

— TEXAS EAGLE FORUM —

September/October 2025

Dear Texas Eagles,

After an extended season of law making in Austin for the 89th Session, we are excited to transition back to our focus on issues that are important to you and Texas.

The political assassination of Charlie Kirk on September 10th was deeply disturbing. No one should be assassinated for exercising free speech and inviting all points of view into open discussion. Indeed, this is how Eagles seek to make an impact on important issues! When we live in a society that does not tolerate rational discussion, we are in serious trouble.

When the news of Kirk's assassination broke, I was in Washington D.C., along with several other Texas Eagles, for Eagle Council 2025. Early news reports left Kirk's condition unknown, so we prayed together, hoping for a miracle. But God had numbered Charlie Kirk's days. Then the news came that Charlie was with Jesus, and we were devastated, as countless others were too. But I am certain his 'homecoming' was glorious! As his brothers and sisters in Hope, let us continue to pray for his family and for the amazing organization he built.

One of the lessons of Charlie Kirk's too-short life is the importance of using the time we are given on this earth to the best of our abilities. By all accounts, Charlie lived every day to the fullest, passionately driven to live out God's calling on his life. He used the platform he had been given to share the gospel of Jesus with thousands of people, and now his death has allowed millions more to be reached.

While I mourn his death and grieve the violent ideology that brought it about, I also remind myself that I can do more, push myself harder, and make a greater difference for Texas and America. So can you. In many ways, Charlie's life reminds me of Phyllis Schlafly and the way she built Eagle Forum. Her foresight on issues is preserved in her writings, which remain pertinent even today, and helps us continue her work for our states and country.

At Eagle Council in Washington D.C., we were blessed to hear from several like-minded members of congress. We were invited to the Roosevelt Executive Building on the White House grounds to hear from Cabinet staffers who gave us an inside look at how well things are moving forward with Pres. Trump in charge. Speaker Mike Johnson turned down other meetings to meet with us and share details on his efforts to cut spending. Sen. Mike Lee and Ted Cruz updated us on their current battles. I hope you will consider planning to come along to a future Eagle Council. No one ever regrets the trip!

Our world is changing quickly but we are not surprised. We are thankful that we have a president who is actually looking out for our country by putting America first and making critical course corrections, but that does not mean we are off-the-hook for making sure America is functioning the way our Founders envisioned. For example, pro-America executive orders must be codified into law both federally and in Texas, among many other things. *Continued on reverse ...*

So how can you help us? First, we know we must continue to work with all our energy from now through next year's midterm elections to send strong conservatives to D.C. Texas will hold a **Constitutional Amendment Election on November 4, 2025**. Be sure to visit our website for a list of our recommendations. I also need more issue leaders. If you have an issue you are passionate about, or if you're interested in making trips to the Capitol during session, I welcome you to reach out to me, and we will find a way to get you mobilized.

Second, we need your financial help. This is the first session I can remember where we ended with fewer in reserves than what we had at the start. We depend on our reserves to carry us into the New Year, so that we can continue our mission without interruption. I believe we are still experiencing some hardship from Biden-induced higher prices, but we trust that God will continue to provide us with what we need when we need it. Please know that every donation, subscription, and gift is received as a blessing of provision from God and as His encouragement to continue the good work He has set before us.

Be well! May you work as unto the Lord and heed the call He places on your heart! And, as always, thank you for partnering with Texas Eagle Forum. Please let us know how we can help you grow and lead!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindi Castilla". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Cindi" and last name "Castilla" clearly distinguishable.

