ve built up and the measures that we’ll continue to employ moving forward, California is ready to phase out this tool.”

His announcement came ahead of the pivotal fall-and-winter season, when many officials and experts feared another coronavirus resurgence could renew stress on California’s healthcare system.

But while the state did see an uptick in transmission and hospitalizations in mid-autumn, it was fleeting and comparatively mild — leading to far and away the calmest winter of the COVID-19 era.

What does ending the emergency mean?

California's initial emergency declaration was issued March 4, 2020, and served as a prelude to more than 70 executive orders, many of which Newsom has already terminated.

"A lot of these things have been gradually winding down, as far as exemptions or emergency orders that were related to these various declarations," California state epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan said during an online forum this month. "There are a lot of state resources in the field that have been decreasingly utilized that we are demobilizing over time."

Looking ahead, perhaps the biggest ramification of rescinding the emergency declaration will be changes in how residents access COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments. However, many Californians won't see a seismic shift.

According to the California Health and Human Services Agency, "Californians will continue to be able to access COVID-19 vaccines, testing and therapeutics with no out-of-pocket costs" even after the state emergency ends.

Newsom rescinds California's COVID-19 state of emergency, marking an end to the pandemic era

Feb. 28, 2023

Until Nov. 11 — six months after the scheduled termination of the national-level emergency and public health emergency declarations — Californians with private health insurance or who are enrolled in Medi-Cal "can access COVID-19 vaccines, testing and therapeutics from any appropriately licensed provider without any out-of-pocket costs, even if the provider is outside the enrollee's health plan network," the agency told The Times earlier this month.

Californians could be subject to cost-sharing or coinsurance amounts if they access those resources from an out-of-network provider after that date. But "if the enrollee accesses the services from an in-network provider, the enrollee will not have to pay anything out-of-pocket," according to the agency.

A federal policy that required insurers to reimburse covered individuals for eight at-home COVID-19 tests per month will end along with the nationwide public health emergency on May 11. But in California, state lawmakers have acted to maintain this resource for most health plans regulated by the Department of Managed Health Care — which covers around 23.5 million people with private insurance or health plans managed by Medi-Cal.

California lawmakers also have passed legislation requiring health plans and insurers to cover anti-COVID drugs.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu., April 27, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-6p

Guest: *JOE MURRAY*

> a Tennessee educator, attorney, and a former speechwriter for Patrick Buchanan. He is the author of "*Take Back Education*," out January 11th

Issue Discussed: China, SCOTUS, Tucker Carlson, and a legal or illegal, fair/unfair condo sale?

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Supreme Court to decide if public officials can block critics on social media

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -The U.S. Supreme Court, exploring free speech rights in the social media era, on Monday agreed to consider whether the Constitution's First Amendment bars government officials from blocking their critics on platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

The justices took up an appeal by two members of a public school board from the city of Poway in Southern California of a lower court's ruling in favor of school parents who sued after being blocked from Facebook pages and a Twitter account maintained by the officials.

The justices also took up an appeal by a Michigan man of a lower court's ruling against him after he sued a city official in Port Huron who blocked him on Facebook following critical posts made by the plaintiff about the local government's COVID-19 response.

At issue is whether a public official's social media activity can amount to governmental action bound by First Amendment limits on government regulation of speech.

The justices faced a similar First Amendment issue in 2021 involving a legal dispute over former President Donald Trump's effort to block critics from his Twitter account. The justices brought an end to that court fight after Trump had left office by deciding the case was moot, throwing out a lower court's decision that found that the former president had violated constitutional free speech rights.

The California case involves Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff and T.J. Zane, elected members of the Poway Unified School District. They blocked Christopher and Kimberly Garnier, the parents of three students at district schools, on Facebook and Twitter after the couple made hundreds of critical posts on issues such as race and the handling of school finances.

The Garniers sued O'Connor-Ratcliff and Zane in federal court, claiming their free speech rights under the First Amendment were violated.

Zane and O'Connor-Ratcliff each had public Facebook pages identifying them as government officials, according to the Garniers' court filing. Zane's page was entitled "T.J. Zane, Poway Unified School District Trustee" and included a picture of a school district signage.

O'Connor-Ratcliff also had a public Twitter profile. On that account and her Facebook page, she identified herself as "President of the PUSD Board of Education" and linked to her official email address, the court filing said.

A federal judge in California ruled in favor of the parents in 2021. The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last July agreed, finding that the school board members had presented their social media accounts as "channels of communication with the public" about school board business.

She got 0 the county got the rest for her condo sale Supreme Court will decide if that's fair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Geraldine Tyler, now 94, lost her one-bedroom condo in Minneapolis over \$2,300 in unpaid taxes, plus interest and penalties. Hennepin County sold the apartment for \$40,000 and kept every penny.

Tyler's lawyers say the county violated constitutional protections against having property taken without "just compensation" and excessive fines. The Supreme Court, which hears arguments Wednesday, will decide.

Minnesota is among roughly a dozen states and the District of Columbia that allow local jurisdictions to keep the excess money, according to the Pacific Legal Foundation, which is representing Tyler at the Supreme Court.

At least 8,950 homes were sold because of unpaid taxes and the former owners received little or nothing in those states between 2014 and 2021, according to Pacific Legal, a not-for-profit public interest law firm focused on property rights.

Other states are: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and South Dakota, the group said.

There has been no explanation about why Tyler stopped paying her property taxes when she moved from the condo, where she had lived since 1999, to an apartment building for older people in 2010. She moved for "health and safety" reasons, Pacific Legal said.

The county said in court papers that Tyler could have sold the property and kept whatever was left after paying off the mortgage and taxes, refinanced her mortgage to pay the tax bill or signed up for a tax payment plan.

Instead, she did nothing for five years, the county said, until after authorities followed state law and sold the condo. The county wrote: Tyler believes "the Constitution required the State to serve as her real estate agent, sell the property on her behalf, and write a check for the difference between the tax debt and the fair market value."

Lower courts sided with the county before the justices agreed to step in.

Minnesota and a handful of states and government associations are backing the county, warning that a Supreme Court ruling could tie the hands of local governments that rely on property taxes.

But the bulk of support in court filings is with Tyler, including AARP, business groups, real estate interests and other people who have gone through experiences similar to hers.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., May 2, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:20-5:45pm

Guest: ***Dr. ROBERT WRIGHT***

> a Senior Research Fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research
> He is the (co)author or (co)editor of over two dozen major books, book series, and edited collections, including AIER's *The Best of Thomas Paine* (2021) and *Financial Exclusion* (2019).

Issue discussed: Is universal basic income (UBI) a good idea?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

WWW.COM

Universal basic income isn't a sensible crime-fighting tool

By ROBERT E WRIGHT | UPDATED: April 23, 2023 at 12:52 p.m.

Ahsha Safai, a member of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, recently opined in USA Today that a universal or unconditional basic income (UBI) would help San Francisco to alleviate its crime problem. The claim might signal the author's virtue but it has no basis in reality and falls far short of passing a policy-grade cost-benefit analysis.

No real UBI has yet been implemented anywhere so its effect on crime remains unknown. A real UBI would be an expensive policy with unknown effects on myriad important outcomes in education, health, and human freedom. So, even if it were to reduce crime, the overall cost of the reduction might prove prohibitively high in absolute terms. It would almost certainly be too high relative to alternative crime reduction policies, especially those with historical precedent. Numerous newspaper headlines suggest that UBI "pilots" and "experiments" have become ubiquitous and that they prove the efficacy of UBI programs.

Such headlines mislead because none of the programs are universal (paid to everyone), unconditional (paid to all regardless of class, gender, race, religion, etc.), basic (neither too little nor too large), and income (a permanent stream of cash).

Moreover, most US UBI pilot programs received funding from nonprofits, not from the taxes upon which they would ultimately have to rely. Their effects on work incentives therefore remain unknown. In other words, UBI pilot programs to date prove nothing other than the undisputed fact that most people will feel, and actually be, better off if they receive “free money” donated by a distant charity like manna from heaven.

If Safai’s real goal is to reduce crime, that can be achieved at much lower cost than UBI. The gross cost of a UBI of \$15,000 in San Fran (assuming the population remains around 815,000) would be about \$12.25 billion per year. Given that non-San Francisco people will not willingly fund a San Francisco UBI, that money would have to come out of other city expenditures, which would be quite a feat given that its current budget is about \$14 billion. Or it could come from higher taxes. Much of the UBI itself could be taxed back, leaving a net cost of, say, \$2 billion/year.

But how much crime reduction would \$2 billion of income redistribution buy? And what else could \$2 billion a year buy the city? More police officers, improved 911 services, additional job training programs, and such, as Safai suggests. More of the same old, critics of the status quo will complain.

But \$2 billion could also fund a return to a forgotten American tradition of criminal justice that might appeal to both “law and order” and “social justice” types. Specifically, it could provide a legally and socially trained “defender of the public” to accompany each of San Fran’s 1,500 active police officers on every patrol. The function of the defenders would be to provide legal advice to suspects on the spot and social services referrals when appropriate.

Police officers will behave less aggressively knowing that a credible eye witness is watching their every move, a witness that cannot be turned off and that is looking out for the interests of the accused. Defenders of the public would have to rotate officers frequently so as to maintain their primary allegiance to citizens and obviously would be paid by the judicial branch, not the executive. As they gain community trust, defenders of the public would also protect the police from malicious attacks by their mere presence.

