

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MITCHELL

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

24 CVS 228

DAVID B. WHEELER,
Plaintiff,

**PLAINTIFF BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR ENTRY OF
JUDGEMENT OF DEFAULT AND
DAMAGES AGAINST DEFENDANT**

VS.

DONALD JOHN TRUMP
Defendant.

Hearing Date: March 4, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM EST

Location: Mitchell County Courthouse, 328 Long View Drive, Bakersville, NC 28705

Presiding Judge: Honorable Gary Gavenus

I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff David B. Wheeler, appearing pro se, submits this pre-hearing brief in support of his Motion for Default Judgment against Defendant Donald John Trump. This motion is filed under Rule 55(b)(2) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure due to Defendant's failure to respond within 30 days, despite proper service by personal delivery at his Florida residence, Plaintiff's attempts to contact Defendant's Chief of Staff, and a courtesy copy of the Notice of

Hearing served prior to the March 4, 2025, hearing. Default was entered by the Clerk of Superior Court on February 4, 2025. Plaintiff seeks \$17,500 in actual damages, \$52,500 in treble damages, \$100,000 in punitive damages, injunctive relief, and costs, as requested in the complaint. North Carolina law applies equally to all defendants—regardless of fame or political stature—as shown by consistent judicial precedent. This brief outlines the procedural background, legal standards, factual basis, and evidence supporting Plaintiff’s request.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- December 17, 2024: Plaintiff emailed Defendant’s Chief of Staff, Ms. Susie Wiles, requesting to whom to send the Complaint for Acceptance of Service, receiving no response (Exhibit A).
- December 18, 2024: Plaintiff filed the Complaint in the Superior Court of Mitchell County, North Carolina.
- December 23, 2024: The Complaint was served on Defendant by personal delivery at his residence, 1100 S Ocean Blvd, Palm Beach, FL 33480, per Rule 4 (Clark v. Clark, 301 N.C. 123, 271 S.E.2d 58 (1980); Harris v. Maready, 311 N.C. 536, 544, 319 S.E.2d 912 (1984)).
- December 24, 2024: The served Complaint was posted on Plaintiff’s organization’s website: americanmuckrakers.com/trumplawsuit, enhancing notice (Mullane v. Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co., 339 U.S. 306 (1950)).
- January 13, 2025: Plaintiff filed an Affidavit of Service by Certified Mail with the Clerk, attaching confirmation.

- January 22, 2025: Defendant’s Rule 12(a) deadline expired without response.
- January 24, 2025: Plaintiff filed a Motion for Entry of Default Judgment and Request for Hearing.
- February 4, 2025: The Clerk entered Default under Rule 55(a) (Taylor v. Brinkley, 176 N.C. App. 514, 626 S.E.2d 859 (2006)).
- February 25, 2025: Plaintiff sent a courtesy copy of the Notice of Hearing to Defendant, via certified mail, return receipt requested.

Defendant has not responded despite proper service and additional notice efforts beyond Rule 4 requirements.

III. LEGAL STANDARD FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

North Carolina law permits default judgment when a defendant fails to answer after proper service, per Rule 55(b)(2), provided the complaint’s allegations justify relief. Non-response admits the facts (Roland v. W & L Motor Lines, Inc., 32 N.C. App. 288, 289, 231 S.E.2d 685 (1977); Hill v. Hill, 11 N.C. App. 1, 180 S.E.2d 424 (1971)), but the court must ensure these facts constitute valid claims (Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Co. v. Mayo, 115 N.C. App. 18, 443 S.E.2d 781 (1994)). Roland confirms “failure to file an answer” triggers default, yet relief requires judicial review of the allegations’ legal sufficiency (Roland, 32 N.C. App. at 291; Taylor v. Brinkley, 176 N.C. App. 514, 626 S.E.2d 859 (2006)), limited to the complaint’s scope (Hunter v. Spaulding, 97 N.C. App. 372, 388 S.E.2d 630 (1990)).

