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—For section.....Voices/Viewpoint
—Format.....Opinions
—Dateline.....Athens
—Article Number:.....43410



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Be prepared for Trump’s election subversion

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Our democratic institutions are under threat. We urgently
3 need grassroots organizing, voter turnout, and community action
4 to safeguard the 2026 midterms.

####END SUBHED####

5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 THE CERTAINTY THAT Donald Trump will do anything he
7 can to prevent the loss of the House of Representatives (hence,
8 near-certain impeachment) and perhaps even the Senate (where
9 upon conviction of the impeachment charge he could be
10 removed from office and vulnerable to criminal prosecution) in

11 this November's midterm election renders him a most desperate
12 man.

13 The insufferable blow to his fragile, malignant narcissistic
14 ego, dissolution of his unsupportable fantasy of being the master
15 of the universe, and sudden vulnerability to criminal prosecution
16 would engender an intolerable existence for him. He will do
17 anything to avoid what for him is a fate of existential proportions.

18 Hence, it's not surprising that Trump has been busy trying
19 to shape the midterm election in ways that would both
20 disenfranchise millions of us while placing the determination of
21 the election's results in his hands.

22 Toward that end, he suggested that Republicans should
23 take over running elections in at least 15 unspecified (hint:
24 Democrat) states in order to control how ballots will be cast and
25 counted, all while pushing the Republican majorities in Congress
26 to "nationalize" the election, so as to usurp from the states their
27 constitutionally designated power.

28 He's even stated on more than one occasion that the
29 United States should not hold the 2026 midterm elections.

30 * * *

31 THE TENDENCY TO dismiss such rhetoric as Trump is "just
32 joking" is belied by the recent FBI raids upon election hubs in
33 Atlanta and in Maricopa County, Arizona, to [seize materials](#) from
34 the 2020 election in an effort to prove his disproven claims about
35 fraud.

36 Or, most alarmingly, his promotion of the [SAVE](#)
37 [\(Safeguard American Voter Eligibility\) America Act](#), which would
38 disenfranchise millions of Americans in the name of preventing
39 the voter fraud that doesn't exist.

40 Mandating proof of citizenship to register to vote, SAVE
41 would prohibit millions of otherwise-qualified citizens from
42 exercising their franchise because they had changed their names
43 upon marriage, lost their birth certificates, or don't have a
44 passport, as would requiring a valid photo ID to vote in federal
45 elections.

46 SAVE would also eliminate the popular mail-in ballots
47 relied upon by nearly 50 million Americans.

48 Trump has also insisted that his private law firm, the U.S.
49 Department of Justice, mandate that states turn over their most
50 sensitive voter data — ostensibly to purge ineligible voters, but in
51 reality to eliminate large numbers of eligible Americans from
52 voting.

53 There was also the recent summit at the White House in
54 which election deniers who tried to overturn the 2020 election
55 met with top administration election security officials to help
56 Trump declare a national emergency as a pretext to cancel or
57 take over the midterms.

58 This occurred at the same time FBI invited election
59 officials from all 50 states to a conference with them and other
60 federal security agencies to discuss “preparations” for this year’s
61 election.

62 There is also a popular theory floating around that Trump
63 will pressure his House speaker, [Mike Johnson](#), to refuse to seat
64 Democratic winners in close elections when the president claims
65 there are disputes about the results.

66 All of which is not to overlook the crucial question as to
67 what role Trump will order the military and ICE Gestapo to play
68 as their commander-in-chief.

69 In addition to the MAGA operatives calling for ICE and
70 customs agents to be deployed at polling locations that would
71 intimidate voters and create fear at the ballot box, Trump
72 proposed to an audience of military brass last September about
73 using American cities as training grounds for the armed forces,
74 and needing the military to combat the “invasion from within.”

75 * * *

76 WHAT CAN WE DO to stop Trump’s attempted theft?

77 1. Remind ourselves and others that Trump’s actions and
78 inactions on Jan. 6, 2021 demonstrated that he’s totally capable
79 of trying to overthrow this election.

80 2. Build a campaign over the months ahead that prepares
81 us to prevent our election from being stolen. This campaign could
82 include:

83 —Encouraging people to register and vote in November’s
84 election to produce undeniable landslide victories.

85 —Volunteering to be a poll worker and/or poll watcher.

86 —Holding regular potluck community conversations,
87 informing one another as to what is happening and discussing
88 what we can do together.

89 —Calling upon our state and federal lawmakers to make
90 public statements to our neighbors in uniform that they have a
91 constitutional duty not to obey illegal orders.

92 —Confirming with our local police that they’ll remove
93 any illegal federal presence from voting areas.

94 —Preparing to boycott multinational corporations to hurt
95 the profits of Trump’s oligarchic buddies. (Remember Jimmy
96 Kimmel and the successful Disney boycott?)

97 * * *

98 FINALLY, WE CAN prepare to participate in a national
99 strike: no school, no work. We can do so by:

100 —Connecting with neighbors and friends to plan how to
101 take care of each other in the event of such an action.

102 —Stocking up on essentials in advance, including non-
103 perishable foods, prescriptions, and yes, rolls of bathroom tissue,
104 etc. *But shop from local businesses only.*

105 —Filling vehicle gas tanks on election eve, and several
106 gas cans beforehand.

107 * * *

108 PREVAILING IN this election is not our final victory over
109 fascism, but successfully preserving our universal suffrage is
110 fundamental to any true democracy.

111 Several of us are building a campaign to defeat Trump’s
112 attempted election suppression. Please join us. We welcome your
113 participation, as well as ideas and suggestions. Contact me:

114 bereal@vermontel.net

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

115 **TIM STEVENSON** is a community organizer with Post
116 Oil Solutions from Athens (bereal@vermontel.net) and is the
117 author of *Resilience and Resistance: Building Sustainable*
118 *Communities for a Post Oil Age* (Green Writers Press) and
119 *Transformative Activism: A Values Revolution in Everyday Life in a*
120 *Time of Societal Collapse* (Apocryphile Press). He is working on a
121 book about mutual care communities.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

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