Ultimately, they would come to serve many of the same roles that justices of the peace and other petty magistrates performed in this country before big cities became bureaucratized by Progressive reformers in the early twentieth century.

America never was and never will be perfect. But Americans grow weary of paying the high cost of good intentions gone awry. UBI might prove a good policy but the numerous pilot programs that falsely call themselves UBI are inadequate tests of its effects on crime, much less other important areas like educational attainment.

San Francisco and the nation will be better served by looking back to its rich history for solutions to social problems like crime.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.

5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., May 9, 2023 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: *MATHEW LITTMAN*

> Executive Director, 97%

> more than two decades of experience as a political strategist and government affairs advisor to Fortune 500 companies, members of Congress, and nonprofit organizations across the U.S.

> four years leading the federal government relations function at Broadcom. Other clients have included Boeing and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

> As a speechwriter, Matt has worked with elected officials including President Biden as well as NFL coaches, Academy Award-winning actors, motivational speakers and C-Suite executives.

> He also is a frequent commentator in the media and has appeared numerous times on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, BBC, and elsewhere.

ISSUE discussed: Is there a common sense solution to the problem of gun violence that can respect life AND preserve our rights to self protection?

(I always say if it wasn't for this culture that delights in killing babies and that is yelling from the rooftops every second of every day that we should be allowed to kill babies at any time we want and for any reason; the culture that teaches that we have THAT right... that teaches that life is NOT sacred or valued... it will NEVER change. WHY would it?)

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u:

www.97Percent.us

97Percent is a bipartisan group of gun owners and non-gun owners united in our mission to reduce gun-related deaths in America, while respecting the Second Amendment. We believe the way to do that is by changing the conversation around gun safety to include gun owners, conducting innovative research, and leveraging technology to make our communities safer.

Our name was inspired by a 2018 Quinnipiac University poll, which found that 97% of Americans support universal background checks: a critical gun safety policy that has yet to be made into federal law. While individual polls vary, support levels hover around 90% – a figure that represents unprecedented agreement on a topic generally viewed as intractable. We are

committed to making progress on solutions that both non-gun owners and gun owners want to make our country safer.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 26, 2023

Bipartisan Group 97Percent Launches “Aim for Change”: A Petition Only A Gun Owner Can Sign

The petition features four gun laws as a target that gun owners shoot to show their support

LOS ANGELES, California (April 26, 2023) – A new campaign launched by bipartisan group 97Percent Advocacy and Wunderman Thompson takes aim at gun safety by giving voice to a group usually shut out of the conversation: gun owners. “Aim for Change” is a petition in the form of a shooting range target that features four gun safety laws, which 97Percent’s research shows are supported by gun owners and could reduce gun-related homicides by 28% and gun-related suicides by 6%.

A short documentary-style video features gun owners at a range shooting at the bullseye on each policy to show their support. The signature line at the bottom of the petition reads: “I believe in the right to bear arms, but also in laws to keep America safe.” Those interested in signing the petition can digitally sign a target or print one to sign at aimforchange.us.

“Aim for Change gives gun owners a tangible way to voice support,” said 97Percent Co-Founder Adam Miller. “Our research clearly shows the majority of gun owners support key gun safety reforms, but they feel left out of the conversation. And most gun owners greatly underestimate support among their peers – which likely inhibits gun owners from speaking up. Aim for Change is a way to unite gun owners, as well as demonstrate to non-gun owners, the media, and legislators that this issue is not nearly as divisive as it is made out to be.”

97Percent’s research found a majority of gun owners are very concerned about the high level of gun-related violence in this country (66%). 71% percent of gun owners surveyed are concerned about the frequency of school shootings, 71% are concerned about the frequency of mass shootings, and 70% want to help find a way to reduce gun-related deaths and injuries.

And there’s agreement about how to reduce gun-related deaths. The most deeply held principle among gun owners is that people who are at the highest risk for violence should not be able to purchase or possess a gun. Using this principle, data on the specific provisions gun owners require to protect their Second Amendment rights, and a review of the efficacy of 60+ gun laws, 97Percent crafted a roadmap featuring four policies: closing the violent misdemeanor loophole, implementing state and federal background checks, passing state gun permits, and enacting red flag laws with due process protections. It is these four policies that appear on the petition.

The campaign was created by Wunderman Thompson North America, chosen from more than 100 ideas from the advertising agency’s employees who wanted to do something different to tackle the problem of gun-related violence after the elementary school shooting tragedy in Uvalde, Texas. The idea for “Aim for Change” stood out as a departure from the advertising industry’s typical anti-gun PSAs, which can alienate a large percentage of Americans in a country with 390 million guns. The agency brought the pro-bono idea to bipartisan organization

97Percent, who helped sharpen the focus of the project and provided valuable input on gun owners based on their extensive research.

“Gun violence isn’t slowing down in the United States. And we need to find common ground to make progress, which is why we partnered with 97Percent. They are all about approaching this issue differently, engaging gun owners, and finding pragmatic solutions,” said Tom Murphy, Chief Creative Officer at Wunderman Thompson. “The more we talked about this project, we realized how many ‘people like us’ are gun owners. 97Percent really opened our eyes to the majority of gun owners who could make a difference in our laws and needed a voice.”

US passes 200 mass shootings this year

The Hill

Seven shootings over the weekend, including a massacre at a Dallas-area outlet mall, brought the total number of mass shootings in the U.S. this year over 200, according to the nonprofit Gun Violence Archive (GVA).

This year, according to GVA’s tracker, there have been 202 incidents in which four or more people — other than the attacker — were shot.

In the past two years, the U.S. crossed 200 mass shootings in mid-May and, in 2020 and 2019, didn’t reach 200 until mid-to-late June. Between 2016 and 2018, the country passed 200 mass shootings in late July.

The GVA tracker logged three shooting incidents Saturday, including the incident at Allen Premium Outlets in Texas, where a gunman killed eight people and injured seven others before being fatally shot by police. One person was killed in a mass shooting in California and another in Ohio, and several others were injured in both states that same day.

Trump calls E. Jean Carroll verdict ‘a disgrace’ Family of Texas SUV crash survivor: ‘Please President Biden, we ask for your help’

Another four mass shooting incidents were recorded Sunday, killing five people total and injuring a dozen others in California, Missouri, New Jersey and Maryland.

The Texas shooting Saturday was the second-deadliest shooting this year, after the shooting in Monterey Park, Calif., where 11 people were killed. President Biden has decried the recent spate of shootings and urged Congress to act on gun control.

Last year, the GVA tracker recorded 647 total mass shootings in the U.S., for a total of 20,200 “willful, malicious or accidental” gun-related deaths and nearly 40,000 injuries.

April 26, 2023 – Pew Research

What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S.

More Americans died of gun-related injuries in 2021 than in any other year on record, according to the latest available statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

That included record numbers of both gun murders and gun suicides. Despite the increase in

such fatalities, the *rate* of gun deaths – a statistic that accounts for the nation’s growing population – remained below the levels of earlier decades.

Here’s a closer look at gun deaths in the United States, based on a Pew Research Center analysis of data from the CDC, the FBI and other sources. You can also read [key public opinion findings about U.S. gun violence and gun policy](#).

How we did this

How many people die from gun-related injuries in the U.S. each year?

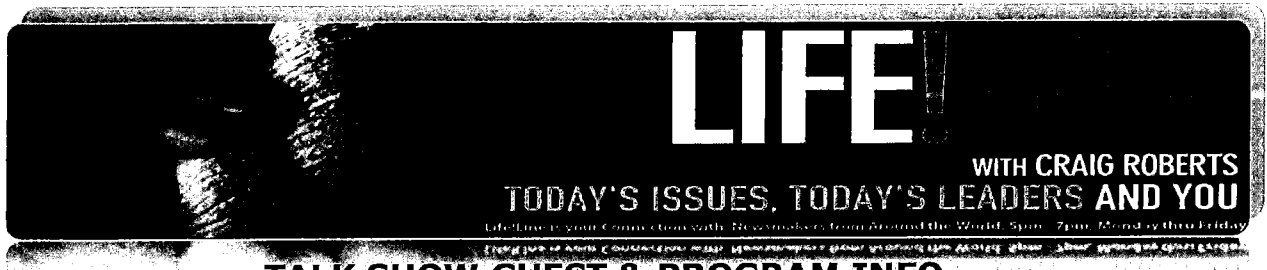
In 2021, the most recent year for which complete data is available, 48,830 people died from gun-related injuries in the U.S., according to the CDC. That figure includes gun murders and gun suicides, along with three less common types of gun-related deaths tracked by the CDC: those that were accidental, those that involved law enforcement and those whose circumstances could not be determined. The total excludes deaths in which gunshot injuries played a contributing, but not principal, role. (CDC fatality statistics are based on information contained in official death certificates, which identify a single cause of death.)

What share of U.S. gun deaths are murders and what share are suicides?

Though they tend to get less public attention than gun-related murders, [suicides have long accounted for the majority of U.S. gun deaths](#). In 2021, 54% of all gun-related deaths in the U.S. were suicides (26,328), while 43% were murders (20,958), according to the CDC. The remaining gun deaths that year were accidental (549), involved law enforcement (537) or had undetermined circumstances (458).