“Justify relief” means the allegations must factually support each claim’s elements:

1) UDTPA (N.C.G.S. § 75-1.1):

- a) Unfair or deceptive act in commerce (e.g., false campaign statements, Complaint, p.7),
- b) Affecting Plaintiff (e.g., reliance, threats, Complaint, p.10),
- c) Causing injury (e.g., therapy costs, distress, Complaint, p.11) (Marshall v. Miller, 302 N.C. 539, 276 S.E.2d 397 (1981)).

2) Negligent Misrepresentation:

- a) False statement (e.g., grocery cost promises, Complaint, p.7),
- b) Without reasonable care
- c) Justifiable reliance
- d) Proximate injury (e.g., financial strain, Complaint, p.11) (Raritan River Steel Co. v. Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, 322 N.C. 200, 367 S.E.2d 609 (1988)).

3) Intention Infliction of Emotional Distress:

- a) Extreme and outrageous conduct (e.g., threat-inciting statements, Complaint, p.8),
- b) Intent or reckless disregard (e.g., foreseeable harm, Complaint, p.10)
- c) Severe emotional distress (e.g., therapy, relocation, Complaint, p.11) (Dickens v. Puryear, 302 N.C. 437, 447, 276 S.E.2d 325 (1981); Lumbermens, 115 N.C. App. at 22).

4) Public Nuisance:

- a) Unreasonable interference with public right (e.g., community disruption, Complaint, p.15),
- b) Special injury to Plaintiff (e.g., threats, distress) (*Twitty v. North Carolina*, 85 N.C. App. 42, 354 S.E.2d 296 (1987)).

Jurisdiction extends via N.C.G.S. § 1-75.4(1)(d) and § 1-75.4(3), given Defendant's extensive North Carolina ties since 2005, including officership in The Trump Organization, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, The Donald J. Trump for President, Inc, registered in North Carolina from October 5, 2016, to July 25, 2024, 19 campaign visits in 2023-2024, and fundraising and solicitation activities (Complaint, p.7) (*Tom Togs, Inc. v. Ben Elias Indus. Corp.*, 318 N.C. 361, 348 S.E.2d 782 (1986); *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310 (1945)). Status offers no shield (*Harris*, 311 N.C. at 544; *Johnson v. Johnson*, 310 N.C. 581, 313 S.E.2d 162 (1984); *Bell v. Martin*, 43 N.C. App. 134, 258 S.E.2d 403 (1979); *Spartan Leasing, Inc. v. Pollard*, 101 N.C. App. 450, 400 S.E.2d 476 (1991)).

Defendant, served December 23, 2024, has not responded, warranting judgment.

IV. FACTUAL BASIS FOR RELIEF

Defendant Donald John Trump's false and inflammatory statements during the 2023-2024 campaign cycle in North Carolina, made at public meetings at 19 documented campaign events in 2024 (e.g., rallies in Wilmington on September 21, Swannanoa in late October, and Raleigh on

November 4)—and widely reported (Complaint, p.7), were knowingly false and intended to intimidate opponents, foreseeably causing Plaintiff and other Trump opponents harm, including:

- Financial losses from therapy and protective measures due to threats incited by Defendant’s rhetoric.
- Severe emotional distress from over 100 threatening messages (e.g., “bash skulls,” Complaint, p.10), targeting Plaintiff and his children (ages 9, 12, 14), linked to Defendant’s statements or Plaintiff’s First Amendment rights as an opponent.
- Disruption of safety, forcing relocation considerations.

Key statements include:

- “We’re going to have retribution... we know what happens to people who work against us” (Complaint, p.8), inciting threats like “burn your houses down” (Complaint, p.10), knowingly false and intimidatory.
- “Democrats in North Carolina are deliberately withholding aid from Republican areas affected by Hurricane Helene” (Complaint, p.8), a fear-inducing falsehood post-October 2024 hurricane, and related to Plaintiff since he lives in a “Republican area”.
- “Migrants are flooding into North Carolina, committing crimes at unprecedented levels” (Complaint, p.12), fostering hostility with no basis and related to Plaintiff’s residence in a community with a large percentage of immigrants.

Defendant knew these were false yet intended intimidation, as shown by Trump v. Seltzer & Co. (Polk County, IA, December 2024), alleging false statements harm reputation (Complaint, p.10).

