

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

April 2022

Dear Eagles,

I pray you all had a Happy Resurrection Day! With the world in chaos and turmoil, we, who know Jesus, can rest in Him. Only He can bring peace to our increasingly dark world. We must stand on His Word, stay engaged, and pray for our beloved country and leaders.

Spring is always a busy time of the year, and April and May are shaping up to include some important election activities!

Election integrity is a big concern of Texas voters after the blatant voter manipulation in the 2020 election (see February 2022 Torch). Texas Eagle Forum and Dallas Eagle Forum are two of the sponsors for the **April 30th, “Election Transparency On Trial Symposium”** at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas. The “Evidence-driven, Solution-rich” symposium will feature election and cyber-security experts, and investigative journalist Lara Logan. To attend in person, or on an internet link, please register at TexasEagleForum.com.

City and School Board Elections are on May 7th. Early Voting is April 25–May 3. Please vet your city and school board candidates and VOTE your values! Most people don’t bother to vote in this election, so you have a chance to make a real difference in your community.

There is so much controversy in the public schools today over Critical Race Theory (CRT), Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), comprehensive sex education (i.e. the sexualization of children), and the LGBTQ+ agenda. If a school board candidate stands for any of the above Leftist/Marxist programs on his/her website, voices approval at a candidate forum, or is backed by a teacher’s union, beware! Parents MUST take back their public schools; children deserve our best!

There are also two **Constitutional Amendment Propositions** on the ballot. Both deal with property tax relief:

Prop. 1: *“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead from the preceding year.”*

Prop. 2: *“The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.”*

“It is expected that both of these propositions will pass handily on May 7th,” says Tim Hardin, with Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, “but do not be duped by the self-promoting lawmakers that have been chosen to toss us trinkets as opposed to real property tax relief.” In other words, our legislators need to pass *real* property tax relief in the 2023 session.

(over, please)

The Primary Run-off Election is May 24th. Early voting is May 16–20. The election will decide the candidates, who did not receive a majority of vote in the March Primary, for the November midterm election. TEF PAC recommendations are on our website: [TexasEagleForum.com](https://www.texasagleforum.com). Again, please do your homework and VOTE.

This month's *Torch* deals with the Biden administration's unconstitutional open border policy, which is leaving devastation in its wake. Criminals, drugs, sex traffickers, illegal weapons, gang members, and terrorists are all pouring into our country with no vetting. They are simply flown or bused to American cities and given cell phones so they can "check in" with immigration officials in their new location. With the lifting of Title 42 in May, it is estimated that 18,000 illegals will enter into the U.S. *every day!* This invasion has to stop.

Governor Greg Abbott recently announced a plan to stop the federal government from dumping illegals in already-overwhelmed Texas cities; he is chartering buses to drop those who volunteer off at the Capitol steps in Washington, D.C. In addition, he is placing state troopers and barricades along the Texas border in an attempt to block the flow, as well as, conducting "enhanced safety inspections" of trucks coming across international bridges from Mexico in order to inspect for human smuggling. Long lines of truck backups should get the attention of the Mexican government. We doubt this will be enough to protect Texas' border and citizens, but we are thankful our Governor is doing more than our national leaders. We hope and pray he seeks guidance in finding additional ways to effectively protect Texas and America.

Again, these days our challenges are many and can often be overwhelming, but God has placed us here for a time such as this. With all my heart, I will continue to stand for God's truth in the Public Square, and I am counting on you to stand with me. We are stronger together and can make a real difference for Texas families.

I am so grateful for your activism, financial support, and prayers for Texas Eagle Forum. We simply could not do the work we do without you!

Faithfully,



Cindi Castilla
President of Texas Eagle Forum

THE TORCH

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

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Invasion USA

Condensed from an article by **Chuck Norris**, wnd.com, 3/21/22

While I have many concerns for the invasion abroad, I want to address an invasion happening right now in the USA that has been and is literally dismantling our republic and killing Americans every day. I also want to address the hypocrisy of the U.S. federal government giving Ukraine \$1 billion and massive military artillery to protect their borders while we abandon our borders to allow cartels, human trafficking, sexual predators, and murderers to cross every day.