Cindi Castilla
President
Texas Eagle Forum

TPUSA Releases Statement on Charlie Kirk - Every one of us at Turning Point USA is crushed and devastated by the hateful murder of our founder and guiding light, Charlie Kirk. All of us have lost a leader, a mentor, and a friend... More than anyone, Charlie believed in the power of argument and good-faith debate to find the truth and guide people towards, if not agreement, then at least mutual understanding. Charlie was no stranger to threats... But he always prioritized reaching as many young Americans as possible over his own personal safety. Now, Charlie has become America's greatest martyr to the freedom of speech he so adored. In his thirty-one years, Charlie lived more than any of us will in a hundred. He had an overwhelming passion for life and a deep belief in his power as an individual to make a difference... His energy and drive were awe-inspiring, without equal and deeply infectious... He was fundamentally decent, always eager to make new friends and allies and to support and defend the ones he had already made. His values were timeless American ones: Honesty, forthrightness, duty, loyalty, and fair play. SOURCE: @CharlieKirk11 on X.com, September 11, 2025.

VP Lays Out Data Showing Political Violence More Acceptable Among Far Left - Vice President J.D. Vance hosted *The Charlie Kirk Show* on Real America's Voice from the White House... and, in his closing, laid out some "difficult truths" America must confront if it wishes to reach a place of unity, citing worrying data from a YouGov poll. Vance laid out polling data showing that political violence is considerably more acceptable among self-described "very liberal" Americans. 24 percent of self-identified "very liberal" respondents believe it is acceptable for someone "to be happy about the death of a public figure they oppose." In comparison, three percent of "very conservative" respondents. The worrying trend continued when respondents were asked if political violence can be justified to achieve political goals. Of liberal respondents aged 18-44, 26 percent believe there are cases where political violence is a justifiable means to a political end. Seven percent of conservatives in the age range said the same, as did 12 percent of moderates. "This is not a both sides problem. If both sides have a problem, one side has a much bigger and malignant problem, and that is the truth we must be told. That problem has terrible consequences," he added. SOURCE: Nick Gilbertson, *Breitbart.com*, September 15, 2025.

Know America, Love America - The U.S. Department of Education, alongside the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), Turning Point USA, Hillsdale College, and more than 40 leading national and state-based organizations today announced the launch of the America 250 Civics Education Coalition. This landmark initiative is dedicated to renewing patriotism, strengthening civic knowledge, and advancing a shared understanding of America's founding principles in schools across the nation. The coalition, announced on Constitution Day, builds upon the Trump Administration's commitment to celebrate America's 250th anniversary next July. The AFPI-led coalition will spearhead nationwide initiatives to engage students, educators, and communities in conversations about liberty, citizenship, and America's enduring values. SOURCE: Eagle Forum Press Release, September 24, 2025.

GREAT AMERICAN QUOTE

*Get married.
Have children.
Build a legacy.
Pass down your values.
Pursue the eternal.
Seek true joy.*

Charlie Kirk
(1993-2025)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*See to it that no one
takes you captive through
philosophy and empty deception,
which are based on
human tradition and the
spiritual forces of the world
rather than on Christ.*

Colossians 2:8
Berean Standard Bible

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Political Violence: Feature, not Flaw of the Left

By Jennifer Vermeulen, *Editor*, Texas Eagle Forum



The political assassination of Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025 during a Turning Point USA rally at Utah Valley University sent shockwaves around the world. Conservatives were quick to condemn the act. A handful of self-ascribed liberals joined the chorus. But if anyone thought that a sniper's rifle would bring a great reset to America's body politic, they were quickly disabused of the notion.

A few days after Kirk's murder I watched a viral video of two young sisters standing side-by-side in their living room staring up into the camera. Their mother teases them with a surprise, "I have the best news ever!" The older daughter rises up on her toes in anticipation and excitedly offers her guess, "Donald Trump died?!" Her mother laughs, "Uhhh, second best news." The daughter goes down the list: "The Vice President died?!" The mother is thrilled by such perfect, if technically incorrect, answers, but she must press on: "Ok, third best news." Discouraged by her inexplicable string of failures, the child half-heartedly, but with hope, offers: "Elon Musk died?"

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Alas, no. Taylor Swift is engaged. *Ho-hum*. The girls are visibly confused. And the mother, who can't decide if her guessing game went really well or terribly awry, gives a snort and ends the recording.

