

The Democratic Party is moving in the opposite direction. Socialism was once dismissed as a fringe movement in American politics. Today, its ideas are increasingly becoming the agenda of the Democratic Party: bigger government, higher taxes, more spending, and more control over the daily lives of Americans.

Their own DSA movement openly calls for extending voting rights to noncitizens. Meanwhile, Democrats in Congress continue to oppose common-sense election safeguards, like the SAVE America Act, even though more than 80 percent of Americans support requiring identification to vote. That tells you everything you need to know about the competing visions before us.

Republicans believe that American elections should be decided by American citizens. We believe taxpayers' dollars should serve hardworking American families and not pay for gender transition surgeries for people who entered our country illegally. We believe that Americans should keep more of what they earn. We believe a sovereign country must have a secure border.

President Biden and congressional Democrats gave us 4 years of chaos at our southern border. President Trump and House Republicans proved that chaos was a policy choice. We enforced the law, secured the border, and restored common sense.

There is an inverse relationship between the size of government and the freedom of its people. Democrats want to grow government and shrink freedom. Congressional Republicans want to shrink the reach of government and grow individual freedom. That is the choice before this country: government control or individual liberty, dependence or opportunity, socialism or free markets, crazy or common sense.

I know which side I am on.

FAREWELL TEL

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant, a trusted member of my team, and a good friend, Tel Wittmer, as he concludes 3½ years of service to the people of the Big First District.

Tel is a Kansan through and through. He grew up in Holton, graduated from K-State, and, like me, had the privilege of serving as student body president at K-State.

From the beginning, I knew that Tel understood that leadership is ultimately about service. Tel first joined my office in Washington, where he quickly became someone who I trusted with some of the most difficult issues before the Congress. He brought tremendous thoughtfulness to his work as a legislative assistant, but he also brought personality and joy to the office.

My Washington, D.C., staff was incredibly sad to see him leave the Capitol when he and his wife, Madelyn, moved home to Kansas last February.

Fortunately for us, Tel was not leaving the team. He moved to Wamego and

took on the responsibility of serving as my district director. Over the last 1½ years, Kansans across the Big First have gotten to know the same Tel who we knew in Washington.

His thoughtfulness is apparent to everyone he meets. He listens carefully, treats people with respect, and approaches every conversation with a sincere desire to help. He has represented me and his office extremely well, and now my district staff feels the same way that my D.C. staff did when he left Washington. They are going to miss him tremendously, just as I will.

However, the things I admire most about Tel go way beyond his work. He is a man of strong faith, a leader in his community, a devoted husband to Madelyn, and now a great father to their young daughter, Eve.

I thank Tel for the 3½ years that he has given the people of Kansas. I thank him for his friendship, his counsel, his leadership, and the care he has shown to every Kansan who walked through the door.

While we will miss having Tel on our team, I am grateful that he will continue serving our great State in a new capacity. I know that God has great things ahead for Tel, Madelyn, and Eve, and I look forward to watching the next chapter unfold.

May God bless Tel, and I thank him for his service to the Big First.

EXPANDING SCOTUS

(Ms. MEJIA of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, our forefathers showed tremendous wisdom at the founding of our Nation. They created a republic based on democratic values but remained keenly aware of the danger power, ambition, and corruption could present to future generations.

Today, House Republicans are asking Congress to surrender its power, a power that rightfully belongs to the American people.

Our Founding Fathers gave Congress countervailing power to the executive, which this ideologically captured Court is actively attempting to upend. That is disgraceful, and if we do not forcefully push back, it will not end.

Expanding the Court is one of the clearest tools we have to restore its integrity. Ethics reforms and staggered term limits would prevent any single President from stripping the American people of our democracy.

Every day we let this administration tighten its grip on our highest court of the land puts every single constitutional protection we enjoy at risk.

I did not come to Congress to watch our democracy get dismantled in silence. I will not watch it happen now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to gather the intestinal fortitude to do what is right in this moment because history and the American people are watching.