These statements, made across his frequent 2023-2024 North Carolina visits, foreseeably incited acts against Trump opponents in 2024, including a summer 2024 BB gun assault in Pasquotank County where four men shot at Black teens for disliking Trump, injuring two, and mid-October 2024 threats by an armed Trump supporter against FEMA workers in western North Carolina, tied to similar FEMA falsehoods (Complaint, p.8). Plaintiff's 100+ threats and derogatory comments (Exhibit B) align with this pattern, targeting him as a known opponent via American Muckrakers. These comments violate N.C.G.S. § 75-1.1 (Marshall, 302 N.C. at 548), constitute negligent misrepresentation (Raritan, 322 N.C. at 206), and IIED (Dickens, 302 N.C. at 447; Hogan v. Forsyth Country Club Co., 79 N.C. App. 483, 493, 340 S.E.2d 116 (1986)), with intent/recklessness (Turner v. Thomas, 369 N.C. 419, 794 S.E.2d 439 (2016); Moody-Williams v. Liposcience, 2013 NCBC 39; Watson v. Dixon, 352 N.C. 343, 532 S.E.2d 175 (2000)), amplified by press (Stanback v. Stanback, 297 N.C. 181, 254 S.E.2d 611 (1979); Wilson v. Bellamy, 105 N.C. App. 446, 414 S.E.2d 347 (1992)), and public nuisance (Twitty, 85 N.C. App. at 48). Chidnese v. Chidnese (210 N.C. App. 299, 708 S.E.2d 725 (2011)) affirms liability where influence incites harm.

Defendant's non-response admits these facts (Roland, 32 N.C. App. at 289; Hill, 11 N.C. App. at 5).

V. EVIDENCE SUPPORTING RELIEF

Plaintiff will present:

- Over 100 Threatening Messages (Exhibit B): Social media, texts, emails, and voicemails with violent threats (e.g., “bash skulls,” “burn your houses down”), tied to Defendant’s statements.
- Financial Documentation (Exhibit C): Receipts for therapy, relocation costs (e.g., temporary housing), and protective measures (e.g., security upgrades).
- Contextual Evidence (Exhibit D): Records of Defendant’s statements’ falsity and impact, including media reports.

This aligns with Rule 55(b)(2), uncontested due to Defendant’s silence (Bell, 43 N.C. App. at 138).

VI. CALCULATION OF DAMAGES

- Actual Damages: \$17,500
 - Covers therapy, protective measures, and distress, admitted by default (Roland, 32 N.C. App. at 289), to be substantiated at the March 4, 2025, hearing per Rule 55(b)(2) and Taylor (176 N.C. App. at 520). Raritan (322 N.C. at 206) supports reliance losses, while Guthrie v. Conroy (152 N.C. App. 15, 567 S.E.2d 403 (2002)), Stanback (297 N.C. at 198), Wilson (105 N.C. App. at 456), and Moody-Williams (2013 NCBC 39) affirm therapy costs from public statements inciting distress.

- Treble Damages: \$52,500
 - N.C.G.S. § 75-16 mandates treble damages for UDTPA violations. Defendant’s knowingly false statements align with Marshall (302 N.C. at 548) and Bhatti v. Buckland (328 N.C. 240, 400 S.E.2d 440 (1991)).

- Punitive Damages: \$100,000
 - N.C.G.S. § 1D-15 permits punitive damages for willful or reckless conduct, to be substantiated at the March 4, 2025, hearing per Taylor (176 N.C. App. at 520). Defendant’s statements, knowingly false to intimidate (Trump v. Seltzer, Complaint, p.10), are “extreme and outrageous” (Dickens, 302 N.C. at 447; Hogan, 79 N.C. App. at 493; Holloway, 339 N.C. at 354; Turner, 369 N.C. at 429; Watson, 352 N.C. at 349; Chidnese, 210 N.C. App. at 309), inciting threats via press (Stanback, 297 N.C. at 198; Wilson, 105 N.C. App. at 456; Moody-Williams, 2013 NCBC 39). Waddle (331 N.C. at 83) and Twitty (85 N.C. App. at 48) justify awards for severe distress and public harm.

