



# Of the people, by the people, For the People



A publication by the Calhoun County Democratic Committee, October 2025

A recap of Tuesday night's election from [Marc Elias' "Democracy Docket"](#) November 5, 2025

## *Democrats won everything, everywhere, all at once.*

In my 35 years as an election lawyer, I've seen good election nights and bad ones. Last night was a very good one — for both Democrats and democracy.



They captured two governorships — in New Jersey and Virginia — in commanding fashion. They won every statewide race in Virginia and gained 13 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates.

In Pennsylvania, three Democrats facing retention elections on the state Supreme Court easily prevailed, solidifying a pro-voting majority on the court for the foreseeable future. In New York City, not only did the Democratic

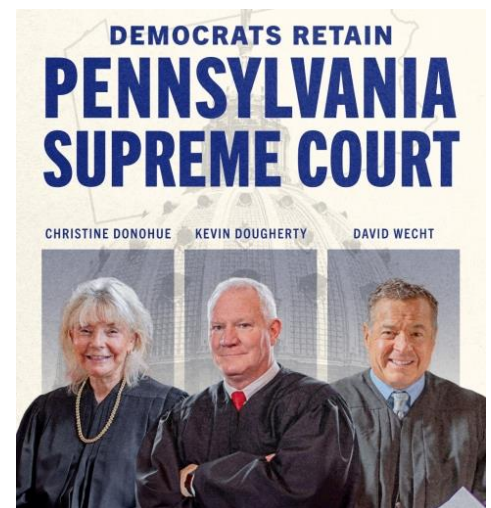
nominee win, but the Republican candidate came in a distant third with less than 10% of the vote. Democrats won everything, everywhere, all at once. Democrats won everything, everywhere, all at once.

In Georgia, two Democrats flipped seats on the statewide Public Service Commission — marking the first statewide Democratic victory in a non-federal race in nearly two decades. In Mississippi, Democrats broke the Republican supermajority in the state legislature.



On the democracy front, the wins were even bigger. Gov. Gavin Newsom's redistricting ballot measure passed by nearly 30 points. Meanwhile, Republicans' effort to use the referendum process to impose voter ID in Maine failed by a similar margin.

It was hard to find any good news for Republicans at all. Not only did Democrats win every key race, but they did so with high turnout. Republicans cannot claim that their voters stayed home. This was a clear referendum on Donald Trump and the Republican Party — and voters chose Democrats by wide margins. ....



# Calhoun County Democratic Party Newsletter: October 2025

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***Welcome to the October 2025 Edition of ‘Of the People, By the People, For the People.’ If this is your first time reading the CalCoDem newsletter – we hope you enjoy it and return for more. If you are a frequent reader – you likely return for the value of the content and the knowledge of the writers.***

***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 while we still have FREE SPEECH!!***

***Thank you all! Beverly Williams, Editor***

## Fellow Democrats,

I want to take a moment to say *thank you* — truly — for the time, energy, and heart you continue to give to our cause. Every phone call, every conversation at the door, every post shared, and every donation made is part of the larger effort to shape a fairer, more responsive community.

We know change doesn't come easily. The Trump administration has filtered down to our local level, but it takes persistence, teamwork, and the belief that progress is possible — even when it feels slow. But together, we've shown that steady effort adds up. Each of you is proof that democracy thrives when ordinary people care enough to act.

As we look ahead, let's keep that spark alive. Let's celebrate how far we've come and stay focused on where we're going. Together, we *can* and *will* make a difference.

With appreciation and determination,

*Sheila Degan Gilbert*

*Good things come to those who plan... and the rest are still looking for the stapler on Election Day.*



### Don't miss the November 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

# It is cruel and unusual to punish people this way.

As we turn the corner of day 30 of the U.S. Government shut down, there are over 750,000 people in the state of Alabama that are on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Women Infant and Children (WIC) program - will also take a hard hit.

It is cruel and unusual to punish people this way. Thousands of government workers are not being paid, and there are over 20 million Americans who will see their health insurance premium double. Many will lose their insurance, because they won't be able to afford it.

