

DEMOCRATS ARE NOT FOOLED!

CANDIDATES. We have candidates and they are people we can and must support. If you want to change the White House, the best way is to start with local and commonwealth candidates. To learn more about each candidate or to volunteer help or financing with their campaigns, just click on their names to send them an email. The earlier you respond with support, the more it helps. Read the Chair's Letter on the closing page to learn more. Here they are:

Candidate	Running For
Steve Jennings	Back Creek District Frederick Board of Supervisors
Will Gardner	Winchester Clerk of Court
Irina Khanin	District 29 Virginia House of Delegates

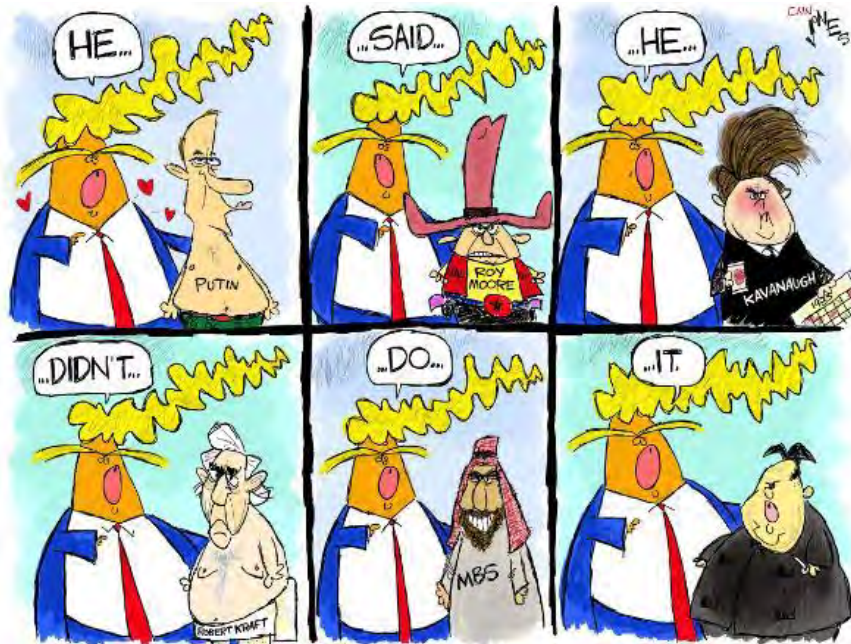
NAME CHANGE, PART II: At the suggestion of our Chair, I am changing the name of our current President from τ to 0_t . Yes, it is a zero subscripted by "t" - a real nothing.

TAXES. As you know, 0_t promised lower taxes for everyone. Then why is it newspaper articles are showing up all over the country about people paying more in taxes this year? Could it be because 11 million taxpayers are losing a total of \$323 billion in deductions and are being hit by double taxation? Read [this](#) US News article about it. Robin Hood in reverse!

HE'S IN THE MONEY: ... and running afoul of the US Constitution, it seems. It seems 0_t is set to receive 38 trademarks in China potentially worth billions of dollars, which could run against the emoluments clause of the US Constitution unless Congress approves. Currently, Congress is taking no action to approve, but per Chinese law, the trademarks will be formally registered after 90 days even without Congressional approval. Read about it in [this](#) Independent article. The trademarks cover businesses such as insurance, massage parlors, personal security services, spas, escort and concierge services, hotels, and more. You know, just the kinds of things in which 0_t would have an interest.



LOCAL NEWS OFTEN POLITICAL OPINION. The conservative Pew Research Center did a study in 2017 that found local news to be considered more trustworthy than more national sources. Understand that is a measure of perception by the public, not what might actually be true. Now it seems well-funded individuals and groups are setting up or taking over local news sites to spout their political opinions disguised as news and fake letters to the editors. Usually run by people in a completely different area, the sole purpose of their existence is to sway voters to their cause. [Here](#) is a Snopes article that tells a lot more and tells you some of who is doing what. You probably could name a local paper that has been politically biased for decades.



