



Of the people, by the people,

# For the People



A publication by the Calhoun County Democratic Committee, September 2025

## Former Senator Doug Jones to hold Town Hall --- 'Community Dialogue' in Anniston

**WHAT? Town Hall 'Community Dialogue'**

**WHERE? Anniston Meeting Center, 1615 Noble Street, Anniston, AL**

**WHEN? Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 til 8 pm**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



Senator Jones spoke to a capacity crowd at Hubbard's in Oxford back in June – and he challenged everyone there! He said he'd come back in the fall... IF every one of us would bring 2 people who didn't necessarily 'think like us' to the gathering. I believe just about everybody in the room raised their hand saying they COULD and WOULD do that. **Well – it's time to find our folks and bring them!**

Jones says we MUST build on the feeling of energy given the missteps and failures of Trump and the GOP. We also need to persuade independent voters and voters who don't go to the polls every time they open to get involved. "Where the rubber meets the road, and this has been true of the Democrats for a long time, is at the local level," Jones said. "We have got to strengthen our counties. **We've got to strengthen our local clubs.** Look, it would be wonderful to win

statewide elections. Don't get me wrong. But it's also going to be wonderful to just be competitive statewide if we can do it. ***But where we really must focus, ruthlessly focus, is on some of our House and Senate districts where we've got a chance to win. Democrats have got to focus on breaking the supermajority in this legislature so that they can really have an effective voice.*** Excerpts taken from <https://www.alreporter.com/2025/05/09/alabama-dems-hope-to-use-trump-alqop-failures-to-build-momentum-in-2026/>

***Snacks will be provided – chips, cookies, water***

Hosted by the Calhoun County Democratic Executive Committee, HQ 812 Noble Street, Anniston, AL 36201. Currently open on Wednesdays from 10 am til 4 pm. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6 pm for dinner and a speaker. JOIN US 😊

<https://www.calhouncountymocrats.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/calcodems/>

# Calhoun County Democratic Party Newsletter: September 2025

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***If you've read our newsletters before, you know I always have a favorite article or two for suggested reading. This time I suggest reading 'from cover to cover.' It looks 'lengthy' at first glance, but the last 8 pages are flyers for upcoming events hosted by various organizations throughout the county that will be of interest to many! AND there's plenty of pictures scattered throughout!***

***While we didn't have many 'takers' on writing articles, those who did provided us with excellent information. Get a cup of coffee (or two) or an 'adult beverage' - and read the newsletter from top to bottom ☺ and consider writing an article next time!! Speak Out! Thank you all!***

*Beverly Williams, Editor*

## Calhoun County Democrats Refuse to Slow Down

When Thomas Edison was working to invent the electric light bulb, he failed thousands of times. Reporters asked him why he didn't just give up after so many unsuccessful attempts. Edison famously replied, *"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."*

The Calhoun County Democrats haven't failed 10,000 times, but we have continued to move forward and have been persistent, even in the face of setback, the greatest one being with the disastrous elections of Donald Trump. Our progress comes through endurance and that is exactly what we are doing. As evidenced by the number of "locals" who have found their way into our headquarters telling us they want to "do something", and that they "want to get involved". It is apparent that change is coming, and we gladly provide our newbies with all kinds of ways to join us and become a part of our organization.

Staying in the fight, Sheila Gilbert, Chair



## What Does It Really Mean For Democracy To Be At Risk?

When democracy is at risk, it often doesn't collapse overnight - it weakens slowly through a series of actions and conditions. Some things listed below highlight some of the things that can happen and are happening in Calhoun County, Alabama.

1. Erosion of Rights and Freedoms
2. Weakened Institution
3. Rise of Authoritarian Power
4. Loss of Public Trust
5. Polarization and Division
6. Economic and Social Instability

History also shows that when people organize, speak out, and defend democratic values, decline can be reversed. Resilience comes from engaged citizens who refuse to give up their voice and our key to saving our democracy is to vote out the republicans in 2026.

## ACTIONS RECENTLY COMPLETED:

**Wednesday, August 6:** A Federal, State & County Campaign & Candidate Training 2025-2026 was held at the Calhoun County Headquarters. The Part I Training was led by Chair, Sheila Gilbert and was attended by twelve people who are interested in getting involved in the election process. Parts II and III will be completed Wednesday, September 3, 6-8pm at 812 Noble Street. All those interested in participating in the 2026 Democratic election process are welcome to attend even if you missed Part I.

**Tuesday, August 12:** Calhoun County Young Democrats met with Blueprint Alabama's Josh Coleman and Caroline Self at Calhoun County's Democratic Headquarters. Information was given on listening techniques and how to become more involved as young people. Anyone aged 18-40 is listed as *young* by definition of the Alabama Democratic Party and encouraged to join this group.



**Thursday, August 21:** CalCoDem Monthly Meeting, Democratic candidate for Alabama Supreme Court Ashleigh Dunham spoke! If you missed it, learn more about Ashley at

<https://www.ashleighforalabama.com/about> and go to <https://www.facebook.com/AshLeighMeyerDunham/>

**Tuesday, September 2, 6-8:** Calhoun County Dem Headquarters hosted Calhoun County Young Democrats for a meeting to discuss the process of setting up a Charter with the Alabama State Young Democrats. Dinner/desserts were served. We love our young people!

**Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, A Federal, State & County Campaign & Candidate Training 2025-2026 continues.

**Billboards Across Alabama** is catching on! **Calhoun County prides itself on being the first to jump into the business of creating our messages via our local digital billboard.** It is located on the Leon Smith Parkway going South toward the Oxford Exchange for those who have yet to see it. Our goal is to hit the republican administration with critical things which affect local Calhoun Countians. Apparently, this works as Birmingham, Mobile and now Cullman Democrats also have great billboards up and running. Donate via ActBlue.com to help us continue with this great way of communicating our message or drop by the headquarters at 812 Noble St and leave us a donation. **Please.**

Staying in the fight, Sheila Gilbert, Chair



# Trump, the Other, the Military – and Fear

Today we should feel outraged about many things. Overwhelming our minds and senses with outrages is part of a strategy to make us feel – and effectively to become – powerless. We can't let that happen.



Remember the story of the boy picking up a starfish on the beach and throwing it back into the water. Starfish were stranded on the beach as far as he could see. A man asked him why he was doing that. 'You can't save them all. You can't make a difference. The boy picked up another starfish and threw it back into the water. 'It made a difference to that one.' We have to act in our time and place -- do what we can. That means picking a piece of the problem and focusing on it.