Most of us are not aware that being poor is expensive. And honestly, it's infuriating. The Legendary song writer and composer Isaac Hayes wrote a song in the early 1970 called Soulville. The lyrics tell the story of a poor young black person living in urban America:

*"Chains that bind him are hard to see, unless you take this walk with me. Place where he lives has got plenty of names, Slums, Ghetto, and Black Belt, they are one and the same."*

*"Any kind of job is hard to find, that means an increase in the welfare line, rent is two months past due, and the building that's falling apart. Crime rate is rising too, if you were hungry, what would you do."*  
The words of this song are so true.

Economic inequality isn't just about having less money - it's about living in a completely different system where everything costs more, takes longer, and compounds into cycles that are nearly impossible to break.



Vernon Presley, Vice Chair  
Calhoun County  
Democrats

**THE REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN**  
**Takes food from Kids,**  
**The Elderly & Disabled.**

Pd for by the Calhoun County Democrats, PO Box 563, Jacksonville, AL 36265



Often, what looks like poor financial decisions from the outside reveals itself as the only available options when you're operating without cushions, credit, or the luxury of strategic timing. The hidden costs of being poor are expensive.

It takes much more time to be poor. How is that, you ask. Take for example the time it takes to negotiate partial payment to your creditors, or payments to any bill. It takes time to visit multiple stores to get some reasonable discount that you can afford. How long it takes the poor to get to their jobs, doctor visits, because

they don't have personal transportation, having to wait on buses, a family member or coworkers to pick them up - all because they can't afford a car payment.

In the broadest sense - the poorer you are - the higher interest you pay on basically everything. It's like a tax punishment for not having enough money. In low-income neighborhoods, you often find many check cashing and payday lending places which can lead to a dangerous cycle of unending debt, financial instability, and cause significant stress. These lenders often use predatory practices, charging extremely high interest rates and fees that make the loan very difficult to repay. If the poor can't pay for something outright - like a car repair, or furniture, or some major appliances - it costs them more to pay 'over time.' They must use a high-interest credit card - if they have one - to pay the debt off. Doing that takes away from the little money that they have.

Another hidden cost is that the poor are constantly having to replace cheap things that break, instead of being able to buy quality items. Take a person who could afford fifty dollars or more for a pair of boots, that keep his feet comfortable and dry for ten years, while a poor man who could only afford cheap boots would have his for only a season or two, before the cardboard gives out in the bottom of them.

The poor often have to move regularly from one place to another to get a less expensive lease and doing this leaves little chance of building new relationships or friendships. Living in apartments and rental properties with outdated and old appliances, with little to no insulation makes it more expensive to use, and to cool and heat, but the poor have no alternatives.

Too often, poor people are left behind with a lack of access to Quality Education, Health Care, Housing, and Political and Civic Issues. They are also likely to be exposed to more Environmental Hazards.

As many of us know, the worst environmental exposures are concentrated in poor communities, and these are especially impactful on children - remember Flint, Michigan and Cancer alley in Louisiana.

The poor are rarely able to eat healthily. You've got a limited amount of money to last a couple of weeks. You have a choice to either buy a few healthy things that will not rot or go bad in a few days, if not eaten; or a bunch of highly processed junk food that will last a month or so, and may cause certain underlying health conditions.

When a poor person encounters health issues or a small injury - they can't afford the time off to let it heal, so it just keeps getting worse until they may have to be admitted to the hospital, which is another expense they can't afford.

Lastly, stress and anxiety robs people of their problem-solving skills, emotional availability, planning time, mental fortitude and patience. Poor people are not dumb, but being constantly under stress robs them of the intelligence that many well-off people enjoy.

Have you experienced any of these hidden costs that poor people experience every day? As Americans, we prize individual efforts. The idea that anyone can make it if they work hard is a nice thought – but it doesn't always work that way - especially for a child born poor in the United States. It's statistically very hard to climb into the middle class. I personally grew up poor and didn't even know it, because everyone around us was poor.

There is hope that in the coming 2026 election, our country can be better for all of its citizens.