What share of *all* murders and suicides in the U.S. involve a gun?

About eight-in-ten U.S. murders in 2021 – 20,958 out of 26,031, or 81% – involved a firearm. That marked the highest percentage since at least 1968, the earliest year for which the CDC has online records. More than half of all suicides in 2021 – 26,328 out of 48,183, or 55% – also involved a gun, the highest percentage since 2001.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Thu., May 11, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45p

Guest: **JOE MURRAY**

> a Tennessee educator, attorney, and a former speechwriter for Patrick Buchanan. He is the author of "*Take Back Education,*" out January 11th

Issue Discussed: Who is George Santos? Should we require potential candidates to disclose prior criminal/civil legal issues before throwing their hats in the ring? The national debt ceiling... what next? An update on Trump verdict? He's ready to talk about anything...

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Congressman George Santos Charged with Fraud, Money Laundering, Theft of Public Funds, and False Statements

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Santos Allegedly Embezzled Contributions from Supporters, Fraudulently Obtained Unemployment Benefits, and Lied in Disclosures to the House of Representatives

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY – A 13-count indictment was unsealed today in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York charging George Anthony Devolder Santos, better known as "George Santos," a United States Congressman representing the Third District of New York, with seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public funds, and two counts of making materially false statements to the House of Representatives.

The indictment was returned yesterday under seal by a federal grand jury sitting in Central Islip, New York. Santos was arrested this morning and will be arraigned this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Arlene R. Lindsay at the federal courthouse in Central Islip, New York.

Breon Peace, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Kenneth A. Polite, Jr., Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, and Michael J. Driscoll, Assistant Director-in-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Field Office (FBI), and Anne T. Donnelly, District Attorney, Nassau County, announced the charges.

"This indictment seeks to hold Santos accountable for various alleged fraudulent schemes and brazen misrepresentations," stated United States Attorney Peace. "Taken together, the allegations in the indictment charge Santos with relying on repeated dishonesty and deception to ascend to the halls of Congress and enrich himself. He used political contributions to line his pockets, unlawfully applied for unemployment benefits that should have gone to New Yorkers who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic, and lied to the House of Representatives. My Office and our law enforcement partners will continue to aggressively root out corruption and self-dealing from our community's public institutions and hold public officials accountable to the constituents who elected them."

"The Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section is committed to rooting out fraud and corruption, especially when committed by our elected officials," said Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite, Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "As alleged, Santos engaged in criminal conduct intended to deceive and defraud the American public. As this indictment reflects, the Department of Justice will hold accountable anyone who engages in such criminality."

"As today's enforcement action demonstrates, the FBI remains committed to holding all equally accountable under the law. As we allege, Congressman Santos committed federal crimes, and he will now be forced to face the consequences of his actions. I would like to commend the diligent efforts of the investigative and prosecutorial teams in this matter," stated FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Driscoll.

"At the height of the pandemic in 2020, George Santos allegedly applied for and received unemployment benefits while he was employed and running for Congress," stated District Attorney Donnelly. "As charged in the indictment, the defendant's alleged behavior continued during his second run for Congress when he pocketed campaign contributions and used that money to pay down personal debts and buy designer clothing. This indictment is the result of a lengthy collaboration between law enforcement agencies, and I thank our partners at the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their dedication to rooting out public corruption."

Mr. Peace also thanked the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL), and the Queens County District Attorney's Office for their assistance.

As alleged in the indictment, Santos, who was elected to Congress last November and sworn in as the U.S. Representative for New York's Third Congressional District on January 7, 2023, engaged in multiple fraudulent schemes.

Debt ceiling standoff Everything you need to know.

President Biden set to meet again with Republican leaders as he weighs using the 14th Amendment to sidestep Congress.

As the U.S. veers toward a potentially devastating default on its debts, Republican leaders are set to meet with President Biden on Friday to discuss an end to the impasse.

Republicans said they would tie spending cuts to raising the debt ceiling during last year's midterms, which saw the GOP take the House with a small majority. House Republicans passed a bill in April that would raise the debt ceiling but attached numerous other provisions that would freeze government spending and gut a number of Biden's signature programs.

Because Republicans only narrowly control the House, Speaker Kevin McCarthy can afford only a few defections as he tries to keep the various factions in his caucus united behind his plan.

The GOP bill put work requirements for recipients of Medicaid and SNAP benefits (food stamps), slashed tax incentives meant to fight climate change, cut funding to the Internal Revenue Service and blocked Biden's student debt relief plan. Biden has insisted that he won't negotiate any spending cuts with GOP leaders until the debt limit is raised.

"I said I'd come back and talk," Biden said Tuesday. "There's one thing I'm ruling out is default. I'm not going to pass a budget that, in fact, caused massive cuts."

The so-called "X-date" of when the government will run out of funds could come as early as June 1, per Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

Reuters reported Monday that Yellen was personally calling CEOs to warn them of the "catastrophic" impact of a default, which would likely trigger a devastating recession and kill millions of jobs.

Congress instituted the debt ceiling in 1917 to allow the Treasury Department to issue payments without going through Congress every time it needed to borrow money. It has to be raised periodically because the government spends more money than it takes in.

The debt ceiling is often raised with little drama. Under President Trump, for example, Republicans agreed to raise the ceiling three times without any demands — what's known as a "clean raise."

Biden — who was vice president during the debt ceiling showdowns of 2011 and 2013 — wants a clean raise. Republicans, meanwhile, are using the prospect of default as leverage to demand spending cuts.

Dianne Feinstein returns to the Senate following a nearly 3-month absence and resignation calls from fellow Democrats

- Sen. Dianne Feinstein returned to the US Senate on Wednesday.
- It came after nearly 3 months away from Washington due to complications from a shingles infection.
- Several fellow Democrats called for her to resign, arguing her absence imperiled their party's agenda.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein is back at the Capitol.

The 89-year-old California Democrat returned to work this week after spending nearly 3 months away from Washington due to complications from a shingles infection.

In a statement issued through her office, Feinstein said she's "still experiencing some side effects" from the virus and would be working a "lighter schedule." Those side effects include vision and balance impairments, requiring her to use a wheelchair at times.

"I'm hopeful those issues will subside as I continue to recover," she added.

Feinstein, the oldest sitting US senator, announced days before her absence began in February that she would not seek re-election in 2024. Several Democrats are already running to succeed her, including Reps. Adam Schiff, Katie Porter and Barbara Lee.

But her prolonged absence created a deadlock on the Senate Judiciary Committee, preventing Democrats from swiftly advancing nominees to the floor that lacked Republican support.

As concerns over Feinstein's absence grew, the California Democrat agreed to step down from the committee and allow Sen. Ben Cardin — a Maryland Democrat who's also retiring after 2024 — to replace her. But Republicans blocked that effort.

Meanwhile, some House Democrats, including Reps. Ro Khanna of California, Dean Phillips of Minnesota, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York called on Feinstein to resign.

"Her refusal to either retire or show up is causing great harm to the judiciary," Ocasio-Cortez wrote on the social network Bluesky recently.

Feinstein arrived at the Capitol just before 3pm on Wednesday and was greeted by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

She did not respond to shouted questions from reporters — though she said she was feeling "much better."

George Santos A Con Man Who Happened to Trade in Politics

In federal prosecutors' eyes, Mr. Santos is a grifter with a taste for fame and designer goods, willing to lie and defraud donors to get ahead.

By all appearances, the summer of 2020 was a very good time for George Santos. He was pulling in a six-figure salary from a Florida-based investment firm, and he had won the Republican Party's support as a first-time candidate contesting a Long Island House seat.

Yet that June, Mr. Santos presented the State of New York with a very different story. According to federal prosecutors, he falsely claimed that he was unemployed in order to twist open a spigot of pandemic-era jobless benefits that eventually amounted to \$24,000.

For the entirety of his public life, Mr. Santos has been a man shrouded in myths. He cast himself as a self-made American success story, spinning audacious lies about university degrees, fast cars and vast wealth. And when that persona unraveled, fellow politicians and the media fixated on the idea that he was a criminal mastermind evading detection.

The searing 13-count indictment unveiled by federal prosecutors from the Eastern District of New York on Wednesday cut through all of that. It cemented a story closer to "The Great Gatsby," "The Talented Mr. Ripley" or other mainstays of a popular subgenre of frauds that snakes like a corrupt seam through American life.

In prosecutors' telling, George Santos, defendant, is just another grifter with a taste for fame and designer goods, willing to lie and defraud wealthy people to get what he wants. That the stage happens to be politics seems incidental: As a two-time congressional candidate, he took advantage of donors, state officials and even the House of Representatives.

"It feels like a particularly American story," said Amy Reading, a historian of American cons, before referencing Mr. Santos's work for a Florida firm cited by the S.E.C. for wrongdoing. "Here you have someone who worked for an actual Ponzi scheme, while falsely claiming unemployment benefits in a global pandemic, and then he fell up to Congress."

Former Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a Long Island Republican whose name graces the courthouse where Mr. Santos was arraigned, was more blunt.

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"He's a two-bit thief," he said. "He is dead in the water. They got him good."