Total (\$170,000) is reasonable (Hill, 11 N.C. App. at 5; Hunter, 97 N.C. App. at 377).

VII. REQUEST FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiff seeks an injunction barring further false or inflammatory statements endangering him or the public, per Faulkenbury v. Teachers’ & State Employees’ Ret. Sys. (345 N.C. 683, 694, 483 S.E.2d 422 (1997)). Defendant’s influence amplifies this need, not his exemption (Harris, 311 N.C. at 544).

VIII. PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY DOES NOT APPLY

Defendant cannot claim presidential immunity, as the alleged acts occurred when he was a private citizen during the 2023-2024 campaign cycle, and this lawsuit was filed on December 18, 2024, prior to his inauguration on January 20, 2025. Immunity applies only to official acts within executive authority, not unofficial or pre-presidential conduct. In *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681 (1997), the U.S. Supreme Court held that a sitting president enjoys no immunity from civil litigation for unofficial acts committed before taking office, allowing a suit against President Clinton for pre-presidential conduct to proceed (*Clinton*, 520 U.S. at 696). In *Trump v. Vance*, 591 U.S. 786 (2020), the Court rejected absolute immunity for pre-presidential actions in state investigations (*Trump v. Vance*, 591 U.S. at 811). Nor does Defendant's post-January 20, 2025, status shield pre-inauguration acts or ongoing harm from prior statements (*Clinton*, 520 U.S. at 696).

Defendant's statements—made during the 2023-2024 campaign cycle (Complaint, p.7)—occurred as a private citizen and candidate. Examples include “retribution” threats (Complaint, p.8), false FEMA claims (Complaint, p.8), and migrant crime assertions (Complaint, p.12), not official duties. These predate his January 20, 2025, inauguration, per *Clinton v. Jones* (*Clinton*, 520 U.S. at 694-95). This suit, filed December 18, 2024, commenced when Defendant held no presidential authority. North Carolina courts deny retroactive immunity for pre-office acts, as in *Knight v. Vernon*, 214 F.3d 544 (4th Cir. 2000) (*Knight*, 214 F.3d at 548). Even post-inauguration, *Trump v. United States*, 603 U.S. ____ (2024), limits immunity to core duties, inapplicable to campaign rhetoric (*Trump v. United States*, 603 U.S. at 32-33). Defendant's

Trump v. Seltzer & Co. (Complaint, p.10) pursuit as a private citizen negates immunity claims. Thus, immunity does not apply (Clinton, 520 U.S. at 707; Knight, 214 F.3d at 548).

IX. LACK OF DIRECT INCITEMENT OR NAMING DOES NOT BAR LIABILITY

Defendant cannot avoid liability for IIED by noting he neither incited a crowd to target Plaintiff by name nor uttered Plaintiff's name. North Carolina law imposes liability when statements foreseeably cause severe distress through reckless disregard, without requiring specific targeting. Defendant's statements satisfy this standard.

IIED requires (1) extreme and outrageous conduct, (2) intent or reckless disregard, (3) severe distress (Dickens, 302 N.C. at 447). Turner v. Thomas, 369 N.C. 419, 794 S.E.2d 439 (2016), held reckless disregard suffices when harm is foreseeable, despite no direct naming (Turner, 369 N.C. at 429). Watson v. Dixon, 352 N.C. 343, 532 S.E.2d 175 (2000), upheld liability where influence made distress predictable (Watson, 352 N.C. at 349), and Stanback v. Stanback, 297 N.C. 181, 254 S.E.2d 611 (1979), found foreseeability from public acts sufficient (Stanback, 297 N.C. at 198). Holloway v. Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., 339 N.C. 338, 452 S.E.2d 233 (1994), and Wilson v. Bellamy, 105 N.C. App. 446, 414 S.E.2d 347 (1992), affirm that persistent or public conduct foreseeably causing distress supports relief (Holloway, 339 N.C. at 354; Wilson, 105 N.C. App. at 456). As with Pasquotank and FEMA threats in 2024 (Section IV), Defendant's statements foreseeably incited harm.