The Left's Version of Political Morality

What are we to make of such a display? Clearly the mother is hard at work raising children who rank the death of political opponents as the best possible thing to hope for - more than a trip to Disneyland or another sibling. And clearly the mother feels no shame in posting such a display online for 'likes.' You can imagine how conversations around the dinner table or at bedtime must run in that house. Or, maybe it's better you didn't.

So what makes this mother and child vignette especially illustrative of political violence in America? Because I do not believe Kirk's assassination will result in a lower 'temperature' or an increased appetite for 'dialogue' in our country. The Left has no patience for it. Moreover, I believe Kirk's assassination is the foreshock of a great earthquake to come, not the final act of desperation of a soon-to-be defeated adversary.

Political violence is not going away because violence is the Left's *preferred* mechanism for societal change - it has been for over 300 years - and, if this mother and her children are any indication, it will continue to be for at least another generation. Today's Left is just as prepared - perhaps even more so - to live and die and raise their children by a fundamentally violent ethos.

The use of violence in the pursuit of societal change is not a new phenomenon, as any cursory review of history will demonstrate. Still, one would like to think that civilized Western countries know better. And yet, a significant portion of the West has been justifying the use of violence to advance 'societal good' and 'progress' since the Enlightenment.

While American school children are taught about great Anglo-American philosophers such as John Locke (1632-1704), Adam Smith (1723-1790), and Thomas Paine (1737-1809) and the seminal impact their works had on the Founding Fathers and our Constitution, American students are *not* taught about other contemporary Enlightenment philosophers such as William Godwin (1756-1836), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), or the Marquis de Condorcet (1743-1794). Together, these men and others formulated, debated, and refined two divergent philosophical frameworks that eventually would provide the ideological justification for two great wars of the Enlightenment: the American and French Revolutions.

It is crucially important to note that the American and French revolutions were not aligned philosophically. While much of the inciting rhetoric on both sides may have sounded similar, American and French revolutionaries actually held very different - indeed, antithetical - views on human nature, religion, and the role of the state.

Initially, Thomas Jefferson supported the French Revolution because their goals appeared to be aligned with what the American Revolution sought to achieve. But Jefferson quickly discovered he could no longer, in good conscience, support the French revolutionaries because of their methods. Robespierre's Committee of Public Safety and its 11-month Reign of Terror killed 35-40,000 people, including 17,000 political assassinations and 10,000 public executions without trial.

In 1794, during the height of the terror, in a speech titled "On Political Morality," French revolutionist and President of the French National Convention Maximilien Robespierre declared: *What is the goal toward which we are heading? The peaceful enjoyment of liberty and equality... [U]p to the very moment when I am speaking, it must be agreed that we have been guided, amid such stormy circumstances, by the love of good and by the awareness of our country's needs rather than... precise rules of conduct.* An uncanny philosophical defense of political violence, if ever there was one.

While Robespierre was busy cleansing French society, William Godwin published his *Enquiry Concerning Political Justice* where he argued the *intention* to benefit others was "the essence of virtue," and 'virtue' thus defined as the path to human happiness. Godwin even went so far as to regard any effort to shape human behavior through religion or economic incentives as a waste of precious time and valuable resources when more direct methods (*ahem*) were available. Thus, according to the Western philosophers consulted by French revolutionists, "[Every] closer approximation to the ideal should be preferred. Costs are regrettable but by no means decisive" (Sowell, *A Conflict of Visions*).

Over the last three hundred years, this second branch of Western philosophy has continued to yield unpleasant fruit. 19th century French philosophers coined popular terms such as *feminism* and *socialism*. German philosopher Karl Marx applied the political theories of the French Revolution to economics and ushered in a century of slaughter. But the ungodly philosophers and acolytes never blushed. After all, they were 'men of virtue' purified by their intention to bring about good.

This is the origin story of the Left, and it is *this* philosophical heritage that explains why, for the Left, violence is not merely justified, it is *required*, for the expeditious realization of what the Left has decided is good for society.

Violence is Inherent in the Left's Policies

Now, you might say, "Wait a minute. The Left wasn't like this when I was growing up." To which I would respond, "No, it's always been this way. A rattlesnake doesn't stop being venomous just because it hasn't bitten you."