The recent use of our Armed Forces against our own people is an outrage that especially hits me. Our Armed Forces exist to defend our nation against foreign enemies. Ours are expeditionary, not constabulary. Constabulary forces – conducting internal policing – are hallmarks of authoritarian regimes. The British tradition, out of which we evolved, specifically prohibited standing armies. That was so the army couldn't be used against the British people. The king using the army against North American colonists, who were British citizens, was one of the causes that fueled our Revolution and independence. In June Trump [deployed active duty Marines](#) in response to protests against immigration operations in California. He also disregarded the governor's authority and coopted command of state National Guard to perform policing. In Washington, which is federal district, he's brushed aside the elected mayor and has the National Guard policing. He's now threatening Illinois and other places. We're watching our military forces and service members become tools in a lawless, authoritarian regime.

A byproduct is to frighten people into silence and submission. A climate of pervasive fear is a basic need for a totalitarian regime. Everyone must be afraid, so that they will act and even think as the regime wants. That individual,



volunteer self-censorship is

what makes a totalitarian regime work. Such fear is a goal of this Administration. It is something we absolutely must resist. Obviously, these actions harm all of us as citizens, even if we're not directly the target of any specific act. These abuses also callously especially disrespect those who've served and are still serving in uniform. As a veteran who served thirty years in uniform, I'm outraged. These abuses also aren't what our current members in uniform – all volunteers -- signed up to do. The DC National Guard was supposedly activated to police the streets of our national capital against a tidal wave of violent crime. By August 26, the "D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force" had been put to work [picking up litter](#), because there's nothing for them to do. Meanwhile, these service members are absent from their regular jobs and families. This misuse also hits taxpayers. The cost of this operation is running at least [\\$1M per day](#); a similar



deployment in 2020 cost \$2.6M per day. Some sources have noted that all the [homeless people in DC could be housed for a quarter](#) of what this operation costs.

Some will try to excuse these abuses as ‘protecting us’ against [undocumented immigrants](#). Many people use the term ‘illegal immigrants.’ That’s sometimes out of ignorance, but it’s often to confuse the issue and fuel prejudice.’ Millions of people fall into that category for a wide range of reasons. Millions are in stuck in that box only because we’ve made it sometimes practically impossible to complete the process to become naturalized citizens. Our laws and administrative hurdles make it very hard and often expensive. People doing all they can often wait years for actions to be taken. Many people legitimately qualify for protection as refugees under international law. The Trump Administration claimed it was going to go after the ‘worst of the worst’ – violent criminals, gang members, etc. [Numbers belie that claim](#). The priority is clearly meeting the President’s stated goal of at least 1500 arrests per day. For weeks agents have been seizing people from construction sites, going to routine immigration appointments, and at schools. This week, [agents seized two firefighters](#) working to stop a huge wildfire in the Northwest. We had a local example here with 24-year-old [Giovanna "Gio" Hernandez-Martinez](#). Gio, a JSU graduate in social work, was working as an advocate for immigrants. Leeds police arrested her for speeding and reckless driving. Ironically, she had graduated at the top of her class at Leeds High School. The facts of the traffic stop are murky, as [actual video](#) of the pursuit show. In any case, ICE immediately sent Gio to a detention center in Louisiana. Members of our community, including former professors , fellow JSU students and many others, rose in support of her. [Calhoun County Democrats quickly posted a billboard supporting her](#). That brought nationwide attention. Hundreds of similar



abductions happen daily of people without Gio's credentials and community support. We are developing our own class of the ‘[Disappeared](#)’ – similar to Argentina, where tens of thousands died during the brutal military junta’s ‘Dirty War’ from 1976 to 1983.



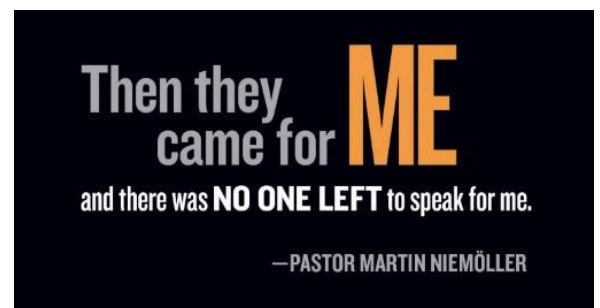
The path we’re on hit me personally a few days

ago. A long-time Navy friend raised concerns about Trump’s talk about starting ‘[denaturalization](#).’ This would be stripping fully naturalized people of citizenship to allow seizing and deporting full-fledged citizens. Originally the Department of Justice used this policy “to sniff out former Nazis who lied their way into becoming American citizens.” The law let the DOJ strip citizenship from criminals who falsified their records or hid their criminal pasts. Trump has suggested broadening this to critics, such as student protestors. Last week a GOP Congressman asked Attorney General Pam Bondi to consider New York City mayoral candidate [Zohran Mamdani](#) for denaturalization proceedings “because he ‘publicly glorifies’ people connected to Hamas in a rap song.” . Mamdani was born in Uganda and naturalized in 2018.



My friend’s family is Filipino. He graduated from the Naval Academy. He retired after a distinguished career. In retirement he’s been a leader within the Navy professional and his civilian community. Yet the Administration’s noise is worrying even someone like him. When people like this are worried, we all should be alarmed at what’s happening around

us. And we must clearly and loudly resist.



Dr Jim Williams, Community Volunteer and Activist

# My Labor Day Workers Against Billionaires speech:

## Tabitha Isner

Vice Chair of the Alabama Democratic Party.

Vice Chair of the Southern Region of ASDC.



Yesterday, I told someone I was coming to this event and they said “a protest? In a park? What good does that do? What change does it make? The people in power don’t care.”

And I want to take a minute to address that question. What are we doing here? Does it matter that you and I have showed up today?

Let me start my answer by saying that we are participating in a long tradition of labor day picnics in parks.

The very first Labor Day celebration in 1882 was a parade of workers followed by a picnic. Organized by the Central Labor Union in New York, the goal was to show the strength and spirit of the trade and labor organizations.