COUNTRY RANKINGS. Once again, US News & World Report has come out with their annual rankings of best countries. How did the US do? Not as well as it should. Does this mean 0_t is right and we need to "MAGA"? Not at all. In fact, it seems to be his policies that hold us down. [Here](#) is a good article from the Wharton School of Business that discusses it. The article includes a 24-minute podcast that is well worth a good listen to understand that made our ranking where it is. [Here](#) is the full list.

QUOTE: *I found much that was alarming about being a citizen during the tenures of Richard Nixon and George W. Bush. But whatever I may have seen as their limitations of character or intellect, neither was anything like as humanly impoverished as Trump is: ignorant of government, of history, of science, of philosophy, of art, incapable of expressing or recognizing subtlety or nuance, destitute of all decency, and wielding a vocabulary of seventy-seven words that is better called Jerkish than English.* ~ Philip Roth in *The New Yorker*

INVESTIGATIONS. If you do not want the press reporting the truth, what do you do? It seems 0_t decided to investigate the investigative reports covering those seeking asylum from down south. Those journalists had trouble at border crossings because of it. [Here](#) is a Snopes article that will tell you more. This is so much like what you would find in a totalitarian state.

BOOKS, BIBLES, AND BREASTS (WOMEN'S). What do these things have in common? They are all things 0_t has signed in public. See [this](#) Snopes article for more information.

AWARD RESCINDED. Why would an organization tell someone they are up for a major award and then rescind it? In this case, it is because the woman who was to receive the award said something unflattering about 0_t. The woman exposed the Russian trolling prior to and during the last election, so you may have heard of her. Check it out [here](#).



CLIMATE 2050. Ever wonder what the global climate and living conditions could be like in 2050? [This](#) article gives a view and states the real reason we aren't headed there. Following it are other environmental articles to enjoy.

GUNS. As you may have heard, Dick's Sporting Goods is stopping all gun and ammunition sales at 125 of their over 860 stores. On the surface, you might want to celebrate, but not so fast. Despite the claims of going anti-gun, they are pulling those items from stores where the gun/ammo sales have not been good. That means they are doing it where the people have sense enough not to buy them without an actual need. What would be nice would be for the company to eliminate such sales in all of their stores. You can learn more about it in [this](#) CNN article. Note that Wal-Mart decided to stop carrying assault weapons and stopped selling to people under the age of 21. Kroger, and you wonder why a grocery store would be selling guns anyway, dropped sales of all weapons. So should Dick's/

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Some signs have something important to say. Others are just funny. You may enjoy these.

In front of the Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace: *If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table not a taller fence.*

In a small mom & pop store: *When you buy from a mom or pop business, you are not helping a CEO buy a third vacation home. You are helping a little girl get dancing lessons, a little boy get his team jersey, a mom or dad put food on the table, a family pay a mortgage, or a student pay for college. Our customers are our shareholders and they are the ones that we strive to make happy.*

On an over-the-road electronic sign: *Texting while driving? Oh cell no!*

On a zoo fence: *Do not stand, sit, climb or lean on zoo fences. If you fall, animals could eat you and that might make them sick.*

In a Japanese men's room: *Please urinate with precision and elegance.*

Chalkboard sign outside a bookstore: *Post apocalyptic fiction has been moved to our current affairs section.*

**RUSSIA, IF YOU ARE LISTENING:
CAN YOU GET US A COPY OF THE MUELLER REPORT?**

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS NOW AND COMING. Imagine a high-grade concrete that traps CO₂ forever. What about an artificial leaf that captures CO₂ out of the air and turns it into fuel. Maybe you would prefer to hear that some major brands plan to end - or at least reduce - garbage. All this and more is in [this](#) CNN article and set of videos.

UNREASONABLE BUDGET. Every year, the president is required to send a proposed budget to Congress for the coming budget year. That happened a few weeks ago and you can learn a little about it [here](#). Just remember that Larry Ludlow (shown briefly in the video) is a conservative that spouts politics and calls things conservative even when they are not. In other words, he supports whomever happens to be the top republican at the time.

What is not covered in that article, except for one very brief mention, is that O_t is cutting almost everything that is not related to the military in some way. Of course, the military items are getting nice increases. [Here](#) is the 150-page proposal if you want to delve into the details.