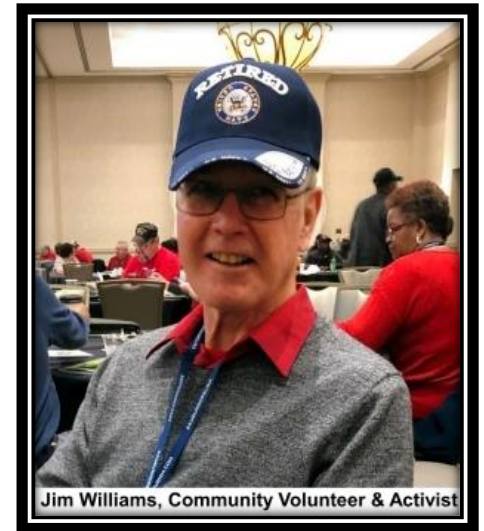
*Vernon Presley, Vice Chair, Calhoun County Democratic Executive Committee*

# The Big Beautiful Bill, Government Shutdown, and Unhealthy, Hungry Americans

In July the GOP Congress passed and the President signed HR1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). This bill included [“the largest-ever cuts to basic needs programs in U.S. history”](#), along with a huge transfer of wealth from everyday people to the very wealthiest.

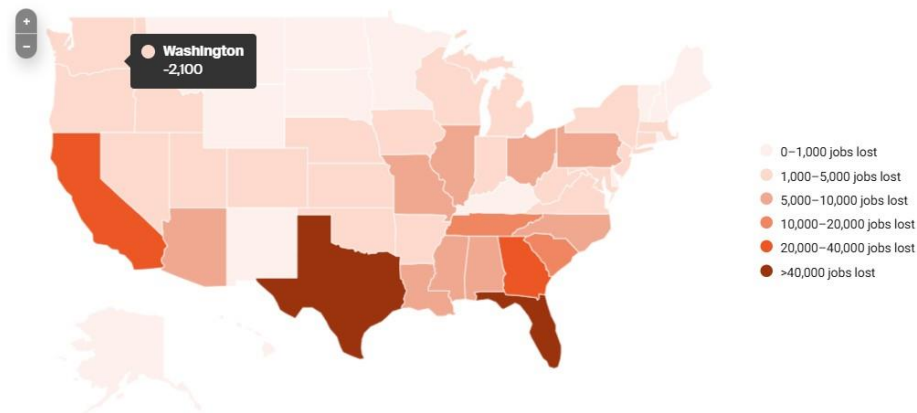
Ironically independent estimates on the [impact of ending tax credits](#) show that, just in 2026, the states will lose almost a third more than what the federal government will ‘save.’ Beyond that, about 339,000 jobs will be lost.

The vast majority of people, who pay no attention to ‘politics’ and ‘the news,’ saw and felt no impact. Since then,



Jim Williams, Community Volunteer & Activist

## Number of Jobs Lost in Each State If Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire at the End of 2025



Download data

Data: George Washington University analyses using IMPLAN, 2025.

Source: Leighton Ku et al., *Expiring ACA Premium Tax Credits Could Lead to Nearly 340,000 Jobs Lost Across the U.S. in 2026* (Commonwealth Fund, Oct. 2025).  
<https://doi.org/10.26099/dhvk-qf82>

required to continue working without pay. No surprisingly, many functions are severely impaired. Each month will incur at least [\\$7B in unrecoverable costs](#). **At this point, Democrats are refusing to vote for a bill that doesn't fix two key areas that severely affect tens of millions: cuts to health insurance and food programs.**

Both the end of tax credits for health insurance premiums and cuts to food programs will hurt huge numbers of Alabamians. About 400,000 Alabamians have had health insurance through government exchanges (healthcare.gov). These include [“individuals making as little as \\$15,650 a year or families of four earning around \\$32,000.”](#) Many were families and small business owners. Many could afford these policies because of the enhance premium tax credits (ePTC). These were scaled to offset actual premiums according to their incomes. In some case, people paid nothing for this insurance. In most cases, the tax credits made a big difference in reducing With those tax credit expiring, [healthcare.gov](#) premiums in Alabama could increase by an average of 93 percent by 2026”. Those changes will force many families, small business owners and older adults to drop high-quality health coverage and become uninsured. Cover Alabama, a coalition of more than 100 organizations advocating for healthcare, estimate that at least 130,000 will become uninsured. [Alabama will also lose about 9,100 jobs](#) as the effects ripple across the state's economy.