It wasn’t just in NY. In Seattle in 1909, 12,000 union members and supporters marched and then held a picnic. The city was hosting its own celebration elsewhere, a fair that built new buildings and used non-union labor, refusing to negotiate with the unions. The City tried to use the newly established Labor Day holiday as a way to drive attendance at their fair which undermined the power of Labor on a day that was designed to celebrate it. So, the Labor organizations held their own parade and picnic in opposition to the corporate-run event.

In the 1920s, picnics in the park became the standard among radicals and workers. There were tents and potlucks and bands and choirs and young people dancing and children playing. Speeches from radical organizers were mixed in with the revelry. Sometimes the events were ignored, sometimes the police showed up and arrested the organizers and speakers.

Picnics in the park aren’t just about fun, and not just about boycotting some other event in the city, they are about getting to know one another, establishing bonds as we break bread together, play games together, sing songs together. These were opportunities to network and fundraise, to study and debate, to swap phone numbers and get new allies signed up.

So no, this event is not about sending a message to Tuberville, Britt, and Ivey. Nor is this event primarily about sending a message to billionaires and corporations. This event is about sending a message to our fellow WORKERS. The message is this: We want to stand together. We want to dance together. We want our children to play soccer together. We want to find joy together as we find strength together.

The theme again and again in history is that workers are incredibly powerful when they are ORGANIZED... and they get run over by the corporations and billionaires when they are DIVIDED. So yes, it matters that we are here today in this park. We are here to get organized. Getting organized means building relationships of trust with one another. Showing each other that we’ve got each other’s backs. We do this through showing up to share food and drink, engaging in mutual aid, learning our history – what it took to get us where we are, devising strategies for future victories.

The corporations and billionaires want us to feel like isolated individuals, because the worker who stands alone must settle for the dregs she is given, but it is precisely at events like this that we are reminded that it is possible to be powerful together. When we know each other, when we trust each other, then we have the courage to stand together, to strike together, to fight together!

So, turn to your neighbor and get their phone number. Invite them to dinner at your home. There is no solidarity without trust. No trust without proof. So, get to work proving yourself as a reliable friend of labor. What is impossible for a thousand strangers is easily achieved by a hundred friends. Tabitha.





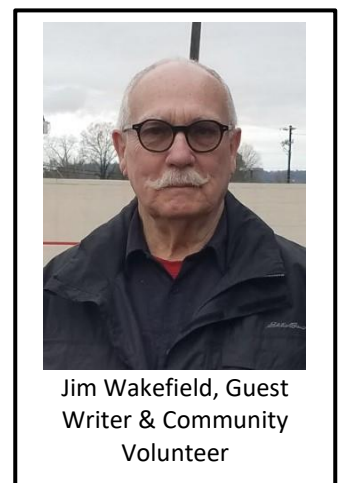
## "What can I do, I'm just an old guy who wants our country back from the NY redneck comb over."

On about March 8th this year, Jim Williams said that we could call our Washington representatives, and the call had to be saved and counted. Jim said to go online and get into the [5calls.org](http://5calls.org) site

and that would give you some issues to talk about. The site listed about 20 issues for calls, but now the list has grown closer to 100. Like I have said so many times in the last 8 months, "What can I do, I'm just an old guy who wants our country back from the NY redneck comb over." So following Jim Williams' suggestion on March 10th, I finally called Mike Rogers, Coach Tuberville, and Katie Britt's offices one after another. The first days were tense. I felt anxious and less than confident. You don't have to talk long, figure each call should be about 1 minute. After a couple of weeks, a young staffer in Tuberville's office said I was calling the wrong office. I should call the DC office that dealt with issues. I had little slip-ups like that several times in the first few weeks. But, through a little stick-tuitiveness I got into a groove. Since then, I have made over 300 calls and have little trouble finding issues to address. Counting the occasional day I've missed and weekends, I wind up making calls on an average of about 4 days a week. Rogers has someone answering the phone every day. Tuberville's office has only answered a handful of times. His recording asked me to leave a message, and someone would contact me. Someone called 1 time. I was so flustered that they would finally call that I completely blew it. Lesson learned. Britt's office answers about 1 day out of 3. I leave a message. I feel like I know a couple of the young staffers I talk to. They even reply with answers occasionally. For example, I sited Hegspeth's idiot claim that women should not be allowed to vote. The staffer in Britt's office said the senator did not believe **that**.



Here are a few of the topics I've called about in the last few weeks. Today I called out the blatant hypocrisy that the Administration was using about **free and/or hate speech**. Last week I got on them about **FEMA**. My idea was to try to move them from an Alabama perspective. Mobile and Baldwin counties are on the gulf. I asked if they thought our poor state would be able to rebuild Mobile if a hurricane hit. Eliminating or even cutting back on FEMA would spell disaster. Obviously, I have hit on the **Epstein files** several times. **Project 2025** calls for the end to marriage equality and not letting women vote. Saying a little about those topics is shooting fish in a barrel. One of my pet peeves has long been members of Congress **trading stocks** daily. I have sited that travesty more than once. Interestingly enough, our September CalCoDem meeting speaker John Northrop (candidate for the Public Service Commission if you missed last night's meeting) shares my opinion on that subject.





# Helping Barbara Drummond become Mayor of Mobile on Tuesday, September 23.

Opportunities still exist to make a historic change for the good in the runoff election for mayor of Mobile on Tuesday, September 23. This runoff pits Black, Democratic State House Representative Barbara Drummond against White, former Mobile County District Judge Spiro Cheriogotis. In some ways, the runoff is a referendum on a vision of Mobile's future -- and Mobile is an extremely important city in setting Alabama's future course.



JIM WILLIAMS, COMMUNITY  
Volunteer & Activist

This past week, several members of the Calhoun County Democrat helped write and sent about 300 postcards to help Barbara Drummond in the runoff election for mayor of Mobile on September 23. An informal group of local people – not all Democrats but all committed to saving our democracy -- pitched in money for stamps and postcards. Drummond's campaign staff sent selected addresses and a message. It was a major effort to get addresses, distribute materials, and then hand-write and mail all cards by Saturday, September 13. That deadline was to be sure postcards could reach voters before the runoff.