Defendant's statements—e.g., “We’re going to have retribution...” (Complaint, p.8)—made at public meetings, widely reported, foreseeably incited over 100 threats against Plaintiff (Complaint, p.10; Exhibit A), a known critic. His influence, akin to Watson (352 N.C. at 349),

and public context, per Stanback (297 N.C. at 198), made harm predictable, satisfying reckless disregard (Turner, 369 N.C. at 429; Moody-Williams, 2013 NCBC 39 at ¶ 25). His Trump v. Seltzer & Co. filing (Complaint, p.10) shows he knows statements cause harm, reinforcing foreseeability (Holloway, 339 N.C. at 354). Non-response admits these facts (Roland, 32 N.C. App. at 289).

X. CONCLUSION

- Plaintiff meets Rule 55(b)(2).
- Defendant's failure to respond admits the complaint's allegations, justifying relief for UDTPA, negligent misrepresentation, IIED, and public nuisance (Roland, 32 N.C. App. at 289; Hill, 11 N.C. App. at 5; Lumbermens, 115 N.C. App. at 22).
- Service in Florida is valid, with Defendant's extensive North Carolina ties since 2005, including 19 visits in 2023-2024 (International Shoe, 326 U.S. at 316; Burger King, 471 U.S. at 475; Goodyear, 564 U.S. at 924; Bristol-Myers, 582 U.S. at 262; Tom Togs, 318 N.C. at 367), notice exceeding due process (Mullane, 339 U.S. at 314; Clark, 301 N.C. at 129; Taylor, 176 N.C. App. at 518).
- No status or immunity shields Defendant (Harris, 311 N.C. 536; Bell, 43 N.C. App. 134; Johnson, 310 N.C. 581; Spartan Leasing, 101 N.C. App. 450; Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 696 (1997)).
- Lack of direct incitement or naming does not bar liability (Dickens, 302 N.C. at 447; Turner, 369 N.C. at 429).
- For UDTPA, Marshall and Bhatti support treble damages.
- For negligent misrepresentation, Raritan justifies actual damages.

- For IIED, Dickens, Hogan, Turner, Stanback, Watson, Moody-Williams, Chidnese, Waddle, Holloway, Guthrie, and Wilson validate damages from knowingly false, intimidatory statements (Trump v. Seltzer, Complaint, p.10), inciting distress via press against Plaintiff and other North Carolina opponents in 2024.
- For public nuisance, Twitty backs relief (Hunter, 97 N.C. App. at 377).
- Evidence confirms \$170,000 total, injunctive relief, and costs.

Plaintiff requests the court grant the Motion and award the relief.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Wheeler
Pro Se Plaintiff
PO Box 51
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
davidbwheeler1@gmail.com
Phone: (312) 213-6001

EXHIBIT A



David Wheeler <david@americanmuckrakers.com>


Wheeler lawsuit

1 message

David B. Wheeler (American Muckrakers) <david@americanmuckrakers.com>
To: susanwiles@msn.com

Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 11:01 PM

Susie - Who will accept service on the attached lawsuit after we've filed?

 **Wheeler v Trump_241217_230058.pdf**
189K

USPS® Item Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Room 9589071052700236670975

1 message

auto-reply@usps.com <auto-reply@usps.com>
To: david@americanmuckrakers.com

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 3:14 PM



Hello **David**,

Your item was delivered to the front desk, reception area, or mail room at 3:09 pm on February 28, 2025 in PALM BEACH, FL 33480.

Tracking Number: [9589071052700236670975](#)

Delivered, Front Desk/Reception/Mail Room



Tracking & Delivery Options

My Account



Expected delivery date and time is subject to change, but if it does we'll send you an email update. Delivery options not available for all packages at all times.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
MITCHELL COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

DAVID B. WHEELER,

Plaintiff,

v.