wrangling over some key aspects ended in the second government shutdown of the Trump Era. On October 31, this [shutdown was the second longest](#) in history – exceeded only by the 35-day shutdown in the first Trump Administration (p. 5) . The shutdown, which doesn't actually shut down most agencies, has caused hundreds of thousands of federal employees to be furloughed without pay. Many thousands, such as air traffic controllers, are considered ‘essential’ and are

## USDA refusal to fund SNAP would harm roughly 42 million Americans

SNAP participation and benefits per person and household, by state

State or territory	Number of participants	Percentage receiving SNAP	Monthly benefit per person	Monthly benefit per household
<b>United States</b>	<b>41,735,210</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>\$188.45</b>	<b>\$350.89</b>
Alabama	736,178	15%	\$193.08	\$384.92
Alaska	66,377	11%	\$364.31	\$775.20
Arizona	887,253	12%	\$182.25	\$363.54
Arkansas	239,748	7%	\$172.82	\$326.67
California	5,494,318	14%	\$190.25	\$321.07
Colorado	614,843	10%	\$195.97	\$360.39

The OBBA also drastically shrank the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) -- often called food stamps). Congressional Democrats made the continuing SNAP benefits as a prerequisite to passing any bill to fund the government beyond October 1. More than 736,000 Alabamians -- one out of every seven -- receive SNAP benefits. Half of SNAP beneficiaries are children. The rest are seniors, people with

disabilities, unpaid caregivers, and people who work but don't earn enough to make ends meet. The Trump Administration claimed that it couldn't pay SNAP benefits beginning November, even though the US Department of Agriculture has contingency fund of < \$5B specifically for this purpose. These funds would allow SNAP payments to continue at least through November. On October 31, two federal judges -- one in Boston and one in Rhode Island -- ruled that withholding these contingency funds violated specific federal law and ordered the Administration to continue funding. It remains unclear how this will play out.

### *The shutdown has become a game of bureaucratic chicken*

Republicans claim the shutdown and resulting pain is Democrats' fault. The USDA webpage for SNAP has a banner claiming that SNAP benefits will end November 1 because Democrats voted thirteen times against funding SNAP. All the Democrats needed to do is pass a continuing resolution to reopen the government, and then Congress could

The screenshot shows the USDA Food and Nutrition Service website. At the top, the URL is fns.usda.gov. Below the navigation bar, there is a brown banner with a white exclamation mark icon. The text in the banner reads: "Senate Democrats have now voted 13 times to not fund the food stamp program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Bottom line, the well has run dry. At this time, there will be no benefits issued November 01. We are approaching an inflection point for Senate Democrats. They can continue to hold out for healthcare for illegal aliens and gender mutilation procedures or reopen the government so mothers, babies, and the most vulnerable among us can receive critical nutrition assistance." Below the banner, the USDA logo and "Food and Nutrition Service" text are visible, along with the "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE" text. A blue "MENU" button is in the bottom right corner.

negotiate the sticking points as normal business. Democrats, however, refuse to do that, because they agreed to such an arrangement last year and achieved nothing. So, Democrats say it's worth the immediate pain to take care of all people for the long run. Meantime, the President and most Republicans have seemed quite satisfied to see their constituents suffer, apparently believing that the blame will fall on Democrats. However, some GOP Congress members -- even Marjory Taylor Green -- have revolted and called out Trump and their colleagues for failing to look out for their people. National polling also suggests that most people see

Republicans as at fault. “[Washington Post-ABC survey](#) found that 45 percent of U.S. adults say the president and Republicans are to blame for the federal shuttering while 33 percent of survey respondents say they blame Democrats. Twenty-two percent of participants said they were not sure who to hold responsible.”