The Drummond campaign is an important one in several ways. [Barbara Drummond](#) has a long record of working to help people across various lines. She is Black and a lifelong Mobilian who served in several city and county roles before being elected to the Alabama State House in 2014. In the House, she worked hard to increase public school funding, expand healthcare, and expand job-training programs. She became chair of the Alabama House Democratic Caucus. In her campaign for mayor, she stressed creating a city that works for everyone – not just a select few or select neighborhoods. In the mayoral election on August 23, she got the most votes but not enough to win. Her [runoff opponent](#), Cheriogotis, has triple her funding with about half the number of donors. Of about \$1.4M, more than \$470,000 came from businesses or other groups. More than \$170,000 is from PACs. The outgoing mayor also endorsed Cheriogotis. Cheriogotis is also following the outgoing mayor's strategy of ignoring Black voters and relying on White votes to win.

The Alabama Democrats have called for people to step up to [help with canvassing](#) on the ground. [Donations](#) are always welcome. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference not only for Mobile but also for our state and nation!

*UPDATE: I was slow in getting the newsletter out, and sadly, Drummond lost the race by a thin margin. CalCoDems & We The People wrote LOTS of postcards. <https://www.fox10tv.com/2025/09/24/closely-contested-mobile-mayoral-runoff-followed-familiar-voting-patterns/> There is some talk about 'provisional' votes to be counted.... Beverly*



# An Open Letter to Rep Mike Rogers, AL

Rep Rogers,

My burning question in need of an honest answer from you is - why have you, along with ALL of your Republican House members abandoned democracy in America.

You have abandoned democracy for fascism, Nazism, authoritarianism, and dictatorship. Call it what you want, none are in line with the principles of the US Constitution.

For decades you and your Republican predecessors have stood, waved, shouted, and voted to uphold and defend democratic principles, institutions, and the rule of law in this country.



Then in 2016, along comes an unindicted co-conspirator, thug and criminal (not necessarily in that order). You and your cohorts helped elect him to the highest government office in the USA, not once but twice despite his multitude of failures both private and public.

You have voted to uphold and support him in his official governmental actions that are at times unconstitutional, illegal and immoral.

You and other House republicans have abdicated your duty and responsibility to uphold the Constitutional separation of powers in USA government.

The Constitution is, in most, if not all cases pretty clear on the separation of duties, powers and authority of the three (3) branches of USA government.

Yet the country has watched as you and Congressional republicans have rolled over, heeled, abdicated, and served as a 'lap person' for the President.

We , the American people want to know why. We deserve an answer since our votes and taxes have supported you and other republicans through over 30 years of your congressional career.



Why have you assisted in conceding the House of Representatives Constitutional authority and power to a man not worthy of being President of the United States, why?

Please, no stockroom standard congressional response. Make it make sense.

Martha Jordan, Talladega, Alabama

## CalCoDem September speaker was John Northrop, candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1

CalCo Dems were highly pleased to have as our September guest speaker John Northrop. John is running for Alabama Public Service (PSC) Place 1. He gave us a bit about his background as that relates to why he's running for the PSC and what his goals are. John grew up in Andalusia, went to Samford University, and then became a journalist. He later decided to go into education and earned advanced degrees from Harvard. He served in the State Department of Education in Kentucky. For 14 years before retiring he headed the Alabama Institute for the Arts. John has always had a special appreciation for the environment. He recognizes that we are at a critical point, where we must take actions to



reduce our inputs to global warming to preserve civilization. Non-carbon energy technologies offer a pathway to meet those needs, but Alabama has resisted taking that path. Instead, Alabama Power has an incentive system that rewards harmful, carbon-fueled energy. The PSC is the body that is supposed to balance the needs of industry with the concerns of citizens. For years, the PSC has failed to do that. A key part of the problem is a lack of public awareness and engagement in looking out for their own interests. John seeks only one term. Part of his goal, which relates to his educational background, is to increase public awareness and engagement about utilities and their operation. In the PSC, he'll insist on transparency in decision making, in contrast to the usually-private consultations that have been practiced. He also wants to create a 5-year, strategic planning process that will move Alabama toward a clean-energy future. Those present received his comments and answers to questions very favorably. We look forward to supporting him. Visit his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/john.northrop.865761> and donate via his Act Blue account at <https://www.johnnorthropforpsc.com/> --Jim Williams, Political Activist and Community Volunteer

### ***From the candidate . . . My plea for your help!***

Science is clear: A broad-front cut in carbon emissions is vital to protect our children and grandchildren from advanced global warming and climate change. Doubtless, at least some carbon-based energy will remain necessary into the distant future. However, we've reached an "all hands on deck" moment in history when every person, organization, and institution worldwide must think urgently how best to transition to more sustainable, low-carbon energy strategies.

Utilities share responsibility for a livable future. Your Public Service Commission should play a decisive, in-public role in setting utility goals and expectations with broad collaboration among stakeholders. **Do you want a voice on the PSC urging progressive energy policy, strategy, and investment?** If so, I need your support! Please share word of my candidacy with family, friends, and others. Invite me to speak at your club, church, or other civic organization anywhere in Alabama.

And please give to [John Northrop for PSC](#)! I expect no big donations in this campaign. It will take a multitude of small gifts to fund even a modest operation, much less the robust statewide effort we most need. Yet regardless of funding, I'm committed to carrying this message as far and wide as possible. I hope you're with me! Thank you, John Northrop

# And Now for Some Good News --Jim

Williams

NEWS | ELECTION ADMINISTRATION | LITIGATION | VOTING | NEBRASKA

## Nebraska Sued To Block Release of Sensitive Voter Data to DOJ

By Yunior Rivas | September 22, 2025



Voters, including Olivia DeBoer, center, fill out their ballots at a Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Omaha, Neb., on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. (Nikos Frazier/Omaha World-Herald via AP)

**Update, Sept. 24:** The Nebraska solicitor general and secretary of state agreed to refrain from sending any information to the DOJ until the lawsuit is settled. This means Common Cause will no longer seek a temporary restraining order but will proceed with the lawsuit.

It's VERY easy to get discouraged, if not depressed, by the relentless deluge of actions that Dear Leader, his sycophants at all levels of government, and his MAGA cult members are taking. This stuff tend to dominate the news cycles – something that's calculated and part of the basic authoritarian playbook. They must make us feel isolated, powerless, and afraid to achieve '[anticipatory obedience](#).' Without that, authoritarianism can't prevail.

While not minimizing the grave threats to our basic institutions and personal liberties, it's also vital to recognize that not everything is Gloom and Doom. One source of sanity is Marc Elias' Democracy Docket. That's a daily newsletter that, at least weekly, includes a Good News section. Here's a listing for [September 26](#). Read, heed, and be reminded that the fight is far from over or predetermined to lose. [You can [subscribe here](#).]