One of my biggest action films was “Invasion U.S.A.” The title now has become representative of one of my greatest nightmares and concerns for our Country.

My wife, Gena, and I live in the great

Lone Star State of Texas, so we experience the problems of illegal immigration every day. Houston was just named the “Murder Capital of the U.S.,” leading Chicago, NYC, and L.A. in homicides.

Illegal immigration is literally feeding the rising rates of murder and other violent crime in Houston, and every other major U.S. city, yet progressive politicians are turning a blind eye to this fact, and liberal media aren’t sharing it.

Breitbart News reported, “Nearly 95 percent of foreign nationals in federal prison are illegal aliens, while the Bureau of Prisons data has revealed that about one-in-five inmates are foreign-born. There are close to 40,000 criminal illegal and legal immigrants

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incarcerated in federal prisons across the country, making up about 21 percent of the total federal prison population. Nearly all of those inmates are from Central and South America, resulting in a cost to U.S. taxpayers of about \$1.4 billion every year.”

Just six months into the Biden administration, nearly 14,000 migrants were in Border Patrol facilities across the border, and checkpoints were being abandoned by overloaded Border Patrol agents. And as far as the future illegal immigration, Raul Ortiz, chief of the U.S. Border Patrol says, “When you think about the global strife, I expect that our numbers are going to increase.”

Are we really not concerned that there’s even one bad apple trying to cross into our country right now?

If potential terrorists entering our country isn’t enough to declare another national emergency, consider this statement from John Jones, chief of the Intelligence Counter-terrorism Division with the Texas Department of Public Safety: “In the last seven years (in Texas), over 4,000 illegal aliens have been incarcerated for sexual assault. Sixty-two percent of them are sexual assault against children.”

Shouldn’t U.S. children matter so much to all of us that we do everything within our power to protect them from domestic and alien predators, including the willingness to declare a national emergency or build a barrier wall at the border? Why doesn’t Biden declare the border crisis a national emergency like President Trump did? Why does Biden send \$1 billion and tons of military hardware to help Ukraine yet stops building the border wall or refuses to send military backup to our borders?

Chief Ortiz reported just a few weeks ago, “The Rio Grande Valley continues being ground zero for us.” Apprehensions in the Valley remain highest compared to all sectors. Ortiz added that what most people don’t realize is that cartels are also “making tons of money” off of everyone who crosses into the U.S. illegally: “\$1.7 million a week are made into the cartel’s pockets from the unaccompanied children and family units that are crossing in this area alone.”

Migrants not only become unwilling mules to smuggle drugs for cartels, but they’re also robbed, kidnapped, and their families are extorted. According to the *Daily Beast*, cartels have so much power over immigrant routes into the U.S. that they daily rape, murder, and ransom children for human trafficking, prostitution rings, and “may even be harvesting their organs for the U.S. black market.”

So, if protecting U.S. families isn’t enough incentive for liberal Washington politicians to build a wall and bolster border security, what about protecting migrant children and families, too, by building a barrier and reducing the cartel’s power and extortive criminalities against those on the other side of the border?

And what about other illegal contraband? It is estimated that 2,000 illegal weapons cross the U.S.-Mexico border each day. Just imagine how they are used and the type of people who purchase them.

Larry Hatfield, president of Eagle Investigation and Protection Services, as well as a veteran board member for Crime Stoppers of Houston, put it well: “Some of our citizens want to minimize or eliminate our Second Amendment right to

bear arms, while advocating little or no immigrant regulation on our southern border. Shouldn’t they be more concerned with the smuggling of illegal weapons, the horrors of human trafficking, and the scourge of illegal drugs?”

Speaking of drugs, Mexico is now the dominant source of fentanyl (and methamphetamine) being trafficked into the U.S. Another heart-wrenching, record-breaking number of Americans died from this drug, estimated at 105,752 overdoses in just the 12-month period ending October 2021. Sadly, these numbers will continue to climb as Mexican cartels are increasing their production of fentanyl and meth because it’s so easily carted into and sold in our country.