## The last federal government shutdown was the longest in more than 40 years

There have been 14 gaps in federal funding since 1981. Most have occurred under a divided government — when the White House, House and Senate are not controlled by a singular party.

### Duration of federal government shutdown, in days, by president

■ Split Congress ■ Democratic Congress ■ Republican Congress

#### Ronald Reagan (R)



#### George H.W. Bush (R)



#### Bill Clinton (D)



#### Barack Obama (D)



#### Donald Trump (R)



Note: There were no government shutdowns during George W. Bush's two terms or during Joe Biden's one term.

Sources: US House of Representatives, Congressional Research Service

Graphic: CNN staff



<https://www.cnn.com/politics/longest-government-shutdown-vis>

# Opinion | Truth dies when voters reward liars—democracy depends on accountability

By **Bill Britt** Published on November 6, 2025 at 8:14 am CST

*Bill Britt is editor-in-chief at the Alabama Political Reporter and host of The Voice of Alabama Politics. You can email him at [bbritt@alreporter.com](mailto:bbritt@alreporter.com). Reprinted here with permission*



Politicians lie because it works—voters believe them, and media too often repeats the lies instead of calling them out.

In a democracy, truth is not optional. It's the foundation. Without it, nothing else holds. But in politics today, truth

is treated like an inconvenience—something to dodge, distort, or destroy if it gets in the way of winning.

Politicians lie. We know that. But the big lies—the ones that scar a nation, divide families, and poison trust—aren't slips of the tongue. They're deliberate weapons. And we're living through another one right now.

Republicans claim Democrats are keeping the government shut down because they want to hand out free health benefits to people who are in the country illegally. That's the line—repeated by Speaker Mike Johnson, Vice President JD Vance, and echoed across right-wing media. It's a lie.

Federal law is clear. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or Affordable Care Act coverage. The only exception—emergency care—was created decades ago by a Republican administration. It's a matter of public safety, not immigration policy.

So what are Democrats actually doing? They're trying to extend subsidies that make healthcare affordable for working Americans—citizens, veterans, and lawfully present immigrants who already qualify. Nothing in their plan provides new benefits for the undocumented. Nothing.

Fact-checkers from the Associated Press, PolitiFact, and the Kaiser Family Foundation have all debunked the claim. The data doesn't lie—but the politicians do. And yes, Democrats have lied too. But not this time. The record shows Republicans are the ones spreading this falsehood.

This isn't about healthcare. It's about manipulation—about fear. When a party can't defend its policies with facts, it reaches for scapegoats. Immigrants are the easiest target. They can't vote. They can't fight back. But they make a convenient villain for those who need someone to blame.

When leaders trade compassion for convenience, democracy starts to decay. What's happening now isn't a disagreement over policy. It's a test of integrity. And the result so far is shameful.

Truth has become the casualty of political warfare. The lies are so constant that many Americans no longer recognize truth when they see it. That's not by accident—it's by design.

We've seen this before. From Nixon's cover-ups to Bush's false intelligence and Trump's business model of lies, each deception chipped away at the one thing a democracy cannot survive without: public faith in truth.

But politicians lie because it works. They lie because voters let them. They lie because too many in the media still hide behind false balance instead of calling out falsehoods.

For too long, newsrooms have treated “both sides” as sacred. That principle made sense when both sides respected facts. But when one side invents its own reality, giving equal weight to both only amplifies the lie. Journalism's duty is not to balance truth and falsehood—it's to tell the truth, full stop.

Hannah Arendt once warned that the most dangerous consequence of political lying isn't the lie itself, but the destruction of our ability to tell truth from falsehood—“the sense by which we take our bearings in the real world is being destroyed.” That warning wasn't for one nation or one time. It was for every democracy that forgets its moral duty to remain anchored in reality.

And the public's duty is no less important. The only way to stop politicians from lying is to stop voting for politicians who lie. It's that simple. If we continue to reward deceit with power, we will get more deceit and less democracy.

So check the facts. Read the sources. Ask questions. If a politician lies—and you know they lie—withdraw your vote, your support, your silence. Because silence, too, is a choice.