RECOGNIZING NIHEEMA MALLOY

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Niheema Malloy, the first woman and the first Black woman to serve as chief of police in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Chief Malloy was appointed to this position with over 25 years of law enforcement experience. Under her leadership, Maplewood would have a department built on community partnership, officers trained in de-escalation, in crisis response, and in listening before a crisis ever happens.

Chief Malloy is committed to putting Maplewood first by ensuring that community safety and protection go hand in hand with the well-being of our residents.

New Jersey is proud of Chief Niheema Malloy. Her leadership reflects the very best of our communities, and I thank her for her remarkable service.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL
CHRISTOPHER D. SCHNEIDER

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Major General Christopher D. Schneider for his new role as the commanding general of Picatinny Arsenal in addition to serving as the portfolio acquisition executive for agile sustainment and ammunition.

General Schneider brings to this role more than three decades of distinguished service to our Nation. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, he began his career as an infantry officer, serving with the 1st Infantry Division, the 18th Airborne Corps, and the 82nd Airborne Division. Also, he served with the 75th Ranger Regiment, with deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He later transitioned to the Army Acquisition Corps, where he held senior leadership positions focused on strengthening our Nation's military capabilities and advancing critical technologies.

As commanding general of Picatinny Arsenal, General Schneider takes on an important responsibility for the U.S. Army and will be supported by one of the most talented and hardworking workforces in the Army right here in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

I congratulate General Schneider on his new role and look forward to working with him to support Picatinny Arsenal, its workforce, and our national security.

I welcome General Schneider to Picatinny and thank him for his service to our country.

HONORING TRADITION OF WAYNE COUNTY FAIR

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the treasured northeast Ohio tradition in Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, the Wayne County Fair.

It is the largest junior fair in the State, with more than 7,800 junior fair

entries. In a State with 88 counties, that ranking speaks for itself. In a county of just 116,000 residents, the fair welcomes over 150,000 visitors each year. This displays just how central agriculture truly is to our community in Ohio.

The first two lines of motto of the Future Farmers of America, also known as the FFA, are: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn.

I believe this perfectly captures the spirit of our 4-H and FFA youth here in Ohio. These students are up before sunrise, feeding their livestock before school. They communicate the importance of agriculture with pride. They act with integrity even when no one is watching. They consistently exemplify the grit, determination, and character that will make them the leaders of tomorrow.

Behind them stands a remarkable community. This year alone, the junior fair auction exceeded \$2 million, a testament to the families, businesses, and neighbors who invest in these students and believe in their future.

The Wayne County Fair is more than an event. It is a tradition. It is a classroom, and it is a way of life for us in the Seventh District of Ohio. I couldn't be more honored to represent the students, families, volunteers, and community who make this fair what it is.

The Wayne County Fair reflects the very best of the American spirit: hard work, responsibility, community, and a commitment to the next generation.

When I see the young people of Wayne County carrying those values forward, I have great confidence in the future of American agriculture and the next generation of leaders who will carry it forward.

PRIORITIZING BASICS IN PUERTO RICO

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the people of Puerto Rico want us to prioritize the basics of water and energy, and to fight corruption.

Last year in this Congress, I denounced alleged irregularities in the procurement process for an emergency energy generation contract.

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That concern was bipartisan. Former Congressman Mark Green and I co-signed a letter asking questions that weren't answered.

It turns out those concerns were warranted.

Let's take a cold look at the facts. On August 28, 2025, last year, Power Expectations and Reyes Contractor won a \$5.9 billion contract for temporary energy generation in Puerto Rico. But Power Expectations and Reyes Contractor didn't have the required expertise or financial capacity to perform the contract. The government agency in charge of procurement essentially

told them: find a partner who does, create a consortium, and then you have a deal.

Eventually Power Expectations and Reyes Contractor found Enchanted Rock. A person called Jhoby Weak, COO of Caribbean Operations, signed the contract on Enchanted Rock's behalf.