There are a couple of interesting and related increases. You remember that O_t wanted \$5.7B for that unnecessary border wall. Now he wants \$8.6B for it. That is almost 16% inflation in just one year! He also wants to build 54,000 new beds to house people they stop at

the border at an average cost of \$50,000 per bed. Makes you wonder if they'll have some super beds or if someone will make a ton of money. Read more about it [here](#).

Do you remember that 0_t wanted to hire thousands of additional border guards? They managed to increase the number of guards by six. It seems very few want the jobs and they have trouble just keeping up with the people quitting. That is also in the last link.

QUOTE: *He has been a magnet to all the racists and xenophobes in the country, I haven't been this scared since the Cuban Missile Crisis. I think the human race is hanging in a delicate balance right now, and I'm just so afraid he will put us in a war. He scares me.* ~ Dick Van Dyke speaking about 0_t in 2016.

DEUTSCHE BANK LOANS. There are no words adequate to describe this. You know who it is about. Read [this](#) New York Times article that is so damning.

SLUMLORD KUSHNER. Yes, he is a slumlord and of the worst type. He manages to get around required inspections. He endangers the tenants. He forces out those paying lower rent. He lies on applications for occupancy. The list goes on. Read [this](#) Snopes article about his horrible practices.



CONGRATULATIONS! For the first time, the Abel Prize, a prize in mathematics awarded by the King of Norway and modeled after the Nobel Prize, has been awarded to a woman. Karen Uhlenbeck, the winner, is a mathematician and professor at the University of Texas. Read more about her and her work in [this](#) CNN article. For what it is worth, I remember seeing a Virginia high school student's work in the same area of minimal surfaces (think soap bubbles) about 25 years ago. His work was modeled after her work.

WITCH HUNT! For once, I am going to say 0_t is right that the Muller investigation is a witch hunt, as he has stated almost 300 times. If it acts like a witch, it probably is a witch and probably best to hunt the political ones down. It seems the head witch may be in the White House.

PARTY VOTING IN CONGRESS. Alright, so you already have an idea how each party votes in Congress. [Here](#) is an interesting collection of stats you might want to know.

THE STRONGMEN STRIKE BACK. A report by that name was authored by Robert Kagan within The Brookings Institute. It first appeared as an opinion piece in The Washington Post. Download and read the full report [here](#). I think you will agree with the content. As with almost everything coming out of The Brookings Institute, it is well researched. Many thanks to Mark Zimmerman for pointing it out!

BRANDING. Now it seems the 0_t International Hotel and the 0_t Store are selling souvenirs depicting the White House. This guy will stop at nothing to make more money off being president while completely ignoring the legalities. [Here](#) is a Huffington Post article about it.

CANDIDATES. South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, speaks Norwegian, Spanish, Italian,



Maltese, Arabic, Dari, and French. He's a Rhodes Scholar, an Afghan veteran, a concert pianist, and more. Meanwhile, 0_t accidentally hit his head with a golf club and tried to blame the caddy. Read more about it in [this](#) Newsweek article.

QUOTE: *Stopping Trump is a short-term solution. The long-term solution is fixing an education system that created so many ignorant people willing to vote for him.* ~ Andy Borowitz

BUMPSTOCKS ILLEGAL! Yup, read about it in [this](#) Huffington Post article. Huzzah!

HEALTH CARE. Yes, 0_t wants the Supreme Court to declare ACA (Obamacare) as unconstitutional. Per 0_t, the republicans will create a new health care system that is far superior and make republicans into the good health care party. [Here](#) is a CNN article about it and to the right is an image of the plan.



QUOTE: *One message of hope, if he wins again, is that we have limited the President's terms to two. But that's a long time.* ~ former republican Senator Jeff Flake speaking about 0_t. Read and hear more [here](#).