George Orwell once wrote, “In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” He was right then, and he's right now. We are long past the point of pretending that lies and truth deserve equal time. There is no both sides anymore. There is only accountability—or complicity.

The health of our democracy depends on whether we still have the courage to tell the truth, to demand it, and to punish those who betray it. The truth doesn't need spin or strategy. It just needs defenders—and we must be among them.

## *Meet Pam Lowery, the newest volunteer at CalCoDem HQ!*

I was born in Houston, Texas. My parents moved to Texas from Alabama in 1950 after my dad graduated from the University of Alabama with the GI Bill (Navy). Every summer the family vacation was to visit our relatives in Alabama along with a camping stop at a National Park along the way. Anniston became the place to meet up with my dad's side of the family because my Granny and an aunt and uncle lived here. Both my Granny's house and the house my aunt and uncle lived in are still standing in Anniston. I smile every time I drive past them!

In 1985 I began working in my family's business – L&S Cryogenics, Inc. The company designed, manufactured and repaired high pressure N2 (liquid nitrogen) pumping equipment for oilfield customers.



In 2008, I was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer. I underwent a double mastectomy and 6 months of chemo. Also in 2008, I began my first political participation when Obama ran for President. I became one of the campaigns "precinct captains" and sent weekly updates to his campaign as requested. This was also when I first worked in an election as a clerk. After the election, I was elected Democrat Precinct Chair for Pct. 13 / Montgomery County. I remained the Pct. Chair until I moved to Alabama in 2019.

After moving to Anniston, I knew I still wanted to do "something" to help the Democrat Party. I am volunteering at HQ to help do whatever I can for Anniston and the Calhoun County Democrats get quality candidates elected to represent us and help our state and country rise above the fascists, tyranny we are experiencing now. I look forward to meeting fellow members over these next few months.



**"LET'S ROLL!"**

# Say Hello to 50501

...Carsie evans

You may have heard of “50501” and wondered what it means, what 50501 is, and whether 50501 is something you would like to join. Well, here you go!



“50501” stands for 50 States, 50 Protests, 1 Movement and is a national movement made up of diverse Americans who are standing up against the authoritarian actions of the Republican administration. Since Trump’s inauguration, this administration has relentlessly attacked our civil liberties, thumbed its nose at the Constitution, and cut public services that our taxes support. Our goal is to call on our government to uphold the Constitution and end executive overreach by practicing one of America’s most fundamental traditions: protest. 50501 is dedicated to maintaining a peaceful and non-violent environment for all its activities by conducting training in nonviolence and de-escalation while encouraging the inclusion of any and all who support our goals.



50501 is a grassroots movement, powered by everyday people, not by politicians or political parties. Most of the work happens at the local level. Volunteers organize protests, advertise and handle logistics, while national coordination between 50501 groups helps to share resources and establish cohesive messaging. While our goals frequently align with Democrats, the movement is not backed by or affiliated with any political party. Therefore, it is beholden only to the Americans who create, fund and organize its events. Volunteers are neither paid nor coerced, but are motivated by our own fervent desire to restore decency, democracy and civil liberty to our nation.

On the local level, we have established 50501 Calhoun County, with a group of dedicated volunteers who have organized and facilitated a number of rallies, protests and visibility events. We believe that it is important for our neighbors and fellow citizens to see that we are here and are not afraid to stand up for what we believe. In addition, we frequently collect food and hygiene products for donation to the less fortunate and strive to be supportive of those in our community with love and compassion. We have fun and enjoy each other’s company while we joyfully resist the government of Trump. If you are of a like mind and would like to connect with our local group, I would encourage you to go to our Facebook page: 50501Calhoun County—to see announcements of upcoming events, as well as our previous activities. And please! Feel free to join a protest, reach out to me or others in our group or join the Facebook group. There are also resources at the national website: [fiftyfifty.one](https://fiftyfifty.one)



As election 2026 is one year away, **NOW is the time** for those who have been considering running for political office to **get serious** about your plans:



In Calhoun County the offices up for election are:

- Calhoun County Commission,
- Sheriff,
- Coroner
- Revenue Commissioner
- Tax Collector
- Tax Assessor

To qualify to run for any Alabama local, state or national office the first day will be:

- January 5, 2026 (first day)
- January 23, 2026 (last day)

To qualify on the local level means to officially take action to get your name on the ballot by filling out the paperwork & paying your fee with your local Democratic Committee.