Gena and I truly love America, what our founders established, and that we are a great melting pot of immigrants from all over the world. I join the host of Americans around the country who are truly colorblind, and treat all people with the respect and dignity that they deserve as children of God.

At the same time, I believe in law and order. I believe without it there is chaos and anarchy. And right now, that is exactly what is still happening at our borders, sadly increasing under the Biden administration.

When many advocate “Build bridges, not walls,” that’s great for bringing in law-abiding immigrants. But what if the bridges we’ve built are ushering in streams of criminals? Are we not enabling or aiding and abetting the crimes they commit in our country at the same time?

I’m not interested in pushing anyone’s politics. I’m only concerned in doing what is right and best for our country and people everywhere. We need to welcome immigrants the way our founders did, and leave our prejudice at the door. But we need to do it in a way that is not breaking our laws, dismantling our republic, or jeopardizing the safety and health of our citizens.

Ukraine is a big and hot issue right now. U.S. illegal immigration deserves to be an even bigger one.

Chuck Norris is the star of more than 20 films and the long-running TV series *Walker, Texas Ranger*. Learn more about his life and ministry at his official website, ChuckNorris.com.

NOTE: Andrew Arthur, with the Center for Immigration Studies, writes (3/16/22), “Nearly 2.2 million migrants have been caught in the first 12 months of the Biden administration, in addition to 500,000 “got-aways.” And more than 95 percent of the fentanyl being sold in the U.S. comes across the border and most across the southern border. Gov. Abbott has put the Texas National Guard, barricades, and razor fences on the border, and has plans to put illegals on buses and drop them off in Washington, D.C. He has also ordered commercial trucks from Mexico crossing the international bridges to be inspected for human smuggling and drugs. President Biden could end this insanity today by closing the border, but is unwilling. Our melting pot is boiling over and not sustainable. Without borders we have no Country.

Correcting Biden on Taxes

By **David Henderson**, Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI), 3/9/22

In his State of the Union speech last January, President Biden stated, “Unlike the \$2 trillion tax cut passed in the previous administration that benefited the top one percent of Americans, the American Rescue Plan helped working people—and left no one behind.”

Excuse me? It’s true that the Trump tax cut benefited the top one percent of Americans. But it also helped Americans at all income levels. It helped in two ways. First, it cut taxes for virtually everyone, and often by a lot. Second, the 2017 tax cut increased incentives to invest in more capital. With more capital to work with, workers were more productive and their higher productivity showed up in higher wages. As strange as this might sound, President Biden lied.

It’s true that taxes were cut a lot for corporations and for high-income people. Any reasonable tax cut would necessarily cut taxes a lot for high-income people because they pay almost all the federal income taxes that are paid. According to the Tax Foundation, one of the

most accurate measurers of taxes paid, the top one percent had a 1.5-percentage-point-decline in all their federal taxes, from 31.7 percent of income in 2017 to 30.2 percent of income in 2018. The bottom 20 percent had their average tax rate fall from 1.2 percent of income to barely above zero percent.

How did low-income people get a tax cut? First, because the standard deduction was increased and, second, because the child tax credit was increased.

The second way the tax cut helped everyone was by increasing the incentive to invest in capital. With more capital to work with, workers became more productive and earned more. Median wages in the third quarter of 2019 were 3.6 percent higher than a year earlier. This was well above the inflation rate in 2019, which was only 1.76 percent. What’s especially striking is how well workers at the bottom of the pay scale did. Median wages for full-time workers without a high school degree were a whopping 9.0 percent higher than a year earlier.

In his speech, President Biden used the term “trickle down” to refer to the idea that tax cuts on corporations and on the most productive people will help workers generally. Here’s the interesting thing about that term: no one who advocates such tax cuts uses the term “trickle down.” There’s an obvious reason why. Given how well tax cuts have worked, a much more accurate term is “gush down.”