ELECTING CANDIDATES, by Kate Simpson. A group of forty Democrats from Winchester City and Frederick County gathered at the Hampton Inn Conference Center on Saturday, March 23rd from 8:30 until 1:00. Their purpose was to build a strategy to get candidates elected in November, 2019: Ronnie Ross, Senate 27; Wendy Gooditis, House 10; Mavis Tainter, House 33; Irina Khanin, House 29, and Will Gardner, Winchester Clerk of Court. As they prepared for November, 2019, they would be looking polish and perfect it for 2020. As Tonya James put it, our purpose is to “Grow the party and leave a legacy.” We see how much it takes organization and follow through of committed individuals, and this retreat is just a start!

Casey Turben and Larry Yates presented historical and current information about Frederick County. Turben comments, “As we set out to elect Democrats in 2019, we as the ‘on the ground’ representatives for our party values have an obligation to consider the diverse and often hostile politics that make up large chunks of our community. Hostile? The reality is that some of the largest gaps in ideas and values between modern Democrats and right-leaning disenchanted Trump voters lie among the perceived direction of policies on race and class/economics.” From Bacon’s Rebellion and Byrd’s Machine Politics, to Chuck Robb’s pro-business and moderate approach that continues with Democrats today, we considered the question: How does the party of Lincoln become the party of Trump?

Following the fascinating history, we listened to a variety of coordinators and campaign managers who count on local Democratic Committee Volunteers to call, canvass, and spread the candidates’ messages. Laura Pac Representatives shared their strategies for educating the public about progressive candidates, coordinating grassroots movements, and increasing voter registration. Tonya James and Austin Taylor who manage Ronnie Ross’ campaign offered experience and expertise so that our participants would consider taking leadership roles in districts and precincts in upcoming elections.

We finished our time together with lunch and discussion at round tables. As DEMOCRATIC AMBASSADOR ADVOCATES in Frederick County and Winchester City, it’s up to all of us to consider the policy and budget decisions that make “What we want”



possible. Recent Open Forums in our local paper from retreat participants suggest that participants felt motivated to action following the day's agenda. The Retreat Committee, led by Second Vice-Chair Michael Faison, thanks all who led sessions and participated in the retreat. Our goal is to host several more strategy sessions in a number of public venues as we reach out into areas and target neighbors who are new to our area.

CHAIR'S LETTER: Just in case you missed it, it's tax and budget time in Frederick County. The Star carried an editorial this morning proclaiming that, "Enough is never enough". I never cease to be amazed at the depths to which the Star will go to prevent even the appearance of progressive government. With fewer and fewer readers is the Star even relevant any longer?

Steve Jennings is running to become the next Supervisor from the Back Creek district. Steve has over 25 years of experience in Frederick County Public Schools. Chief among his concerns is keeping FCPS competitive so our young people get a decent education. Would the Star advocate for less? It would seem so. Steve is concerned about fire safety and adequate police coverage. It seems the Star also sees these subjects as frivolous overreach. Yet allow one home break-in, a violent accident on I 81 and the Star will be the first to criticize a late response.

Frederick County is growing - perhaps even faster than many of us realize. A short drive up Rt 11 through Snowden Bridge will give you some insight into the extent of this growth. Planning for such growth while maintaining the character of our community will require progressive thinking leaders who see the future as an exciting opportunity to embrace.

Conservative Supervisors who fear the future and plan by looking through the rearview mirror will undoubtedly leave our county ill-prepared for the inevitable tomorrow. Our schools will be overcrowded, aging surviving relics of the past. Is that what we hope for our children? Our fire and rescue departments will be unable to adequately address the emergencies of tomorrow with opioid addiction on the rise and I 81 becoming the most dangerous highway in the nation. Heaven only knows what we are going to do with our water and sewer issues if we fail to plan for the growth we know is coming and in fact here already. The challenges are hair-raising.

If we care about our future we simply must support people like Steve Jennings. This is the best opportunity we have had in a decade to send a truly good person to the Frederick County Board of Supervisors. Steve needs money and volunteers. If you live in Back Creek get a yard sign, talk to your neighbors, hold a meet and greet. Do something. If we fail to elect Steve we fail our community, our children and ultimately ourselves. Fondly, [Bill](#)



Thanks for being a Democrat!

[Ph71](#)