

## YOUR VIEWS

**Democracy will not withstand another Trump administration**

It should come as no big surprise to anyone that Donald Trump and his Republican operatives are working overtime to do everything they can to lay the groundwork to steal another presidential election.

For months all of Trump's political hacks and cronies have been in all seven of the battleground states doing everything they can to get upwards of a million registered voter's names removed from current voter registration lists.

In doing so they are giving such asinine and insane reasons as an address change, because the individual has moved, and the fact that the individual may have not voted in the last election cycle.

On election night there will be thousands of Trump's people at every major voting center across the country, waiting to contest and challenge in court any outcome or result that doesn't happen to go their way. Their plan and goal is to cast enough doubt that they can claim the election results were not legitimate and valid so they can take further action from there.

Trump and his Republican operatives have no interest whatsoever in a free and fair election, but rather this is a win at all cost mentality that says count the votes only until I win. Never forget what Donald Trump and his henchmen and thugs did on January 6th, and don't think that he is not ready and willing to do the same thing in November if things don't go this way.

If you are someone who is willing to put country above party, then I both beg and implore you to get out and vote democrat both up and down the ballot. We need both a popular vote and electoral vote landslide so large that there will be absolutely nothing to contest or call into question.

Then let the 78 year old with the mentality and disposition of a spoiled toddler go to his room and whine. This really is by far the most consequential and important election of our lifetime, because our precious nation and its fragile democracy will not withstand another four years of Donald Trump.

**JIM LANGKAMP**  
Janesville

**Vote 'yes' on both Janesville school referendum questions**

On Sept. 23, I attended a community session at Adams Elementary School about the Janesville School District's upcoming referendum for operating and capital needs. I'm glad I went. We spent most of the time touring classrooms



and bathrooms and walking through the building. It was eye-opening, and I learned a lot.

The Janesville School District has two referendum questions on the back of the November 4 ballot. The operating referendum will not increase our tax bill. The operating referendum continues the current \$14.5 million operating referendum we passed in 2020.

State of Wisconsin education funding is not keeping pace with inflation. As a community, we need to make up for the shortfall. In addition, a primary goal is to keep class sizes small (18-22 kiddos). 80% of the school district budget pays for teachers and staff. It doesn't take a math genius to realize that significant staff reductions and class consolidation will happen if this referendum fails.

The school itself was built in 1939, and the average age of our school buildings is 63. We must upgrade or replace basic plumbing, heating, and electrical at some point. Like many of our schools, Adams has limited air exchange and no conditioned air. On the hottest days, a classroom can reach one hundred degrees.

The \$150 million capital referendum is Phase 1 of a long-term strategic capital plan. Most of the money is for essentials, such as heating, cooling, plumbing, windows, and roofs, which are critical to ensuring our aging school buildings function. During the tour, it was clear that fundamental building issues routinely get in the way of learning.

My roof is approaching 25 years old, and my insurance company says I need to replace it if I want to keep my policy. The capital referendum is the same. The school district has 2 million square feet and twenty schools. \$150 million of core infrastructure for our aging school buildings is not a want; it is a desperate need.

The bulletin boards at Adams are full of colorful signs and reminders about the value of education. Reading is brain food! Be your best! Treat others kindly! It is a stark reminder that within these walls sits our future. November 4, I urge you to join me in voting YES on both school referendum questions. It may be the best part of my vote this November.

**OAKLEIGH RYAN**  
Janesville

**Principle over policies**

Is this election merely about policies such as taxes, national defense, the economy, immigration, Social Security, inflation, etc.?

Is it not about something bigger? An eternal principle: right vs wrong?

Consider the witness of retired federal appeals court Judge J. Michael Luttig, a prominent conservative legal scholar put on the bench by President George H.W. Bush.

In August he wrote: "In the presidential election of 2024 there is only one political party and one candidate for the presidency that can claim the mantle of defender and protector of America's Democracy, the Constitution, and the Rule of Law. As a result, I will unhesitatingly vote for the Democratic Party's candidate for the Presidency of the United States, Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris."

You will recall, it was Judge Luttig who persuaded then-Vice President Mike Pence to do the right thing, i.e. to defy Trump and certify the 2020 presidential election. In a series of tweets drafted at the request of Pence's attorney, Luttig spelled out in stark terms the legal rationale for Pence to reject the former president's attempt to overturn Joe Biden's victory. Luttig maintains that Trump did not protect and defend the constitution and is "singularly unfit"

for the presidency and should never be returned to the White House.

Luttig writes, "It is time for all Americans to stand and affirm whether they believe in American Democracy, the Constitution, and the Rule of Law, and want for America the same — or whether they do not." For the judge, it is a matter of knowing "right from wrong" — and acting in accordance.

But here are his words that touched my heart, "In my faith, we believe that we will one day answer for our wrongs. I have always tried to live my life in anticipation of that day. Imperfectly, to be sure. But I have tried. My endorsement of the Vice President was the right thing to do. It would have been wrong for me to stay silent, and I believe I would have one day had to answer for that silence. It's really that simple."

That is an almost universally held religious principle. Seek to do what you know in your heart is the right thing to do, because you believe you will one day stand before the Lord and give an account.

Principle over policies. Right over wrong.

**REV. STEVEN EKBLAD**  
Janesville

**Vote 'no' on qualified elector statewide ballot question**

In less than two years there have been seven constitutional amendment questions on Wisconsin election ballots. There has not been this much constitutional amendment activity in Wisconsin in more than 40 years. There were five amendments proposed in 2024. Two passed in April. Two were rejected in August. And this November 5 another amendment is being rolled out. Should we wonder what is going on and perhaps question whether it's even necessary or good for our state?

Our Constitution reads: "Every United States citizen 18 or older who is a resident of an election district in this state is a qualified elector (voter) of that district." Existing Federal law also prohibits non-citizens voting. The proposed amendment changes "Every" to "Only" and lays the groundwork for requiring documentary proof of citizenship. How easy would it be for you to provide that proof?

There is no credible evidence that non-citizens are illegally voting. This is a solution in search of a problem and it is just one more barrier making it harder to vote rather than encouraging every eligible citizen to vote. Vote NO on this unnecessary and harmful change to our Constitution.

**CORAL SWANSON**  
Janesville