For those interested in qualifying for a state or national position the qualifying takes place with the Alabama Democratic Party in Montgomery, Al.

For more information: County Chair, Sheila Gilbert, 256-310-0955

# Not Your Personal Justice Department, Mr President

Within the framework of our democracy as written in the US Constitution and supported by law, Mr. Trump, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) belongs to the people of the United States of America. While in office, you are the caretaker for the DOJ and other federal agencies in the Executive branch, one of the three branches of US government. The DOJ is not your personal property or department to act or control outside the limits, boundaries and confines of established law and the Constitution. You, as head of the Executive branch; Congress; and the Judicial Branch/US Supreme Court, as well as all other persons employed by the government of this country are mandated to act within established law and the Constitution. Your Presidential oath of office included the words “serve, protect and defend the US Constitution”. Nowhere is it written that employees swear loyalty to you personally nor is any agency in the Executive branch yours to personally govern as you please, laws be damn.



Martha Jordan, Talladega  
Democrats, Guest Editorial

So it is alarming to read statements made by the President of the United States to a national newspaper, “I have absolute right to do what I want to do with the Justice Department”. Indeed, every citizen in this country should be alarmed, question, and seek clarification of the meaning and intent with regards to that statement. His words are those of a dictator such as Kim Jung Un - North Korea, Duterte in the Philippines, the Ayatollah in Iran, and even Isis leaders in the middle east. The President should be asked to explain what he means by “absolute right” and “do what I want”.

No, Mr President this is not “fake”. This statement (among others) was made by the President to a news reporter from the New York Times. This recent statement by the President is similar to his prior demand from the past FBI Director for “personal loyalty” to Trump. Being a former Federal worker, the oath of office (Title 5 USC, chapter 33) to which all employees “swear or affirm is to support the Constitution of the US” for, and on behalf of the U.S. government and it's people. Not loyalty or fealty to a political party, rich benefactor or personal preferences. It is not your personal Justice Department Mr. President.

*\*\*\* Submitted to the local newspaper on behalf of the \*\*\*  
Talladega County Democratic Party - January 2, 2018*

**Fast forward to 2025** – someone, anyone, please explain why people did not believe or listen to the warnings of Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris and a host of others too numerous to herein list or name. His list of criminal and civil infractions is also too numerous to list. But where is the legal cavalry to the rescue. Where is *Perry Mason*, *Law and Order*, *The FBI*, *the US Congress*? *It appears the answer is We The People*. But that’s another discussion.

M. Jordan  
10/22/2025

# This and that....

Beverly Williams, Newsletter Editor

Hi everybody! CalCoDems have reached the end of the donations for billboard messages for 2025! We continue to ask for donations so we can resume a successful project in 2026!

The 'Free Gio' message was taken down after she felt she had no choice but to self deport to Mexico, a place she left when she was 7 years old.

The billboard costs \$2,100 for 3/months and is paid for with local donations, the same donations that keep the HQ lights on and the water running. We ran out of 'available

funds' in the CalCoDem account and have not received enough

contributions to continue at this time. Thank you SO VERY MUCH to the donors who stepped up and gave. We hope to resume the billboard and bring Democratic causes to the forefront after the first of the year. Remember - 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. Your 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.** **Here's a**

**thought: Click on the QR code and then the DONATE button!** Act Blue is a trusted way to donate 🙏



**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. Visit his website at <https://waynerogersforalsecretaryofstate.com/>