### AND NOW FOR THIS WEEK'S GOOD NEWS

#### Democrat wins Arizona special election, further shrinks GOP House majority

- Adelita Grijalva (D) [secured](#) a landslide victory in Arizona's 7th District special election. As the first Latina elected to represent Arizona in Congress, her win further narrows the GOP's razor-thin margin in

#### RELATED LINKS

Missouri Attorney General Blocks Voter Referendum on GOP Gerrymander

Pennsylvania DOJ Voter Data Access Challenge

New York DOJ Voter Data Access Challenge

New Hampshire DOJ Voter Data Access Challenge

Minnesota DOJ Voter Data Access Challenge



the U.S. House and strengthens the ability of pro-democracy leaders to push back against the GOP's federal agenda.

#### **D.C. Circuit Court disbars Trump lawyer behind fake elector plot**

- Kenneth Chesebro, the pro-Trump lawyer who helped devise the 2020 fake elector scheme, has been [suspended](#) from practicing law in Washington, D.C. Chesebro had already been disbarred or suspended in several other states, after pleading guilty to charges tied to Trump's election racketeering case in Georgia. The suspension marks another accountability win against those who tried to overturn the 2020 election.

#### **Ninth Circuit keeps Arizona GOP anti-voting laws blocked**

- In another win out of Arizona, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [denied](#) a rehearing request aimed at reinstating two GOP laws previously struck down as illegal voter suppression. The laws — one requiring documentary proof of citizenship to vote, another allowing registration cancellations based on an election official having a "reason to believe" a voter is a noncitizen — will remain blocked for now.

#### **Nebraska agrees not to help DOJ's grab for voter data — for now**

- After a voter and pro-voting group sued the state, Nebraska [agreed](#) not to hand over its statewide voter registration database to Trump's DOJ as the case proceeds. The agreement means sensitive and personal voter information will remain protected for now.

#### **Appeals court tosses GOP lawsuit targeting Michigan's voter rolls**

- The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals [rejected](#) the Republican National Committee's attempt to force Michigan to aggressively purge its voter rolls. The judges unanimously upheld a lower court ruling, finding that the RNC had no standing and that its alleged harms were "unduly speculative," delivering another defeat to the GOP's efforts to undermine voting access.

#### **Georgia court rejects GOP attack on established voting systems**

- A Georgia appeals court [upheld](#) the dismissal of a Republican lawsuit challenging the state's use of Dominion Voting Systems, ruling that the GOP lacked standing to sue. The court rejected the DeKalb County GOP's argument that Georgia's election systems were unlawful because encryption keys were not adequately protected, shutting down another attempt to undermine trust in Georgia's elections.

#### **Illinois court trims right-wing challenge to voter roll access**

- A federal court [dismissed](#) parts of a right-wing lawsuit demanding unrestricted access to Illinois' voter registration data, ruling that the anti-voting group Judicial Watch lacked the standing to sue. The decision narrows right-wing efforts to access voter databases, protecting voter privacy as the case continues.

#### **Federal court blocks Trump's attack on independent agencies, federal workers**

- The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals also [denied](#) Trump's emergency request to revive his executive order targeting independent agencies and civil service employees. The court left in place a lower court ruling blocking the order, finding Trump's DOJ failed to show any "irreparable injury" that would justify bypassing the law. The decision prevents Trump from consolidating more power in the executive branch while the case proceeds.

#### **Federal judge orders Trump to restore UCLA research funding**

- A federal judge [ruled](#) that the Trump administration must restore \$500 million in research funding to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), calling the seizing of those funds "arbitrary and capricious" under the Administrative Procedures Act. This decision protects critical medical research and pushes back against Trump's use of federal funds as leverage for ideological demands.

# SAVING HEALTH CARE FOR MILLIONS BY SEPTEMBER 30 - OR NOT

## HEALTH CARE COSTS WILL SKYROCKET

Healthcare.gov premiums will **rise** by an average of **93% in Alabama** if Congress ends the enhanced Premium Tax Credits.



**Tell Congress this is unacceptable.  
Sign this petition.**



[Congress to extend the ePTC before September 30](#), the appropriations deadline. The effort started with a National Day of Action on September 25 but continues through September 29. The coalition also tried to get as many people as possible to call members of Congress at (202) 224-3121. Cover Alabama provided a sample script: "Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City]. I am calling to urge [Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_] to support an extension of the enhanced premium tax credits. More than 400,000 Alabamians rely on these credits to afford their health coverage, and without them, premiums will skyrocket by nearly 93%. Please act now to protect Alabama families and prevent devastating premium hikes."

With a government shutdown looming, [Congress is playing chicken](#). Democrats have vowed to allow a shutdown unless the ePTCs are restored. Some GOP Congress members in districts likely to be very hard hit have shown signs of willingness to work with Democrats. However, Trump and other GOP members believe that they can blame Democrats for the shutdown and gain votes in 2026 from widespread anger from pain the shutdown will cause. Trump also plans to fire 100,000 more federal employees by cutting those in unfunded positions. Those are beyond 200,000 employees already cut. This puts huge pressure on federal employees and their advocates to compromise. Biggest losers will be millions of Americans who lose health insurance without the ePTCs, see their hospitals close and healthcare providers disappear, and also lose jobs, businesses, and incomes that go with them.

**If you haven't already, before September 29, [sign Cover Alabama's petition to lower health care costs](#), and call our members of Congress. Demand they act to help their constituents**

*--- Jim Williams, Community Volunteer, Political Activist and Arise Member*

# How to Make a Difference – Phone Calling for PA Elections November 4

--Jim Williams

One way almost anyone can make a positive difference is by making phone calls to voters in areas where there are key elections. Despite being an 'off year,' 2025 still has some very important races around - that can have big national effects.

An example is a supreme court election in Pennsylvania on November 4. Pennsylvania is one of the key 'swing states.' The general election on November 4 includes deciding whether or not to retain three Democratic/progressive justices on the PA Supreme Court. Currently progressives hold a one-seat majority. Keeping that control is vital to preventing various attacks on election processes, district maps, and voter rights. [GOP control would mean voter suppression and](#)



## Make Calls with Turn PA Blue for the 2025 General Election!

**HIGHEST PRIORITY** Virtual Phone Bank



**Sundays and Tuesdays**  
Multiple times available

### Location

Virtual event  
Join from anywhere

### About this event

**Join Turn PA Blue as we make calls for the 2025 General Election!**

**We will be making calls in support of all Democrats up and down the ballot, including the 3 PA Supreme Court retention races!**

We'll be making calls using the Scale to Win Auto-Dialer, a computer program that dials FOR YOU! It's easy to use and allows us to have more meaningful conversations! All you need is your computer & internet access!