“Energy Lockdowns” in Our Future?

The 2022 International Energy Agency’s (IEA) report, “A 10-Point Plan to Cut Oil Use,” includes reducing highway speed limits by about six miles per hour; more working from home; street changes to encourage walking and cycling; car-free Sundays in cities and restrictions on other days; cutting transit fares; policies that encourage more carpooling; cutting business air travel; and taxing SUVs.

“Governments have all the necessary tools at their disposal to put oil demand into decline in the coming years, which would support efforts to both strengthen energy security and achieve vital climate goals,” states the report. Climate Depot’s Marc Moreno says: “Has ‘COVID 2.0’ arrived? The 2022 IEA report sounds an awful lot like an energy version of COVID lockdowns. Instead of opening America back up for domestic energy production, the proposed ‘solutions’ hammer the poor and middle class with more restrictions on travel, less freedom, and even more surrendering of power to unelected government regulators.”

SOURCE: Climate Depot, 3/18/22





National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 5

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



If ever there was a time to pray for our Nation, it is now. The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is a call to praise in prayer: "Exalt the Lord who has Established Us" (Colossians 2:67). "We have bold access to His throne and passionate confidence as we pray to accomplish all that He has purposed," says Kathy Branzell, NDP President. Check nationaldayofprayer.org for prayer events in your area.

Would You Stay and Fight for America?

When Russia invaded Ukraine, laying waste to the country, the response of many Ukrainians inspired the world. Grandmas, school teachers, and people from all walks of life volunteered to stay and fight. However, a recent Quinnipiac poll found that a slim majority of American citizens (55 percent) said they would stay and fight if they were in a similar situation. The breakdown of the numbers is discouraging. Among Democrats, 40 percent would fight, while 52 percent, a majority, would flee. Similarly, more Americans aged 18-34 would leave (48 percent) than stay (45 percent). An underlying animosity for our society is reflected in the poll. American self-loathing is damaging, not just for U.S. national security and the social fabric of our country, but for the world. In 1964, Ronald Reagan said "... we are the last best hope of man on earth."
SOURCE: *Washington Watch*, 3/22/22

GOP Woos Voters at Gas Stations

Republicans have smartly initiated a voter registration campaign at gas stations across several states. "The Biden Gas Hike is a product of his own doing, and Americans have faced record high gas prices as a result," explained RNC Chairman Ronna McDaniel. "The RNC is mobilizing at gas stations across the country to register voters and remind folks that the anti-American energy of Biden and the Democrats is costing them more." The voter registration campaign started in Arizona and North Carolina, and the RNC is planning to expand it to California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Maine, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.
SOURCE: *The Patriot Post* 3/23/22

Disney Jumps Into the Cultural Cesspool

A top Disney executive recently left no doubt that the company is all in on the Left's gender identity politics. Kathy Burke, president of Disney Entertainment, recently said, "We were targeting a young, I think more open-minded [audience]—and now we know, as my son texted me this morning: 'Gen Z is 30 to 40 percent queerer than the other generations, mom, so Disney better get with it.'" Once the symbol of wholesome, family entertainment, Disney has jumped head-first into the cultural cesspool. If he were alive today, Walt Disney would be horrified. He was a very traditional man. In fact, when he was alive, men could not work in the Disney parks if they had facial hair. Today, Snow White might have a beard!
SOURCE: Gary Bauer, *American Values*, 4/8/22

Quote of the Month

"Truth is not hate speech. If the cost of telling the truth is the loss of our Twitter account, then so be it."

~ Seth Dillon, publisher of *The Babylon Bee*, whose account was deleted when the Bee mocked *USA Today's* naming of Assistant HHS Secretary Rachel Levine as a "Woman of the Year," by posting an image declaring Rachel (formerly Richard) "Man of the Year."

Great American Quote

"Liberty once lost is lost forever. When the People once surrender their share in the Legislature, and their Right of defending the Limitations upon the Government, and of resisting every Encroachment upon them, they can never regain it."

~ John Adams, 1775

Texas Eagle Forum

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