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., May 16, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: JERRY BOWYER

- > financial economist, a public speaker for business conferences, a frequent radio and television guest, an author and a journalist.
- > Publisher of Affluent Investor Daily

Issue Discussed: debt limit ceiling; JPMorgan Chase annual meeting (this morning) where our proposal was put on the ballot asking the bank to conduct an audit of how they make decisions about debanking customers. The issue was the cancellation of accounts held by Christians, particularly Ambassador Sam Brownback.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

www.AffluentInvestor.com

Here's where Biden and McCarthy stand on debt ceiling talks heading into today's meeting

KEY POINTS

- President Joe Biden will meet with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday afternoon alongside other top congressional leaders to try to come to an agreement on raising the debt limit.
- Staff from both sides have been working daily since the leaders met last week to try to come to a deal before early June, when the federal government could run out of money.
- The leaders left their meeting a week ago with little progress to show.

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is set to meet with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday afternoon alongside other top congressional leaders to discuss the debt ceiling, a day before Biden is slated to head to Japan for the Group of Seven summit.

Behind the scenes, staff from both sides have been working daily since the leaders met last week to try to come to a deal before June, when the federal government could run out of money. The leaders left the previous meeting with little progress to show.

“I really think there’s a desire on their part, as well as ours, to reach an agreement, and I think we’ll be able to do it,” Biden told reporters Sunday in Delaware. As to his state of mind, he said, “I remain optimistic because I’m a congenital optimist.”

McCarthy sang a different tune, telling NBC News on Monday outside the Capitol, “I still think we’re far apart.”

“It doesn’t seem to me yet that they want a deal,” McCarthy said. “It seems like they want to look like they’re in a meeting. They’re not talking anything serious.”

Biden and McCarthy were slated to meet again Friday with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who attended the last meeting, but that was postponed as negotiations continued behind the scenes. Vice President Kamala Harris will also attend this time.

A source familiar with the meetings told NBC News that the delay is a positive development and a sign that talks were “progressing.”

The White House has maintained that Biden intends to go to the G-7 summit in Japan later this week, but the president himself has said that could change depending on the debt ceiling talks. After the G-7 trip, Biden was slated to travel to Papua New Guinea before going to Australia for a meeting of the leaders of the “Quad” nations, the U.S., Australia, Japan and India.

McCarthy told reporters it was critical that they reach a deal before this weekend so the bill would have enough time to pass through both chambers of Congress and make it back to the president’s desk for signing.

The discussions have high stakes: Defaulting on sovereign debt would wreak havoc on the economy and roil global markets. A default on Treasury bonds could throw the U.S. economy into a tailspin. The last time congressional Republicans threatened a default in 2011, Standard & Poor's downgraded the U.S. credit rating for the first time ever to AA+ from AAA.

Lifting the debt ceiling is necessary for the government to cover spending commitments already approved by Congress and the president and prevent default. Doing so does not authorize new spending. But House Republicans have said they will not lift the limit if Biden and lawmakers do not agree to future spending cuts.

The Treasury Department has taken extraordinary steps to keep paying the government's bills, and expects to be able to avoid a first-ever default at least until early June. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned last week failure to hike the debt ceiling would cause an "economic catastrophe."

If the U.S. were to default, gross domestic product would drop 4% and more than 7 million workers would lose their jobs, Moody's Analytics recently projected. Even a brief default would lead to the loss of 2 million jobs, according to the data.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Tu., May 16, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-6pm

Guest: **VERNE TYLER**
> *Founder, Hosanna Homes & Hosanna Parent Project*

Issue Discussed: Raising Godly Children

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u: n/a

www.HosannaPathways.org & www.ParentProject.com

Raising Godly Children

Empowering Parents, Transforming Kids

The Parent Purposefully classes aim to empower parents with Christian faith-based parenting principles and skills to raise respectful and responsible children. Parents learn and practice prevention and intervention strategies in an interactive support group setting, particularly for strong-willed, oppositional, and destructive juvenile behaviors.

Parents are self-referred or can be referred by public/private schools, law enforcement officers, court systems, juvenile probation, mental health services, social welfare agencies, churches, and community support agencies.

While The Parent Project® curriculum is primarily directed to parents experiencing challenging behavior from their pre-teen and teenaged children, the content is fundamental for parents of all-aged children who wish to develop parenting skills to avoid potential future challenges with their child(ren). Twenty-four hours of class (one to two hours of weekly training) training per class series are scheduled throughout the school year.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tue., May 23, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm

Guest: **BOB ZADEK**

- > Founder of LendersFunding.com and host of the longest-running libertarian talk show in the country, The Bob Zadek Show, broadcast live on 860 AM, KTRB – The Answer – every Sunday at 8am.
- > Bob's passions are American history, entrepreneurship, Libertarianism and his number one fan and significant other Anne.
- > author of a BRAND NEW e-book, *Secret Sauce: The Founders' Original Recipe for Limited American Democracy.* (self published)

Issue Discussed: a CATO Institute event he attended last week where they awarded the Milton Friedman award to a Chinese dissident named Jimmy Lai, who is in prison and being denied his civil liberties for running a newspaper and advocating free speech in China.

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/a: [REDACTED]

www.BobZadek.com

The Acton Institute, which blends Christian values with economic freedom, is championing his cause in a new film (video link to trailer of film was sent via email)

Geopolitical Context

The agreement between the UK and China regarding the 99-year lease in Hong Kong is commonly known as the Sino-British Joint Declaration. It was signed on December 19, 1984, and outlined the terms of the handover of Hong Kong from British colonial rule to Chinese sovereignty. The agreement stipulated that Hong Kong would become a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China starting from July 1, 1997.

It also guaranteed the continuation of Hong Kong's existing legal system, civil liberties, and autonomy for 50 years under a principle known as "One Country, Two Systems."

However, since China reasserted authority over Hong Kong, there has been growing concern about the erosion of civil liberties and the tightening control of the Chinese government.

The following are some key developments:

1. **National Security Law: In June 2020, China imposed a new National Security Law on Hong Kong.** The law criminalizes activities related to secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign forces. Critics argue that the law is vague and broad, allowing the authorities to suppress dissent and target pro-democracy activists and journalists.
2. **Crackdown on Pro-democracy Activists:** Many prominent pro-democracy activists and politicians have been arrested, charged, or disqualified from running for office. This includes figures like Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Jimmy Lai. Political parties advocating for greater democracy have faced restrictions, and some have disbanded due to the pressure.
3. **Disqualification of Legislators:** Several pro-democracy lawmakers have been disqualified from the Legislative Council (LegCo) on various grounds, leading to a significant loss of opposition voices within the legislature. The disqualifications have been based on reasons such as their support for self-determination or failure to uphold the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini-constitution.
4. **Restrictions on Freedom of Expression:** Press freedom and freedom of expression have faced increasing challenges. Media outlets perceived as critical of the Chinese government have come under scrutiny, with journalists facing pressure, harassment, and arrests. **The closure of Apple Daily, a prominent pro-democracy newspaper, in June 2021 is a notable example.**
5. **Changes to Election Laws:** The Chinese government implemented reforms to Hong Kong's electoral system, reducing the number of directly elected seats in the LegCo and introducing measures to ensure only "patriots" can hold positions of power. Critics argue that these changes aim to further marginalize pro-democracy voices and restrict the possibility of genuine democratic representation.

These developments have raised concerns among human rights organizations, governments, and journalists about the erosion of civil liberties and the shrinking space for dissent in Hong Kong.

Jimmy Lai and Apple Daily

The closure of Apple Daily, a prominent pro-democracy newspaper in Hong Kong, marked a significant blow to press freedom in the region. Apple Daily was known for its critical reporting on the Chinese government and its support for pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Tue., May 23, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-5:45pm**

Guest: **CAROL LIEBAU**

- > Salem Editorial Board Member
- > President of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy.
- > She is also an attorney, political analyst, and conservative commentator.
- > author, "Prude: How the Sex-Obsessed Culture Damages Girls" (2007)

Issues Discussed: the golden state is in trouble

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u: n/a

www.TownhallReview.com www.YankeelInstitute.org

Things Aren't So Golden in the Golden State

Not long ago, Gavin Newsom started a tour to attack the policies of red state governors. But perhaps he'd be better advised to tend to his own state's business before he goes meddling.

Just this weekend, Newsom announced California's budget deficit will be \$9 billion dollars higher than the twenty-two-and-a-half-billion dollar deficit he announced earlier this year.

This bad news comes on the back of the state's \$32 billion dollars in pandemic era unemployment insurance fraud. And California has defaulted on \$18.6 billion dollars in federal loans it borrowed to address the state's unemployment fund deficit. Now its businesses are on the hook.

Newsom has his eye on The White House. But he'd clearly be failing up. Given his spotty record at home, if he keeps on telling other governors how to do their jobs, the blowback won't be pretty.



PROGRAM DATE: Wed., May 24, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: J. OTIS LEDBETTER

- > Lead pastor at Sunrise Church in Clovis, California, he holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Liberty University.
- > Author of his latest book, ***Set Free: Released from the Damage of Trauma*** (Independent Publisher 2022) ; *Your Heritage: How to Be Intentional about the Legacy You Leave* and *Soul Hunger: Satisfying Your Heart's Deepest Longing*.
- > popular conference speaker

Issue Discussed: latest book, *Set Free: Released from the Damage of Trauma*; over the past 6 months, there have been over 200 mass shootings (more than 3 dead) in this country. What in the world is going on? HOW/WHAT we can do, in terms of our mental health, to change the trend...