## The November meeting is also gonna' be a Thanksgiving FEAST!!



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

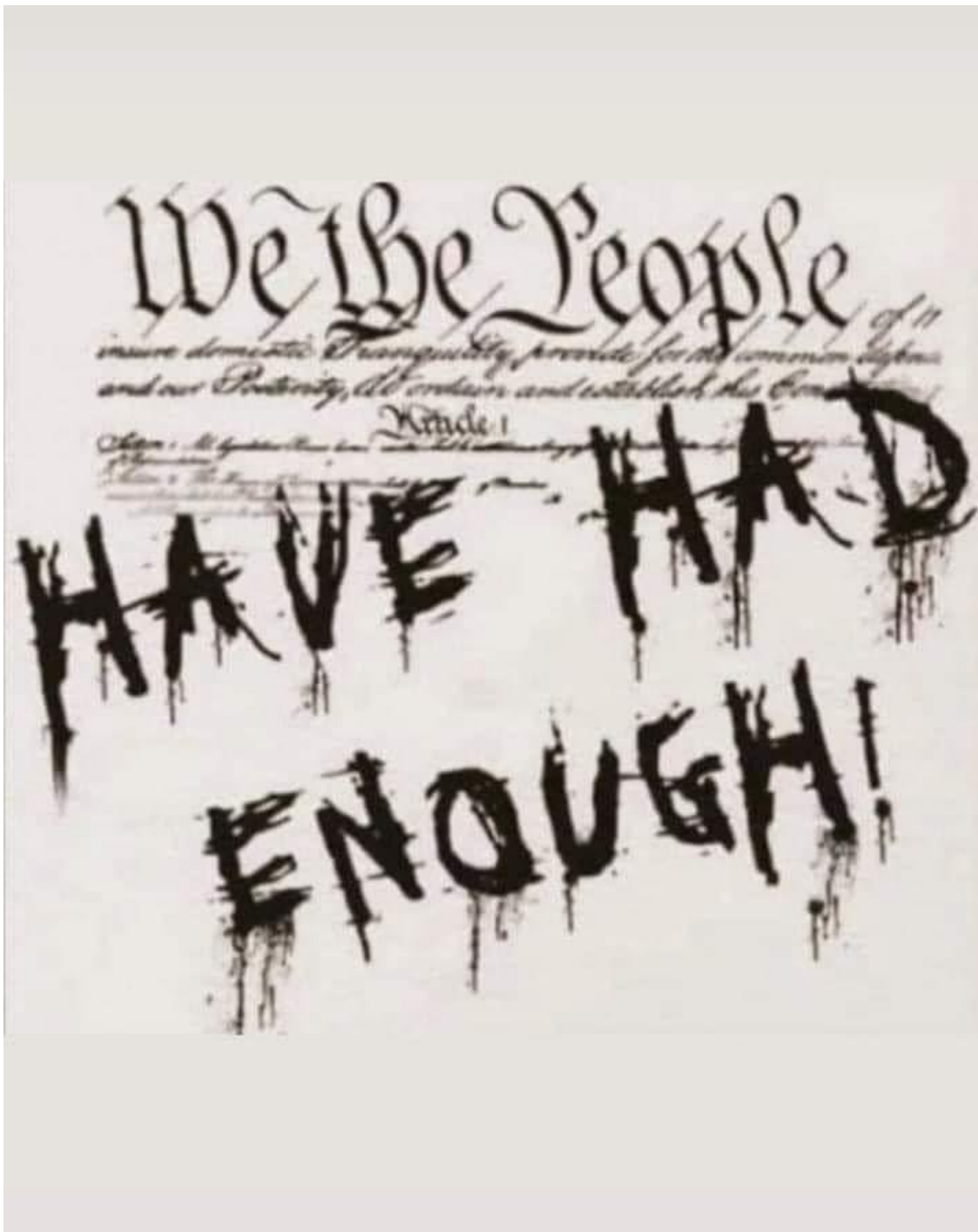
### Meanwhile, Calhoun County Democrats ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE is ongoing! Help is needed NOW more than ever.

We are NOW collecting non-perishable food items for the less fortunate in our community. Please bring canned goods and other non-perishable foods to HQ, 812 Noble Street, Anniston, on Wednesdays from 10 am til 4 pm and if you can't make it to HQ – bring them to the November 20<sup>th</sup> 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*





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

**PLEASE WATCH THE YOUTube VIDEO MADE BY LOCAL CONCERNED CITIZENS!**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdOVChn5qMg>**