

Trivia Night Thursday!

Join us for a fun night of Trivia! Bring your competitive spirit and let's see who the Trivia Night Winner is! We will be having this as both an in-person and virtual event. I will reach out and see if you will join us in person or online!

March 10, 6 p.m., Democratic Party HQ (1033 U St.) and virtual

March 31, 6 p.m., Democratic Party HQ (1033 U St.) and virtual
mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/426575/



Trivia Night Thursday!




1033 U St Fresno, CA 6:00-7:00 P.M

COVID Booster Shot Phone Bank!

Join us to phone bank in our community and help schedule our neighbors for a booster shot. We will have a short training before the event to get you ready!


March 8, 6 p.m., virtual

mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/427493/



COVID-19 Booster Shot Phone Bank

TUESDAY'S 6:00 P.M TO 7:00 P.M



Fresno County Women's History Month Celebration

Join us for this social to celebrate Women's History Month! Speakers to be announced soon!

March 19, noon, Democratic Party HQ (1033 U St.)

mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/442378/



Women's History Month Celebration

March 19, 2022 12:00 to 2:00 P.M
 1033 U ST Fresno CA 93727



Precinct Captain Program!

Want to help us win in 2022? Be a precinct captain! Join and become a part of our team! Anytime Action!

mobilize.us/fresnocountydemocraticparty/event/433597/



VOTE BECOME A PRECINCT CAPTAIN!



Voter Suppression: The Virus of Our Politics

"Sometimes, the vote counter is more important than the candidate." Those words were spoken by the twice-impeached former President two months ago. The quote is often said to be a variation of a statement made by former Soviet Union leader Josef Stalin in 1923.

At that time, Stalin and Leon Trotsky were jousting to determine who would be the undisputed leader of the USSR, to replace the ailing Vladimir Lenin. The original statement dealt with this Communist Party infighting at the time. Preserved by Stalin's personal secretary in 1923-1925, Boris Bazhanov, it reads like this, according to Oxford Essential Quotations: "I consider it completely unimportant who in the party will vote, or how; but what is extraordinarily important is this—who will count the votes, and how."

Fast forward one century to the present. It has been 14 months since Joseph Biden was inaugurated as the 46th U.S. President. Two weeks before that, a violent and deadly insurrection by Trump loyalists to disrupt, and possibly prevent, the peaceful transfer of power, was instigated by Trump and his cronies. The work of the Select Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol grinds on with hints that televised hearings will come soon, which will reveal the true scope of the planning and execution of said insurrection.

A sweeping account of the months of planning for the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection by Trump and his loyalists comes from Rep. Jamie Raskin in his new book, *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy*. It all comes down to a strategy by the Trumpists to exploit weaknesses in the decrepit Electoral College in order to throw the election into the House, by denying Biden his legitimately won majority of electoral votes in key swing states which Biden won, in order to produce a 269-269 tie.

This strategy would have triggered the 12th Amendment on that day, which would have immediately required a contingent election by the House, in which each state gets only one vote. Even though the GOP won 27 states, and the Democrats 22 (Pennsylvania was tied), the Democratic state delegations represented more voters. Had a contingent election been triggered, the Democrats' popular vote lead would have no meaning.

How might Trump do this? Raskin says he had three strategies: 1) coerce enough state secretaries of state to overturn actual popular results in key states and then "find" new votes (think: the infamous Georgia phone call); 2) convince GOP-run state legislatures to cancel their popular election results and then appoint Trump electors; or 3) force Vice President Mike Pence to unilaterally declare new powers under the 12th Amendment in order to reject Biden electors in key swing states.

Evidence shows that Trump tried all three. By early afternoon on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump knew none of these moves had worked. Therefore, he incited the crowd at the "stop the steal" rally, and, well, you know the rest of that part of the story.

So, here we are, three months from the California Primary Election and a few short months away from other key primaries. An unmuzzled Trump is endorsing secretary of state candidates in key states who believe the "big lie" and who are committed to distorting the true Presidential election results in an election that is 32 months away to favor the current de facto GOP leader and presumptive GOP Presidential nominee—Trump.

In addition, there are recent revelations by investigative journalists regarding the attempt by Republicans in seven battleground states won by Biden to subvert the 2020 Presidential election by sending bogus slates of electors to Congress. This all reverts to our opening sentence in this column, uttered by the twice-impeached former President.

Meanwhile, GOP-run state legislators continue their voter suppression efforts. According to the Brennan Center, as of early this year, legislators in 27 states have introduced, pre-filed or carried more than 250 bills with restrictive provisions, compared to 75 such bills in 24 states a year ago. That's a tripling of proposals to restrict the vote.

The bills would reduce access to mail ballots, limit or eliminate same-day voter registration, require proof of citizenship to vote or register, or make it harder for people with disabilities to vote.

Equally worrying, lawmakers also aim to increase partisan interference in election administration. Legislators in 13 states have pre-filed or introduced 41 such bills. Some would give the state legislature the ultimate power to reject election results. Others threaten election officials with civil or criminal penalties or place partisan actors in charge of vote counting.

The worst of the worst seems to be in Texas, where a provision passed last year makes it a state jail felony for public officials and election officials to solicit mail ballot applications from voters who are eligible or might be eligible to vote by mail. Let's face it: These heinous efforts to suppress the vote in GOP states are aimed at voters of color.

On the surface, it doesn't seem like the U.S. Justice Department under Attorney General Merrick Garland is doing much to fight voter suppression, although it is suing Texas for its highly gerrymandered U.S. Congressional redistricting based on the 2020 Census. These maps blatantly discriminate against voters of color.

The Freedom to Vote/John Lewis Act would restore Voting Rights Act Section 5 preclearance provisions stripped away by the Supreme Court in the 2013 *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*. It would also defend and restore voting rights and democracy more broadly. Although the House has passed the bill, it languishes in the Senate, without enough votes to overcome the antiquated filibuster rule.

According to Jared Evans, policy counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, "American democracy is in a state of emergency." Federal voting rights act legislation must be passed by any means necessary.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS

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