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
Guest backup: [REDACTED] (Church landline)

www.JoLedbetter.com or **www.HeritageBuildersGlobal.com**

"Everyone experiences anxiety, and no one is exempt. I believe anxiety may be one of the most powerful weapons the Devil has to create discouragement."

"Anguish is an emotional ambulance chaser on the tail of a traumatic event."

California Pastor, Trauma Specialist Reacts to Shootings over the past 6 months (over 200)

State ranks #1 in toughest gun-control laws

Clovis, California -- Mass shootings have left communities traumatized, mourning the victims, and wondering how this could happen. Who deliberately murders a 10-month-old baby?

Where do we focus the outrage and what can be done – questions we inevitably ask when faced with senseless trauma.

Communities are left feeling an emotional overload, a toxic stew of fear, stress, anxiety, frustration, anger, hopelessness. Dr. J. Otis Ledbetter is a trauma specialist and pastor. He says, “Trauma creates one of four groupings: victims, offenders, quitters — and if you are resilient, eager and fearless survivors.” As many feel in the wake of senseless shooting, “Trauma makes life unsafe enough to persuade us to live by lies.”

The author of *Set Free: Released from the Damage of Trauma* explains “*Life without answers often creates a path to anguish.*” *And the uncertainty that is constantly placed in front of us – shooting, pandemic, nuclear war, global warming, high crime – all just add to our sense of powerlessness. “Answers are the only exit out of disconnection, into healing.”*

Pushing tougher gun control laws doesn’t change what’s in the heart of people. With the toughest laws in the country, California is not immune to gun violence. In fact, the top ten toughest states for gun control are all run by Democrats. With so many factors involved, the tendency is to pass ever more regulation without addressing the root problems. Ultimately, the absence of God in our lives leaves us feeling helpless and hopeless.

Ledbetter says trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event, shock and denial are typical reactions. Longer term impacts include unpredictable emotions, physical or emotional strain, and difficult relationships. According to Dr. Ledbetter, everyone is forced to deal with trauma at some point in life but not everyone handles it the same way. Even for those people of faith, he says, “One does not normally jump from debilitating fear immediately to sustained faith.”

Chances are every human being has suffered trauma at some level. How an individual reacts to the traumatic event will determine its duration. This manuscript will speak mainly to those whose enduring trauma hasn’t already become an overpowering psychological confusion. If you are wrestling with an abiding, severe emotional/psychological aftermath caused by the traumas of war, rape, or abandoned by parents, etc., please seek in-depth professional help. But for those who have had bad things happen and are years later, still struggling and suffering from the chronic reaction to that trauma, there is hope!

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

1. We have seen depression and suicide increase, especially among teens. What do you make of this trend?
2. In light of the recent Nashville school shooting, what would you counsel to these hurting kids and parents?
3. Can you give us an overview of the symptoms of trauma?
4. Do you think people of faith tend to be more reluctant to acknowledge their depression or trauma?
5. You write, “You don’t stumble across a happy life, you create it.” How do we do this?
6. What do you mean by “the trauma of the unknown?”
7. You say that trauma affects us all. What are some of the effects?
8. Is there a link between trauma and fear? If so, what does this look like?

Among the details, according to that Republican: An agreement to lift the debt limit through 2024, a procedure in place to incentivize Congress to pass all 12 spending bills and a plan to claw back unspent Covid money. The two sides are also still working out the GOP's demands for work requirements for certain safety net programs.

An aide to Speaker Kevin McCarthy did not respond to a request for comment on the list. When asked how many members saw the list, Burchett smiled and told reporters: "Next question."

One of the concerned lawmakers was Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.), a member of the conservative Freedom Caucus who has repeatedly stated he didn't want anything less than what the House GOP passed as their debt plan last month.

McCarthy "doesn't have the 218 on that unless he gets Democrats," Norman said of the emerging proposal, noting he saw the list from Burchett. "If he gets Democrats, that's a telltale sign."

"If that were true, that would absolutely collapse the Republican majority for this debt-ceiling increase," he said.

The rising conservative angst over what could resemble a final deal is a preview of the intense whipping operation that GOP leaders will need to begin once they've locked down an agreement. While conservatives were always unlikely to support an agreement with Democrats, it's a glimpse at the fury that could erupt on McCarthy's right flank over a Biden-approved deal — and that anger could have lingering implications for the Californian's speakership long after the debt crisis is defused.

Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fla.), citing "some of the things that are being thrown around," said he doesn't see the point in discussing Congress passing 12 appropriations bills if "the spending is frankly too high."

"I think if the speaker negotiates that with the President, the speaker will find out there's a lot of Republicans who won't be agreeing with the speaker," he said.

Adding to the pressure they are beginning to apply, the House Freedom Caucus on Thursday publicly released a letter members sent to McCarthy, where they argued the current unity of the House GOP hinges on how he chooses to move forward: "As you navigate the debt limit debate, you are the steward of this [GOP] unity and will determine whether it continues to strengthen and places a historic stamp on this Congress or evaporates," the Trump-aligned group wrote.

Conservative lawmakers argued for three "specific actions." They wanted McCarthy pushing to include in any debt deal "additional provisions" to what was passed in the House GOP bill, called for the party to demand Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen share how she arrived at June 1 as the earliest date of a potential default and argued Republicans should pass a short-term agreement with limited cuts that would extend the debt ceiling through June.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Tue., May 30, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:35-6pm**

Guest: **MICHAEL LETTS**

- > Founder, President, and CEO of InVest USA, a national grassroots non-profit organization that is helping hundreds of communities provide thousands of bulletproof vests for their police forces through educational, public relations, sponsorship, and fundraising programs.
- > over 30 years of law enforcement experience under his belt, hence his pro-police stance for his brothers and sisters in blue.
- > an analyst on international matters, especially China.

Issue discussed: the implications of China's ventures into space and how they may impact the global scene

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u: N/A

www.MichaelLetts.us

Is China About To Weaponize Space, including the Moon?

As farfetched as the idea sounds, law enforcement veteran Michael Letts believes it's a possibility.

In a move that should alarm Americans everywhere, China has suspiciously escalated its space program, launching a new crew for its space station with an ominous goal of landing astronauts on the moon before 2030. This comes as the country flexes its power in the global arena, potentially setting the stage for a potential space weaponization agenda.

The crew, made up of Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu, and Gui Haichao, blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, marking the country's fifth manned mission to the space station since 2021. Gui Haichao, notably the first civilian astronaut, is a professor at China's prestigious aeronautics institution Beihang University.

This raises serious questions about the possible dual use of their science and technology programs, with civilian research potentially being co-opted for more nefarious military purposes.

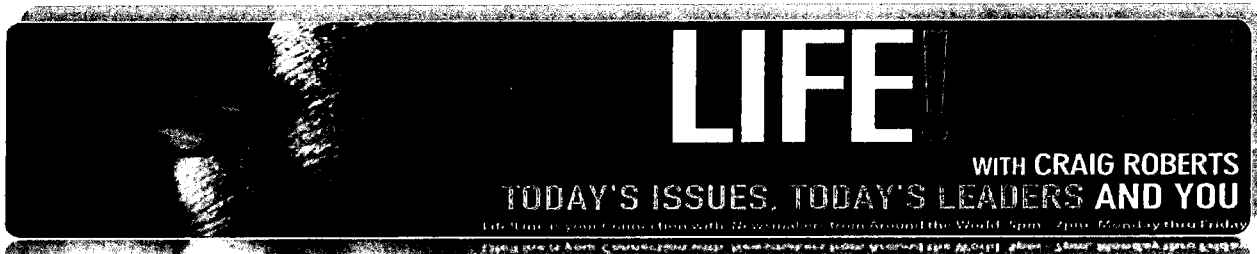
China's rapid advancements in space capabilities, including the establishment of its Tiangong space station, have been noted with caution by many observers. The fact that they are planning to add a fourth module to the station to advance support for scientific experiments and provide the crew with improved working and living conditions further fuels speculations about their true intentions². Are these supposed "scientific experiments" just a front for the development of advanced space-based weaponry?

Furthermore, it's worth noting that China built its own space station after it was excluded from the International Space Station, largely due to U.S. objections over the Chinese space programs' close ties to the People's Liberation Army. This shadow of military influence in the civilian space program raises alarm bells about China's future plans for space weaponization.

China's ambitious lunar program, coupled with its push for expanded space station capabilities, may be less about scientific exploration and more about establishing strategic military advantages in space. While the U.S. aims to put astronauts back on the lunar surface by the end of 2025 as part of a renewed commitment to crewed missions, China is planning a "short stay on the lunar surface and human-robotic joint exploration." This seemingly innocuous "joint exploration" could potentially be a cover for deploying advanced surveillance or even weapon systems on the moon.

Worse still, China's deputy director of its space agency has stated that they have a "complete near-Earth human space station and human round-trip transportation system," and a process for selecting, training and supporting new astronauts. This could be interpreted as China preparing a cadre of military-trained astronauts to command future space-based weapons platforms.