*This phone bank is held on Zoom. At the start of the shift, we will review the script and provide dialer training to anyone who needs it. Then we'll make calls together until the end of the shift.*

### Accessibility

? Have accessibility questions? Reply to your registration email to confirm

### SIGN UP NOW

First name \*

Last name \*

Email \*

Mobile number (optional)

ZIP code \*

### Available times

Select all (7 times)

Most people pick two times 🧐

- ☐ Tue, Sep 30, 6:00pm–8:00pm EDT
- ☐ Tue, Oct 7, 5:00pm–7:00pm EDT
- ☐ Sun, Oct 12, 1:00pm–3:00pm EDT
- ☐ Tue, Oct 14, 6:00pm–8:00pm EDT
- ☐ Tue, Oct 21, 6:00pm–8:00pm EDT
- ☐ Tue, Oct 28, 6:00pm–8:00pm EDT
- ☐ Sun, Nov 2, 12:00pm–2:00pm EST

^ Show fewer

Attend as Jim

Powered by Mobilize

By clicking the button above, you agree to Mobilize's [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Mobilize is a service



restrictions on reproductive rights. The ACLU considers holding the current justices in place vital. Turn PA Blue  
is a Democratic organization that works to elect Democrats and progressives.

From now until the November 4 election, Turn PA Blue will hold a series of get-out-the-vote (GOTV) calls. These calls are to voters who regularly vote for Democrats/progressives or who are likely to do so if they vote at all. Calls are scheduled in two-hour blocks. Each session starts with instruction on the computer auto dialer and script. The auto dialer means you won't be dialing repeatedly getting no answer. The system rolls from one number to another until someone actually answers. When they do, you'll hear them and start. The script displays as you're talking to the person and walks you through according to each response they give to a question. So, no prior experience is required.

As someone who has always hated making phone calls, I can tell you that this isn't as bad as many people imagine. I made hundreds of calls to Pennsylvania in fall of 2024. I never woke up in the morning thinking, 'Oh, wow! I get to make phone calls today.' I did find that I could do it – with a smile in my voice. I always had a real sense of satisfaction at the end of each session. Sometimes there were some really happy experiences with people, and that was a special kind of reward.

**TURN PA BLUE**

# LEAVE NOTHING ON THE TABLE

## TURN PA BLUE SINCE 2017

TPAB mobilizes volunteers across the Commonwealth, quickly and efficiently, to put more Dems in office at every level of PA Government!!

---

**\$1.7 mil +**  
raised for state legislative candidates and local committees statewide!

---

Supporting the  
**Voter Protection Team**

**1250+** events

**385k+** doors

**5 mil+** calls

**6 mil** texts

**2 mil** postcards

If you're willing to try this kind of activism, here's the [link to register](#) for sessions. You can register for only one, if you wish, and you can always schedule for more. You can be sure that your calls will make a positive difference. In the very tight races that prevail these days, that difference may be the winning one and make a huge difference across the nation.



# This and that....

Beverly Williams, Newsletter Editor

Hi everybody! If you've made it this far, I'm impressed, and we all appreciate your support! I hope you've seen the digital billboard **on the bypass just beyond the Life Worship Center, 1604 Golden Springs Rd, Anniston, AL 36207. You'll see it facing the southbound lane.**

We currently have three images on the billboard – 'Free Gio;' 'TRUMP: Release the Epstein files - expose the Guilty;' and 'Senator Jones welcomes everyone to a Community Dialogue.' **It looks SPECTACULAR any time of day or night.**



Democrats must 'speak out' and efforts are being made to do that through various media outlets. The billboard costs \$2,100 for 3/months and is paid for by local donations, the same donations that keep the HQ lights on and the water running. To maintain the pace that's been set – we must ask for contributions - so the momentum that's been built with these billboards isn't lost. When you make a donation – it's to fight for the future of Democracy. CalCoDems get NO money from either the State party nor the National party. Our county party is on its own and has been for the 10+ years I've been involved. Saying all that to say, **HELP if you can.**

## **How fortunate we are to have an MSNBC Political Analyst speaking to the community in Calhoun County!**

**IMPORTANT** – If you are on our mailing list or watch our FB page or website – you know that **Senator Doug Jones will be holding a "Town Hall – Community dialogue"** at the Anniston Meeting Center, 1615 Noble Street, Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 til 8 pm. When Jones spoke at Hubbard's Off Main in June, he said he'd come back in the fall – IF everybody there would bring 2 people with them who don't necessarily 'think like we do.' We all know Senator Jones was able to reach across the aisle and get positive changes made while in DC. He wants that same opportunity in this Town Hall: civil, fact-based dialogue across party lines. Jones would like to hear *your personal experience* and concerns about how the current administration's actions have impacted your life. The gathering aims to foster civil, fact-based discussion across party lines. So, please come and bring someone with you who may have concerns about what's happening in our State and Country. Water, cookies and chips will be provided. (Here's another example of how you can support your local Democratic Party – rental for the room is \$500, plus the cost of the snacks. EVERYthing costs money and it's ALL paid with donations. Donate via the website and Act Blue if you can)



## **Don't miss the November meeting! Our speaker is Wayne Rogers, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State. Meet Wayne,**

a Thomasville, Alabama native, rose from humble beginnings to become a respected attorney and Democratic leader. After surviving a traumatic bank robbery shortly after high school, he pursued a legal career inspired by that experience, earning degrees from Samford University and Cumberland School of Law. His career spans public service as a federal prosecutor, two decades in private practice, and leadership roles in mental health advocacy and law enforcement training. A committed political organizer, Rogers has led major Democratic victories in Jefferson County and is now running for Secretary of State with a steadfast commitment to safeguarding fair

elections—protecting voter access, ensuring election integrity, and promoting transparent and trustworthy democratic processes.