The oversight board, which must authorize contracts over \$10 million, approved the contract. Everyone was happy. Puerto Rico would have emergency energy generation in time for the summer peak.

The happiness didn't last. It turns out, Enchanted Rock had warned the government that there was a mistake: that they didn't sign the contract, that Jhoby Weak was not an Enchanted Rock employee, and that the position of COO for Caribbean Operations did not even exist within their company.

Apparently, someone forged the firm's signature.

But it gets worse. Before the alleged forgery, Enchanted Rock got a letter from a law firm. They claim the letter attempted to blackmail them, and when they replied, the law firm denied having sent that letter. The firm denied having ever represented Power Expectations or Reyes Contractor. Apparently, someone forged the law firm's letter.

Enchanted Rock informed the Government of Puerto Rico even before the contract was executed. You would expect that after all these irregularities, the relevant government agencies would have responded decisively, that they would have rescinded the contract, that they would have reported the fraud. But they didn't. Instead, they went and substituted Enchanted Rock with another company through an assumption and assignment agreement.

Nearly 2 months later, someone blew the whistle. An investigative journalist broke the news. Someone forged a signature in a \$5.9 billion energy contract.

The government knew, and the government hid it from the public, hid it from the oversight board, and hid it from the power authority.

When the oversight board found out, they canceled the contract. Under public pressure, the government referred the matter to law enforcement—again, 2 months late.

The people of Puerto Rico deserve answers and accountability.

Congress, which has assigned \$17 billion for Puerto Rico's energy grid, deserves answers and accountability. What did the Government of Puerto Rico know? When did the government know it? Why did the government hide it? Was it corruption, incompetence, or both?

This scandal has direct consequences over the people. There are power outages because we don't have emergency energy generation.

As the people of Puerto Rico's Representative in Congress, I want to emphasize the following: The vast major-

ity of Puerto Ricans are neither corrupt nor incompetent. Like the vast majority of American citizens and Members of Congress, we detest corruption, and we stand up to it.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this crusade of good government. Let's ask the questions and demand the answers. Let's work together to hold the crooks accountable, to fix the basics, and turn the lights back on in Puerto Rico.

HONORING BILL DOBA

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in Washington State University Cougars' athletics, former head football coach, Bill Doba, who passed away last week at the age of 85.

Bill was a great man and a great football coach, a longtime defensive coordinator, and 5-year head coach for the Cougars from 2003 to 2007. In all, he worked 19 seasons at WSU and was the lead architect of the renowned Palouse Posse defense, which led the country in 1994.

Bill was also a very devoted husband. Many knew of his lifetime romance with his wonderful wife, Judy. Judy herself was a great woman. I knew her personally when she volunteered frequently in my mother's kindergarten classroom at Franklin Elementary.

Bill Doba left a great impact on the entire State of Washington and the Pullman community, and he is remembered fondly.

Given that this is Apple Cup week, Mr. Speaker, I think it is also worth noting that Coach Bill Doba had a winning record against the Huskies and gave them a spanking in his last Apple Cup.

Rest in peace, Bill Doba, and thank you for all you have done for Cougar nation.

HONORING WALT WORTHY

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great member of the Spokane community, Mr. Walt Worthy. Many people know Walt and his wonderful wife, Karen, for their tremendous work to revitalize the Dav- enport Hotel. Today, I honor Walt for his extremely generous establishment of the Karen Worthy Memorial Wildfire Grant that will fund personal \$10,000 donations to victims of the Spokane fires.

In total, his generous donation could approach beyond \$5 million, perhaps even \$10 million, depending on how many fire victims are deemed eligible. It was only fitting that this announcement was made at Balboa Elementary School in the neighborhood of the fires and named in honor of his beloved wife, Karen. Karen taught first grade at Balboa Elementary School for nearly 20 years as Walt transitioned from his career as a survival specialist with the United States Air Force into a career as a builder and a developer.