In light of the recent developments with China's space program, we would like to offer Michael Letts, the esteemed founder and CEO of InVest USA, as a guest for your next interview. With his extensive knowledge and insightful perspective, Michael Letts is well-equipped to discuss, particularly from a conservative standpoint.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Wed. May 31, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:30pm**

Guest: DR. TIM ELMORE

- > author of his recently released, *A New Kind of Diversity: Making the Different Generations on Your Team a Competitive Advantage* (published by Maxwell Leadership) and over 35 other books including *Habitudes: Images That Form Leadership Habits and Attitudes*, and *Eight Paradoxes of Great Leadership*
- > Founder and CEO of Growing Leaders, an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization encouraging and equipping emerging leaders
- > served with Dr. John C. Maxwell for over 20 years
- > He has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Psychology Today*, and he's been featured on both *Fox and Friends* and *CNN's Headline News* to talk about leading multiple generations in the marketplace.

Issue Discussed: leading multiple generations in the marketplace

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u: [REDACTED]

www.TimElmore.com or www.GrowingLeaders.com

A NEW KIND OF DIVERSITY: Making Different Generations on Your Team a Competitive Advantage

"Never before has there been five generations in the workplace – as the gap widens the challenges increase."

Today's workforce looks vastly different from how it looked a decade ago. Businesses feel the impact of record-level employee resignations, greater compensation demands, and widening cultural and generational gaps. The gap intensifies because of clashing perspectives, convictions, and culture sensitivities and income. Each generation's different values, customs, and languages can create a disjointed work environment fraught with miscommunication, resentment, avoidance, and division.

For more than thirty years, Dr. Tim Elmore, organizational leader, founder, and CEO of Growing Leaders, a nonprofit organization equipping leaders, has observed a steady increase in diversity among generational subcultures.

Dr. Elmore believes the Builders, Baby Boomers, Baby Busters (Gen X), Millennials (Gen Y), and the Coronials (Gen Z) each possess unique qualities, mindsets, and talents. However, he believes with proper understanding and guidance, leaders can use these generational differences to build thriving, influential, and valuable teams. Dr. Elmore has published over 35 books, including his latest: ***A New Kind of Diversity: Making Different Generations on Your Team a Competitive Advantage*** (Maxwell Leadership).

In it, Dr. Elmore describes each generation, identifies their value in the workforce, explains how to leverage their contributions, and shares best practices for developing social and emotional intelligence within teams.

Suggested topics:

- ***Identifying and Understanding the Generational Clash:*** Become aware of the challenges that conflicting convictions, customs, and languages bring to teams of varying generations. Better understand and respect their differences to help them connect with each other.
- ***Bridging the Generational Gap:*** Schedule multigenerational events and activities. When generations are in debate, first identify concepts on which they can agree. Explain your temperament when giving feedback and share how you filter and relay information. Express your personal narrative for accuracy.
- ***Acknowledging Generational Contributions:*** instead of stereotyping, appreciate each generation's contributions and influences in the workforce, learn from their experiences, and realize both their negative and positive impacts. Recognize the strengths each one possesses.
- ***Comparing and Contrasting Generational Responses to Leadership:*** Converse with the generations to understand their values. Play chess not checkers with differences in their perspectives on self-awareness, communication, motivation, feedback, evaluation and change.
- ***Winning Over a Team Member:*** Prepare to earn trust with your team. Relationships grow deeper through personal interaction. Cultivate incentives and discuss the benefits of reaching goals. Grant ownership to your team, as they will support what they helped create. Offer hope to prevent team members from operating out of unreasonable fear.
- ***Becoming a Teacher and a Learner:*** Establish reverse mentoring relationships across your team. Offer a sequence of questions. Consistently commit to learning new things. Schedule regularly recurring times for personal or professional growth on the team's calendar.

A New Kind of Diversity enables leaders and managers to understand, not stereotype, their younger and older colleagues and maximize their differences to create a successful workplace. Those with experience can coach others on timeless values and skills, and those with intuition can offer insight into where our world is going and what lies ahead. Great leaders strive to be people-centric and other-focused and understand the importance of reading their people before leading them.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.

5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tue., June 6, 2023 (or the weekend of)

PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: *DR. KYM McNICHOLAS*

> Emmy Award-winning journalist

> Founder. The Way to My Heart

Issue Discussed: Heart health; PAD (peripheral artery disease); symptoms/treatment options

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u:

www.TheWayToMyHeart.org

Kym is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who started The Way To My Heart after covering a story in which she was not satisfied with the ending. The story began with travel around the world over the last five years to nearly a dozen countries and more than two dozen States to cover, as a journalist, the FDA Clearance process & global commercialization of what some told her could be a game-changing device in unblocking arteries.

During her journey, Kym observed thousands of hours of procedures in which Vascular Specialists used multiple methods to unblock arteries in legs and heart, interviewed hundreds of doctors and patients, and met with dozens of medical device-makers, as well as hospital and Office-Based Lab/Ambulatory Surgery Center administrators.

Through that experience she discovered many heart attacks, strokes, and amputations are preventable with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, which includes the use of advanced tools and techniques.

That's when she decided to create a nonprofit focused on education, high-touch advocacy, and real-time support for P.A.D. patients around the world to help them navigate the healthcare system throughout their P.A.D. journey so they could live a better quality of life.

Since inception, The Way To My Heart has provided education, advocacy, and support for more than 10,000 patients, directly saving the limbs of more than 500 no-option patients.

About "The Way To My Heart"

OUR MISSION is to support P.A.D. patients, caregivers, and providers through high-touch advocacy, education, and interaction. Our high-touch approach is successful in getting patients to the right physician and to comply with lifestyle modifications to delay procedures and prolong procedure results. We are on the front lines with physicians and at vascular conferences around the world to keep our knowledge current, allowing us to lead in patient education, advocacy, and support.

OUR VISION is to improve the quality of lives of P.A.D. sufferers. We are scaling our efforts to partner with hundreds of thousands of patients and caregivers globally. We are dramatically reducing healthcare costs by eliminating unnecessary amputation and improving patient outcomes through our partnership with patients and lifestyle modification programs.

OUR BELIEF is that through providing patients with a trusted true friend in health, we can improve their quality of life. Lifestyle modification, pharmacotherapy, endovascular treatment, intervention and surgery should all be exhausted before amputation. Patient outcomes and durability will improve with our programs, working alongside device and vascular specialists, to lower healthcare costs and improve patient experiences.

OUR PROGRAMS provide real-time, scalable, advocacy and support for patients through support by our wellness team. Our programs and available resources lead to earlier testing/diagnosis, more productive & satisfying conversations between patients and physicians, and long-term adherence to lifestyle modifications.

OUR PURPOSE is to reduce the 1.5 million heart attacks and strokes each year, 200,000 amputations annually, and deadly comorbidity complications due to viruses.

YOUR SUPPORT helps us bridge that gap between diagnosis, treatment, and compliance TOGETHER. We are funded through donations from physicians, industry, and individuals. Donate now.

We are a federal tax exempt 501(c)(3) incorporated in California, EIN: 84-3065768

My legs hurt! My feet are cold! My ankles are swollen!

Doctor says, *"You have poor circulation, part of getting older."*

~or~

"You have Peripheral Neuropathy and there's nothing I can do."
Don't settle for that!

You might have a vascular disease that needs treatment!

CAUSE

Plaque build-up in the arteries is triggered by a variety of factors. It could be environmental, genetic, or lifestyle. Plaque build-up is generally the body's inflammatory response to "bandaid" artery damage caused by hypertension, stress, diet, smoking, and/or diabetes. Advanced blood work can help get to the root cause.

CURE

PAD does not have a cure. But you can slow disease progression significantly by getting to the root cause of what's damaging your arteries, making critical lifestyle modifications, and timely treatment. Online research will reveal a 5-year mortality for PAD. Early diagnosis and newer interventional approaches have improved the prognosis. Patients are walking 20 years after diagnosis with the right treatment.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

There are two classifications for PAD: Claudicant and Critical Limb Ischemia, which is advanced stage. If diagnosed in its early stages, PAD can be managed with Pharma, and Lifestyle modifications (Diet, Exercise, etc.).

Walking is the best medicine in the early stages because your body may have the ability to re-route blood flow around blockages with a regimented walking program. Advanced stages may require intervention using endovascular (minimally invasive tools and techniques) or invasive procedures such as bypass and amputation. Don't let your doctor brush off leg pain and cramping as old age, poor circulation or neuropathy.

EARLY TREATMENT

Getting a referral to an interventional vascular specialist soonest is critical to begin taking steps to slow disease progression.

Discuss critical pharma, exercise, and diet, and supplement options that will make a big big difference.

Walking is critical to improving symptoms as your body grows collateral vessels to increase blood flow around artery narrowing with every step you take.

Walking a lot can help delay surgical treatment and increase the timespan between follow-up surgical interventions.

SURGICAL INTERVENTION

If caught early, most Interventional Vascular Specialists will tell you to walk until you experience what's called, "Lifestyle Limiting Claudication." Most patients early on can walk a short distance, stop for a few when legs tighten up, and can continue to walk a little more after a 90 second break.