# NOVEMBER = THANKSGIVING!

Join us for a meal, fellowship and speaker **Wayne Rogers, Candidate for Secretary of State**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, 812 Noble Street**  
**Calhoun County Democrat HQ**

*“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”*  
*John F. Kennedy*



Last year is the first year – that Calhoun County Democrats did not gather for a Thanksgiving meal and fellowship. Ya’ll know why? Remember November 5<sup>th</sup>? Well, it took a while, but when the ‘shock’ wore off, we realized we had to work harder than ever to help ‘right the boat.’ That’s what we’ve been doing and will continue to do.

**It’s Thanksgiving FEAST!! CalCoDems will provide meat, cornbread dressing & gravy, pear salad, rolls, soft drinks & tea.** Please plan to bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert to share with others! Let’s see, what do we need? Slaw, Caesars salad, sweet potato casserole, mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, green beans, squash casserole, roasted Brussel sprouts, glazed carrots, cranberry sauce, and SO many other options. PLUS, DESSERTS!

**Meanwhile, Calhoun County Democrats ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE kicks off.** We are now collecting non-perishable food for the less fortunate in our community. Please bring canned goods and other non-perishable foods to HQ on Wednesdays from 10 am til 4 pm and if you can’t make it to HQ – bring them to the November meeting. If that won’t work – call 256-225-3096 and we’ll make other arrangements. Please check the expiration date – we often receive out of date food ☹️ and have to toss it.

Peanut butter, canned proteins (chicken, tuna), pasta & pasta sauce, canned vegetables, pantry staples (flour, sugar, condiments) are some more often requested items.

One organization we donate to has suggested buying one item, but in multiples. For example, purchase 12 cans of vegetable soup, 12 bags of beans or rice, etc.

Doing that keeps volunteers from having to ‘sort, and group like items’ on their shelves and makes it easier to fill bags for clients. However, anything we gather will be greatly appreciated. The number of members in our community who suffer from a ‘food shortage’ – will certainly be larger this year than in the past. Thank you all for any support you can offer! --Beverly



## UPCOMING EVENTS LISTED IN ORDER OF DATE:



**SP  
LC** **ALABAMA**

# Anniston Policy Town Hall

Join us for a community conversation as we celebrate recent policy wins and help shape the legislative agenda for 2026. Your voice is critical in building a stronger, more just and equitable Alabama, where we all thrive.

This session is part of our long-term commitment to working alongside residents. Between sessions, community organizers will be on the ground year-round, listening, building power, and pushing change rooted in local priorities. Come share your priorities, learn about what we've accomplished, and help us set a path forward together. **Food will be provided.**

**Thursday,  
Oct. 2, 2025**  
6 – 8 p.m.

**The Anniston City Meeting  
Center, Suite A**  
1615 Noble St,  
Anniston, AL 36201



Scan the QR code to RSVP  
today to reserve your seat  
and receive event updates.





This event is sponsored by 50501 Calhoun County



# Opening Doors: A Community Forum on Homelessness



Keynote Speaker:  
**Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, PhD**  
UAB School of Public Health

**From Crisis to Care: Addressing  
Behavioral Health & Housing Instability**

## Panel Discussion

### Homelessness & Housing: Understanding the Crisis

Facilitated by:  
**Karen Phillips, LICSW, PIP**

**Lori Floyd**  
Executive Director, The Right Place

**Quinton Hearn**  
Director of Housing,  
Health Services Center

**Kyle Bryan**  
Program Director, Martha's Hope

**Mayor Ciara Smith**  
City of Anniston

**Thursday, October 16, 2025**

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Oxford Civic Center

401 McCullars Ln, Oxford, AL 36203

Social Work CEUs Available

Limited Seats

Lunch Provided



**Register today!**

<http://bit.ly/4mcn9MT>

**Thanks to Our Sponsors!**

A Community Friend and...



# Former Senator Doug Jones to hold Town Hall 'Community Dialogue' in Anniston



Join Senator Jones and his beautiful wife Louise, for a community dialogue at the Anniston Meeting Center, 1615 Noble Street, on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm.

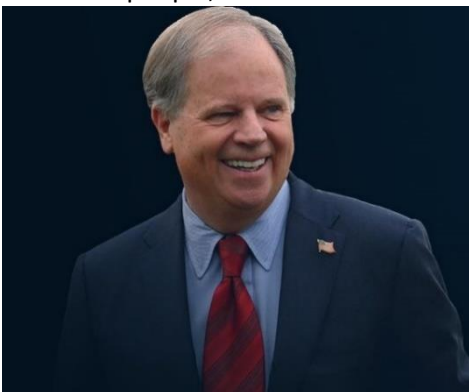
The gathering aims to foster civil, fact-based discussion across party lines. Senator Jones will speak briefly and then there will be a question-and-answer session designed to provide attendees with insight into the workings of the federal government and the current political climate. Jones would like to hear *your personal experience* and concerns about how the current administration's actions have impacted your life.

A celebrated prosecutor who brought long-overdue justice to the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, Doug has built his career on fighting impossible battles. Jones is the author of *Bending Toward Justice: The Birmingham Church Bombing that Changed the Course of Civil Rights* which recounts a key moment in our long national struggle for equality and the successful prosecution of two Ku Klux Klan members 40 years later.

In 2017, he shocked the political establishment by winning a special election to fill a U.S. Senate seat in Alabama—the first Democrat to do so in 25 years. When Jones celebrated his Senate win on Dec. 12, 2017, with a kiss for Louise, he was also celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. “I couldn’t have done this without her. The love, the support, the encouragement,” Jones said of his wife at the time, according to [USA Today](#). He quickly built a reputation as a well-regarded and effective legislator, passing more than two dozen bipartisan bills into law in just three years. During his tenure, he sponsored or co-sponsored over two dozen bipartisan bills that became law and received the 2020 Jefferson-Hamilton Award for Bipartisanship from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Senator Jones spoke to a capacity crowd at Hubbard’s Off Main in Oxford, hosted by the Calhoun County Democrats earlier this year. Though the event was quite successful, Jones wanted to hear from a more ‘diverse’ group. He offered us a challenge – he said he’d come back in the fall if each of us will bring 2 people who don’t necessarily ‘think like us.’ “Don’t just invite friends, invite the community. All politics is personal. We need to not only talk to people, we need to listen to people, and we need to listen to their fears and concerns.”