We only need to look at a short history of the Left's most cherished policies for evidence:

Abortion is violence against babies, justified by the spirit of French philosopher Condorcet who wrote, "[If we] have obligations regarding people who are not yet born, those obligations will have to do not with bringing those beings into existence but with their being happy if they come into existence."

Social welfare is violence against virtue.

Feminism justifies violence against men.

Transgenderism is violence against women.

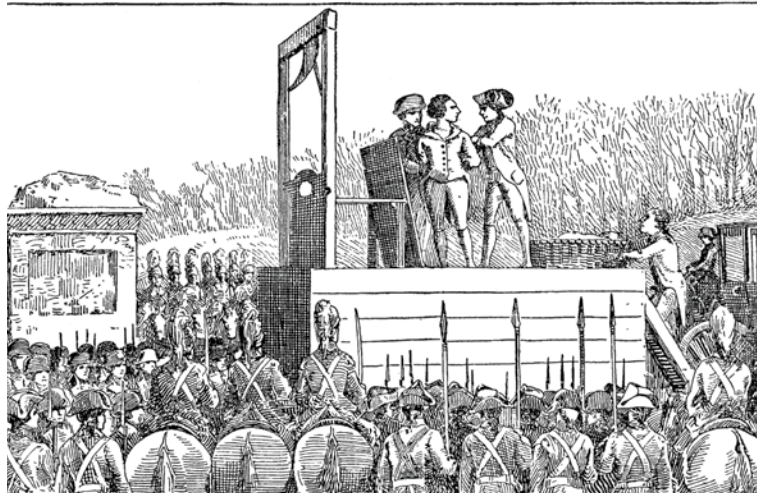
Sex-changes are violence against children.

Affirmative Action and *DEI* are violence against merit.

Political correctness is violence against the individual.

Transhumanism is violence against the image of God.

What other way is there to describe such policies except as all-out assaults on society, traditions, and moral virtue?



It also isn't necessary that today's Left be familiar with its origin story in order to carry on the legacy of its godless founding fathers. Traditions aren't required to be understood in order to be passed down. As Thomas Sowell writes, "[From] a broader perspective of history, these individuals and organizations can be viewed as simply carriers of ideas, much as bees inadvertently carry pollen."

The Least-American Thing about America

Every single policy that has ever come from the Left was packaged and sold to the American people as the pursuit of good and necessary for bringing about what Robespierre's called "the peaceful enjoyment of liberty and equality." Clamoring for such policies might make the Left a mere nuisance if not for the additional fact that the Left believes it is morally justified to use coercion, force, or violence to get what it wants.

There is no way to peacefully coexist with such a worldview. To the Left, violence is so baked into their way of thinking, voting, governing, and living that they are completely inured to how violent they truly are. Still, they've done a fabulous job of getting us to believe their appeals for peace and tolerance while simultaneously convincing us to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of some peace and quiet.

The Left broke away from America a very long time ago. I imagine its ardent followers never quite felt at-home here. If you think that's unfair, well, I'm sure that mother will tell you all the ways she hates America. Or maybe she'll have her kids tell you.

Once we understand that the Left is probably the least American thing about America, then we can respond to the mass exodus we are witnessing from the Left the way you'd respond to a friend who fled a death cult: joyfully, gratefully, hospitably, and kind.

In 1948, Richard Weaver wrote in *Ideas Have Consequences*, "Western man made an evil decision, which has become the efficient and final cause of other evil decisions." The philosophical schism of the Enlightenment set Western Civilization on course towards a great and inevitable conflict that only one side can win, and our opponent is quite determined to be the victor.

The philosophical fault line running through the heart of Western Civilization is rupturing. Kirk's murder was a tremor along that fault. We will see more. While I believe ultimately truth and true virtue will prevail, there will be a price to pay for having been so complacent for so long. We must fervently pray that the price is not more bloodshed.

If anyone on the Left tells you they are against the use of violence, the immediate and correct response is: *Then you don't belong on the Left.* ...