Your Interventional Vascular Specialist will consider an Angiogram, a minimally invasive surgical treatment to improve blood flow when you can no longer maintain an active lifestyle because the pain and cramping is unbearable due to plaque has caused a narrowing and stiffness in your arteries.

Angiograms are typically are outpatient procedures performed under light sedation and take anywhere between one to three hours.

Doctors usually will start with a simple puncture in the groin area and follow with a wire to navigate the vessel. A balloon may follow to lightly push plaque aside but heavy plaque build-up may require what's called an "Atherectomy" device, which physically removes the plaque either with a blade, audiowaves, or laser (Rotational, Orbital, Directional, Audiowave, Laser).

If a doctor is highly skilled in new Interventional techniques for revascularizing arteries, (s)he will be less likely to suggest bypass or amputation.

WHO TREATS PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE?

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOCTOR FOR YOU

This is a life & limb saving decision that should not be taken lightly.

There are three primary practices which treat Peripheral Artery Disease:

- Interventional Cardiologist
- Interventional Radiologist
- Vascular Surgeon

Some overlap in their treatment approach, others do not. Some are highly trained in newer minimally invasive procedures and others are heavily trained in invasive bypass & amputation. Upon referral, most general practitioners don't know the Vascular Specialist's approach for treatment.

You must research.

Different doctors have different limitations, whether it's standard protocols, monetary, exclusive vendor relationships for tools, or skillset that may impact your long-term prognosis.

Each one is likely to tell you that if they can't do it, no one else can either and their way is the best way. It may be true. It may not, even at the most prestigious hospitals and with doctors who have the highest pedigree.

But it's not worth taking the chance.

Ask questions about...

- their standard approach, go-to tools, and their threshold for revascularizing arteries in a minimally invasive way before giving up and choosing bypass or amputation
- how do they minimize trauma to the vessel to ensure long-term patency
- whether they are highly trained in revascularizing small vessels below-the-knee,



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Thu. June 22, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:15pm

Guest: **PETE PETERSON**

> Dean & Sr. Fellow, Pepperdine School of Public Policy - Davenport Institute at Pepperdine University

Issue discussed: Democrats Introduce Bill to Make College Tuition Free, Say Taxes Will Pay for Initiative

PROGRAM GUEST CONTACT #: [REDACTED]

b/u:

PublicPolicy.Pepperdine.edu

PROGRESSIVES REINTRODUCE BILL IN CONGRESS TO ELIMINATE COLLEGE TUITION

By Kaitlyn Kennedy

Washington DC - Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Pramila Jayapal teamed up on Wednesday to reintroduce a bill in Congress that would make public colleges and universities tuition-free!

Senator Bernie Sanders speaks at a rally in support of student debt cancellation in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington DC.

The bicameral College for All Act would eliminate tuition and fees for most families and make community college free.

It would allow students from single households making less than \$125,000 a year and married households making less than \$250,000 a year to go to public colleges and universities without having to pay tuition.



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

**PROGRAM DATE: Thu. June 22, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:20-5:45pm**

Guest: **JAMES CZERNIAWSKI** (CHUR-NOW-SKEE)
> Senior policy analyst in Technology and Innovation at Americans For Prosperity

Issues discussed: **Biden's AI speech and the growing controversies surrounding AI; is it a help or a hindrance? Tool or weapon? Good for society or not?**

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/u:

www.AmericansForProsperity.org

James Czerniawski's full press statement after Biden's AI remarks:

"Biden's brief remarks on AI are yet another reminder that this administration has a problematic view on emerging technologies. While the president did acknowledge the vast benefits the technology can provide to society, he spent much of his remarks opining on the very top-down restrictive measures he would like to see taken on this novel technology, many of which would undermine U.S. leadership in the race to dominate and develop this promising technology. Notably, he made a critical mistake in likening AI to social media to justify this heavy-handed approach. The only thing that AI and social media have in common is that they are transformative technologies. It would be a terrible mistake to treat AI, a unique piece of technology, to something that is fundamentally different in social media. American leadership and ability to dominate and develop this promising technology rests on our ability to create rules that support, not stifle the tech."

STORY: Biden meets with AI experts in effort to manage its risks

The use of artificial intelligence has exploded in popularity, including ChatGPT, an AI chatbot that has become a global sensation.

June 20, 2023, 11:56 AM EDT / Updated June 20, 2023, 4:50 PM EDT
By Michael Mitsanas and [Rebecca Shabad](#)

President Joe Biden met with [artificial intelligence](#) experts in San Francisco on Tuesday as part of his administration's efforts to manage the risks posed by AI.

In brief remarks to reporters before the closed-door meeting, Biden said he wanted to hear from the world's leading experts on the technology, which he said poses "enormous promise" and "risks."

"As I've said before, we will see more technological change in the next 10 years than we've seen in the last 50 years and maybe beyond that," Biden said before the event, which included Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom of California and experts who the White House said recognize both AI's potential risks and its benefits.

"My administration is committed to safeguarding America's rights and safety, from protecting privacy to addressing bias and disinformation to making sure AI systems are safe before they are released," Biden said.

He also argued that social media has shown the harm powerful technology can do without safeguards, noting that he asked Congress in his State of the Union address to pass bipartisan legislation "to put strict limits on personal data collection, ban targeting and advertising to our children and require companies to put health and safety first."

Vice President Kamala Harris will convene civil rights leaders and consumer protection groups next month to discuss the rise of AI, Biden said Tuesday.

In May, [Harris hosted](#) the leaders of several companies developing artificial intelligence products at the White House — including Google and Microsoft — and the administration unveiled a \$140 million investment in seven new AI research centers.

The Biden administration last year [released a framework](#) to mitigate threats posed by AI, and in February, Biden signed an executive order directing federal agencies to root out bias and promote equity in the design and use of new technologies, including AI.

"AI is a top priority for the President and his team," a White House official said in a statement Tuesday.

The use of artificial intelligence has exploded in popularity. ChatGPT, [an AI chatbot](#), has become a global sensation: It has [passed an MBA final exam](#), raised concerns about [academic cheating](#) and helped people craft emails to their co-workers and loved ones.

But ChatGPT's ascent has also brought concerns over the development of artificial intelligence to the fore, [prompting Congress to scramble](#) to understand and regulate the nascent technology.



TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P

PROGRAM DATE: Tue., June 27, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: BOB ZADEK

- > Founder of LendersFunding.com and host of the longest-running libertarian talk show in the country, The Bob Zadek Show, broadcast live on 860 AM, KTRB – The Answer – every Sunday at 8am.
- > Bob's passions are American history, entrepreneurship, Libertarianism and his number one fan and significant other Anne.
- > author of a BRAND NEW e-book, *Secret Sauce: The Founders' Original Recipe for Limited American Democracy.* (self published)

Issue Discussed: are primaries 'anti-democratic'?; voter tendencies, how they choose candidates; WHO should have the RIGHT/PRIVILEGE of voting and WHY?

CONTACT #: [REDACTED]
b/a: [REDACTED]

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Suggested Talking Points:

1. **Are primaries “anti-democratic”?**
 2. What would be the result of party choices being selected in a “smoke filled room” by party elders?
 - a. Better or worse for the country?
- 2. As voters what qualities of candidates influence our choice, *in order*:**
- a. Intelligence
 - b. Experience in government
 - c. Honesty

Myths:

Primaries are a Contest Between Establishment Insiders vs. Tea Party Rogues

Reality: Olsen and Scala show that there are distinct factions, with very different values. From moderate liberals to evangelical Christians, to secular hard-core conservatives who put a strong emphasis on the constitution, the Republican Party is truly a big tent (which might explain why

it's had such a hard time picking a single candidate who would be a shoe-in, given the current candidates on the democrat's side).

The "Establishment" all unites behind a single candidate

Reality: Political factions each have their own party insiders who represent the activists in the field. Candidates must navigate the world of conflicting ideologies and identities (the four faces) to ensure that *momentum* is translated into more attention and media coverage, which they can use to get their *message* across. Momentum + Message = Victory.

Politics is about who has the best policy

Reality: The Republican Party has engineered their primary to ensure the highest likelihood of a candidate emerging who can unite the whole party and win a national election. Thus, politics is about who can contort their message at triangulate their strategy at different stages of the primaries according to the distribution of voters of each faction within each state and region. The first four primaries all feature different primary demographics, making it hard for a candidate to focus all of their attention on just one in order to gain momentum.

The median voter theorem (the median voter determines the winner) helps explain why elections tend to be close: the parties exist to promote a viable brand/candidate that can compete with the other party, not just satisfy the majority (or plurality) of their base. Thus they will only be as ideologically consistent as they need to be in order to get just enough votes to continue their relevance in the political landscape.

The Four Faces (and Their Representative States)

"REPUBLICAN VOTERS fall into four rough camps. They are: moderate or liberal voters; somewhat conservative voters; very conservative, evangelical voters; and very conservative, secular voters. Each of these groups supports extremely different types of candidates. Each of these groups has also demonstrated stable preferences over the past twenty years."

Moderate or Liberal (New Hampshire)

Feel strongly about issues like illegal immigration, but are otherwise fairly liberal on economic issues and foreign policy.

Ron Paul did reasonably well among this faction in 2008, and Romney had competition from Paul in Iowa. However, his principled anti-interventionist arguments didn't get far against Rudy Giuliani's jingoistic rebuttal during the debate.