*“You’re not going to get everybody. That’s not the way society and our elections are made. But if you get somebody thinking twice, you’ve accomplished something,” Jones said. “We need to get more involved. The social media algorithms play on hate and they play on fear, and we’ve just got to counter that with what we care about: community and people. ....”*

***The former senator has not announced plans for the 2026 gubernatorial race, but has not yet ruled out the possibility.”***

(Excerpts taken from Alabama Reflector, Anna Barrett, July 31, 2025)

--Beverly Williams, Newsletter Editor

## This event is sponsored by the Calhoun County Democrats





# Walk Against Domestic Violence, October 9

2d Chance will hold their annual Walk Against Domestic Violence on Thursday, October 9, from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Location this year will be the Anniston City Market, 126 West 11th Street. This annual event is a way to show support for victims of domestic violence and highlight needs to address this problem. In past years, Calhoun County Democrats have always had a good turnout for this event, and several of our members have served on the board for 2d Chance. For more info - call 256-236-7381. See you there!

September 11<sup>th</sup>  
\*October 9<sup>th</sup>  
Annual DV Walk\*  
November 12<sup>th</sup>  
December 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm

## Domestic Violence Support Group

Please join us in a safe, confidential, and welcoming space where survivors can connect, share and heal together.



2nd Chance Inc  
617 Wilmer Ave Anniston, AL 36201  
256-236-7381  
Refreshments will also be served.



Participating in 2018 were CalCoDems Pam Howard, Pati Tiller, Sheila Gilbert and Cliff Andrews!

**This event is sponsored by 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Inc, Anniston, AL**

# Project Homeless Connect

## Calhoun County

*Connecting people to hope and help.*



**Homeless Coalition of  
Northeast Alabama**

Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb  
and Etowah Counties



**October 22, 2025**  
**9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**



**ANNISTON CITY MEETING CENTER**  
**1651 Noble St, Anniston, AL 36201**

***Free onsite services for unhoused and low-income  
individuals include:***

- *Benefit Applications*
- *Employment Resources*
- *Veteran Resources*
- *Housing & Shelter Resources*
- *Utility Assistance*
- *ID & Document Support*
- *Clothing*
- *Hygiene Products*
- *Health Screenings*
- *...and other resources!*

***For more information, dial 2-1-1, or email [hcnea@uweca.org](mailto:hcnea@uweca.org).***

**This event is presented by the  
Homeless Coalition of Northeast Alabama covering  
Calhoun, Cherokee, Dekalb & Etowah Counties**





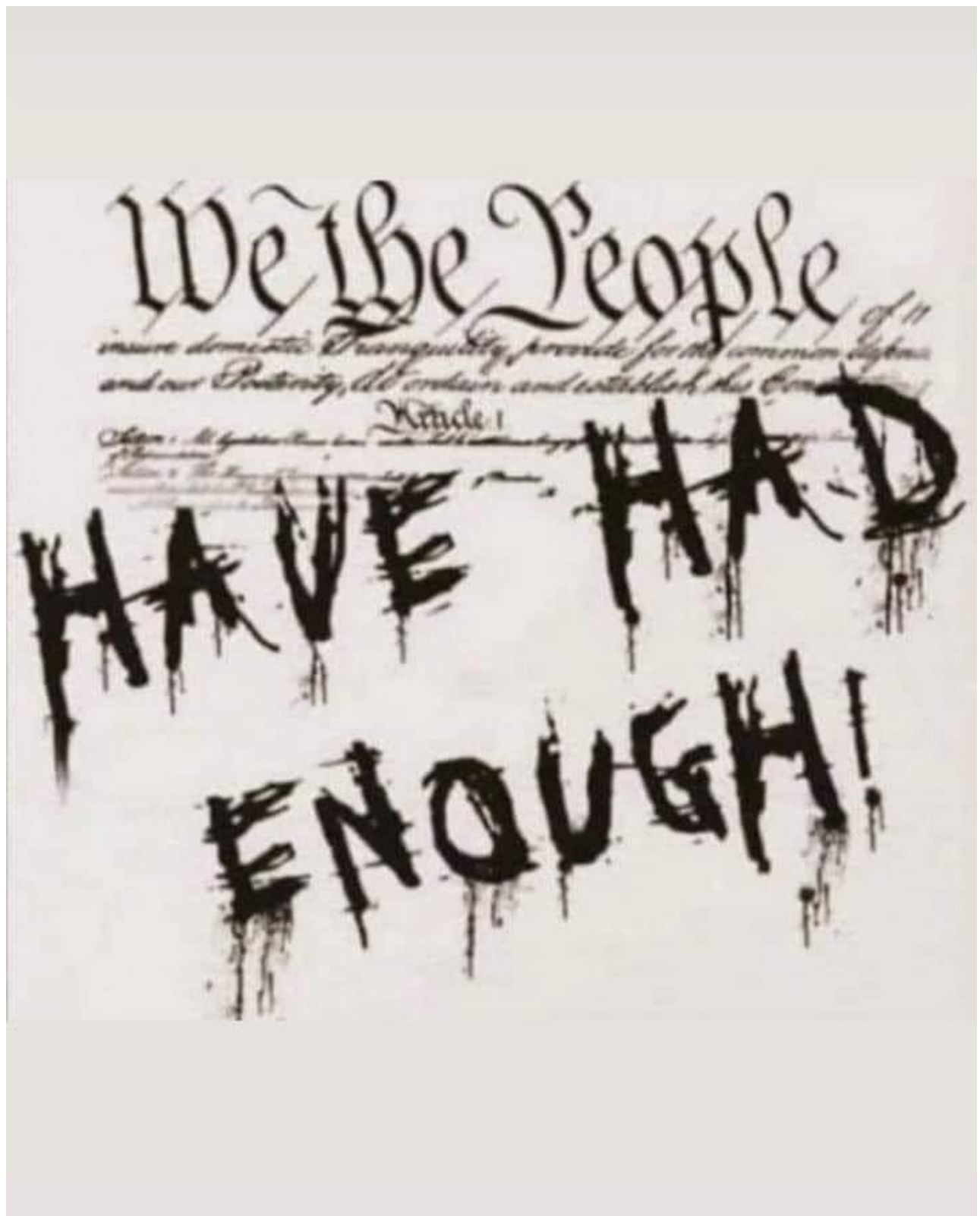
## **Trump To Travel With Own Escalator Following U.N. Embarrassment**

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 **the ONION**

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**This event is brought to you by ‘the ONION’**



**Join the Calhoun County Democrats! Vote! Get your friends and family to Vote!  
Donate your time.... And donate your money!  
A WIN takes both!**