Olsen says that the moderates have had a larger impact on the Republican primary than conventional wisdom has thought.

Somewhat Conservative (South Carolina)

A consistent 30-40% of the electorate.

Have consistently picked the winner. This will be especially interesting to watch next Tuesday, since in the past three elections Republicans have all nominated South Carolina's winner.

Olsen seems to favor the "**somewhat conservatives**," more conservative than the moderates on issues like the economy and abortion, but not radical libertarians and don't like candidates who propose radical change.

Dutifully religious, but not obsessed with religious issues such as outlawing abortion.

Are Rand Paul's supporters likely to swing to Kasich like Ron Paul's swung to Romney in 2012, or to Cruz, or Trump?

Very Conservative Evangelicals (Iowa)

Small ($\frac{1}{5}$) fraction of party, but disproportionately wield influence because of concentration in Southern states.

Emphasize Americans as "fundamentally religious people."

Crucial to uniting the party around a candidate, as they did with George W. Bush, but their favored candidate doesn't necessarily win.

Very Conservative Seculars (Nevada)

Fiscal and constitutional issues first, but a plurality also concerned with moral values.

Their influence is overestimated by the Republican DC establishment types who tend to fit this mold.

Looked for a champion in Steve Forbes, wealthy tax-cutting secular New Yorker.

Not a show to help voters decide which candidate to support, but instead ask to tell us about the political system/elections more generally. Teaches us:

- To understand the chess game that candidates and their strategists are playing.
- Why candidates pivot their strategies to focus on different factions at different stages of the primaries (not just after the primaries), after certain candidates are "knocked out."
- Why Trump has focused exclusively on the one issue other candidates were struggling to hold a coherent, appealing position on (immigration)
- Why clear statements are needed to attract voters of **distinct** factions.
- How triangulation and strategies can become overwhelmingly complex, especially when there are multiple candidates, leading to a garbled message that comes off as pandering
- The problematic rise of amateur activists, more ideological than concerned with the party
- How a party can contain both Christian fundamentalists and individualist libertarians

Olsen's Predictions

Olsen doesn't spend much time on Trump (probably because his nomination seemed less likely when the book was written) and makes a few bad predictions about who would still be standing (Christie/Carson) although to his credit, he acknowledges that this whole primary process makes it very difficult to predict – the media is fickle, and one swing in momentum can change the whole game. In the first chapter, Scala and Olsen acknowledge that the nomination process makes it more likely for a “surprise” candidate to emerge, and they don't write off the possibility that the Republicans could even draft Romney back into play in a brokered convention.

Prediction markets still have Trump as unlikely to get the nomination, but more likely than any other individual candidate (44%)

Henry Olsen correctly predicts the Failure of the “Libertarian Moment” (*National Review*, 8/15/14)

“Despite the New York Times' recent discovery that Nick Gillespie wears black, the evidence for a “libertarian moment” remains shockingly thin. I recently made that case at a Cato Institute event, at which I parsed the available data to show that there is no evidence that there are seriously libertarian voting blocs up for grabs if the GOP turned to the left on defense or social issues. To summarize, while there are voting groups that do not vote Republican who favor libertarian-esque stands on the NSA or drug legalization, those groups do not support rapid, significant cuts to taxes or government spending.”

“Libertarian moment” acolytes often say that “Silicon Valley types” and “entrepreneurs” are the people they think will switch once the GOP stops dancing with the icky social conservatives. Do the data support that claim?

Olsen participated in the Cato Institute forum on “The Republican Party's Civil War”, featuring Edward Hudgins (one of the first shows I helped prepared for). author of the book by the same name. We are now seeing the early results of this war, and it's not real pretty:

“The party's problems are evident. Its presidential candidates have won a majority in only one of the past six elections. Although holding the House of Representatives, the GOP leadership remains distrusted, not least with the party's grassroots. Ed Hudgins believes a turn toward libertarian ideas and policies would bring the party philosophical coherence and sustained electoral success. Others doubt liberty should dominate the GOP's policies or argue libertarianism has little electoral appeal to traditional Republican voters. Please join us to hear a debate that will inform the next two pivotal national elections.”

Olsen says that conventional wisdom and media would portray the election as a battle between Tea Party and insurgents, when I haven't seen that narrative all that much, since Trump has unexpectedly dominated the landscape, and made “establishment” candidate Jeb Bush seem like a joke.

On EPPC and Democracy

In both the introduction and conclusion, Olsen and Scala have glowing things to say about this democratic process, probably in large part because it filters out the radical perspectives of both far-right religious and secular influences, and connects the nominee to a broad swath of the people rather than a single faction.

They note that democracy means “people’s choice,” and insofar as this is an American ideal, it is upheld by the primary process. However, he also notes that most of the factions don’t even necessarily vote for the candidate who actually reflects their ideology, but rather the one who is best at channeling their message into momentum. These seem to be somewhat contradictory views, although not necessarily through the lens of Federalist No. 10.¹

The EPCC draws scholars from a number of conservative camps, but their brand seems to be level-headed compromise, and “American ideals” including a Judeo-Christian moral tradition:

“...respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, individual freedom and responsibility, justice, the rule of law, and limited government.”

Despite their religious focus, they are not in the same camp as far-right religious Christians, who they probably view as ignorant of the actual policy issues at stake. They are trying to communicate to *journalists*, and get them to think more clearly.

Misc. Links

🌐 How 'The Stupid Party' Earned Its Name - Ethics & Public Policy Center

Olsen’s book review of Matt Lewis’ new book “Too Dumb to Fail”. Shows more of Olsen’s dislike for the elements of the Republican party that embrace ignorance, and stoke anger in order to profit.

Digs deeper into the long-running decline of the Republican party, beginning with the decision to court Southern Evangelicals, who lack curiosity and intellectual rigor, and the decision to create an “alternative conservative media universe” pandering to the base with “red meat” arguments.

🌐 To Attract Disillusioned Voters, the GOP Must Understand Their Concerns - Ethics & Public Policy Center

Points out what conservatives can learn from Donald Trump’s success – mainly the legitimate concerns of blue-collar Americans, who are not as concerned with social issues anymore and are thus flocking to the democrats promises of economic stability and more spending on jobs programs, medicare, etc.

“Winning the support of blue-collar voters means gaining their trust, and that means first affirming the core elements of their worldview. They have to believe that the GOP nominee understands that they have been the losers in the transition to a modern economy. They have to believe that the nominee will be on their side when the chips are

¹ “...the smaller the number of individuals composing a majority, and the smaller the compass within which they are placed, the more easily will they concert and execute their plans of oppression. Extend the sphere, and you take in a greater variety of parties and interests; you make it less probable that a majority of the whole will have a common motive to invade the rights of other citizens[.]”

down and that he is willing to take on the powerful. A nominee who appears ignorant of or callous toward these views, such as Mitt Romney, will be rejected as long as the Democratic nominee seems marginally acceptable.”

🇺🇸 The Way Ted Cruz Won in Iowa Suggests Trouble Ahead - The New York Times

More evidence related to Olsen and Scala’s framework to suggest that Cruz is not going to be able to advance later in the primaries where he will need to have a broader base of support. It seems like the author may have been using their book when he wrote this:

“Mr. Cruz lost the “somewhat conservative” evangelical vote to Marco Rubio, and fared poorly among “moderate” evangelicals — even if he did fare better than he did among non-evangelicals. Mr. Cruz could get away with this in Iowa, where 49 percent of evangelical voters were “very conservative” and just 8 percent were “moderate,” according to exit polls. But it doesn’t work as well in the primary states, where evangelical voters are far more likely to identify as “moderate,” according to past exit polls.”



**TALK SHOW GUEST & PROGRAM INFO.
5P-7P**

PROGRAM DATE: Thu. June 29, 2023 (or the weekend of)
PROGRAM/SEGMENT TIME: 5:05-5:45pm

Guest: JOE MURRAY
> a Tennessee educator, attorney, and a former speechwriter for Patrick Buchanan. He is the author of *"Take Back Education"*

Issue Discussed: SCOTUS strikes down affirmative action

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Supreme Court Ends Racism in Academia

Oakland, Tenn. – The Supreme Court ended the use of affirmative action in college admissions today with Chief Justice John Roberts writing that “[m]any universities ... have concluded, wrongly, that the touchstone of an individual’s identity is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the color of their skin. Our constitutional history does not tolerate that choice.” The cases, filed by Students for Fair Admissions, challenged the affirmative action policies of Harvard University and the University of North Carolina.

Joseph R. Murray, II, Esq. a civil rights attorney turned Tennessee educator and author of *Take Back Education*, applauded the decision as a victory for excellence over equity. Murray explained:

“This is a huge decision that sends prejudicial admission practices in higher education to the same boneyard as Jim Crow. America is home to the best students and schools in the world, but many in education remained fixated on a student as an identity and not an individual. This prejudicial practice undermines the self-worth of students, diminishes their achievements, and succumbs to stereotypes we are seeking to leave in the past..”

Though the cases dealt with institutions of higher learning, Murray argues that k-12 public schools better wake-up and pay attention because the logic of the Chief Justice Roberts’ decision could apply in such a setting.