24 CVS 000228

DONALD JOHN TRUMP,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

TO: Donald John Trump, Defendant

1100 S Ocean Blvd

Palm Beach, FL 33480

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned Plaintiff, David B. Wheeler, appearing pro se, will bring on for hearing his **Motion for Default Judgment** in the above-captioned matter before the Honorable Gary Gavenus, Superior Court Judge, at the Mitchell County Courthouse, 328 Long View Drive, Bakersville, North Carolina 28705, on **March 4, 2025**, at **10:00 AM EST**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

This hearing is pursuant to Rule 55(b)(2) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff filed a Complaint against you on **December 18, 2024**, which was served upon you on **December 23, 2024**, at the above address. You failed to answer or otherwise respond within 30 days as required by Rule 12(a), and the Clerk of Superior Court entered default against you on **February 4, 2025**.

At the hearing, Plaintiff will seek the following relief as demanded in the Complaint:

1. Actual damages of \$17,500 for financial losses (therapy costs, protective measures) and emotional distress caused by your false and inflammatory statements;
2. Treble damages of \$52,500 pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 75-16 for violations of N.C.G.S. § 75-1.1 (Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act);
3. Punitive damages of \$100,000 to punish and deter your egregious misconduct;
4. Injunctive relief prohibiting you from further disseminating false or inflammatory statements endangering Plaintiff or the public;

5. Costs of this action; and
6. Such other relief as the Court deems just.

You may appear at the hearing to oppose this motion, though your failure to respond to date has resulted in the entry of default. A copy of the Motion for Default Judgment, with supporting exhibits including over one hundred threatening or derogatory messages received by Plaintiff, will be available at the Mitchell County Clerk of Court or upon request on March 1, 2025.

Dated: February 25, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Wheeler, Pro Se Plaintiff
PO Box 51
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Phone: (312) 213-6001

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 25, 2025, I served a true copy of this Notice of Hearing for Default Judgment upon the Defendant, Donald John Trump, by placing it in the United States Mail, certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Donald John Trump
1100 S Ocean Blvd
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dated: February 25, 2025

David B. Wheeler, Pro Se Plaintiff

EXHIBIT B

VoiceMail_2023-05-24_12-25-50.amr

Speaker 1 [00:00:02] Hey you tranny lovin fagots. You are so lucky that I am not the preacher. See, he's going after the legal way. I had to come up there with a bat and bash your fucking skulls and burn your fucking houses down.

Speaker 1 [00:00:19] He'd never notice me. But I'm not the preacher, so that's not going to happen. But I hope he does. Because cocksuckers like you.

Speaker 1 [00:00:32] Are the one that's tearing the country apart.

Speaker 1 [00:00:38] And you are cocksuckers. Literally. Your tranny loving cocksuckers. But that's my freedom of speech. So go fuck yourself. Thanks.



Rick Freshwater

@FreshwaterRick

Football. Jesus. Blue Mountains.

Joined January 2022 · 311 Followers

Not followed by anyone you're following

You're a faggot. Go fuck yourself you communist. You must hate America. You're a pussy. Kamala is a dei Whore

10:44 AM



[American Muckrakers] Contacts - new submission

1 message

Robert Allen <reply-to+c05c1ae8cb66@crm.wix.com> Tue, Sep 19, 2023 at 2:09 PM
Reply-to: Robert Allen <56d987c7-56a7-451a-8ccb-b0aeadc6551a@crm.wix.com>
To: david@americanmuckrakers.com

Robert Allen just submitted your form: Contacts
on American Muckrakers

Message Details:

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Allen

Email: allenrobert70@yahoo.com

Subject 2: Laura boebert.

Message: Your time is coming motherfuckers.lets dig
up your savory past shall we.p.s you dont get to tell us
how to vote.suck it

Reply directly or go to your site's Inbox:

[Respond Now](#)

If you think this submission is spam, [report it as spam](#).

To edit your email settings, go to your Inbox on desktop.



Republicans for National Renewal ✓ @RNRenewal · Jun 14, 2022 ...

A tremendous embarrassment for @FireBoebert & @davidbwheeler as they use a picture of a totally different woman to falsely smear the great @laurenboebert.

Hopefully she sues these clowns to oblivion for their obvious defamation.

bigleaguepolitics.com/exclusive-amer...

24

45

107



Ned Stone
@7h3_6h05t



Keep in mind these were the same people who brought down Cawthorne. I would keep an 👁️ on this group as a threat to the movement

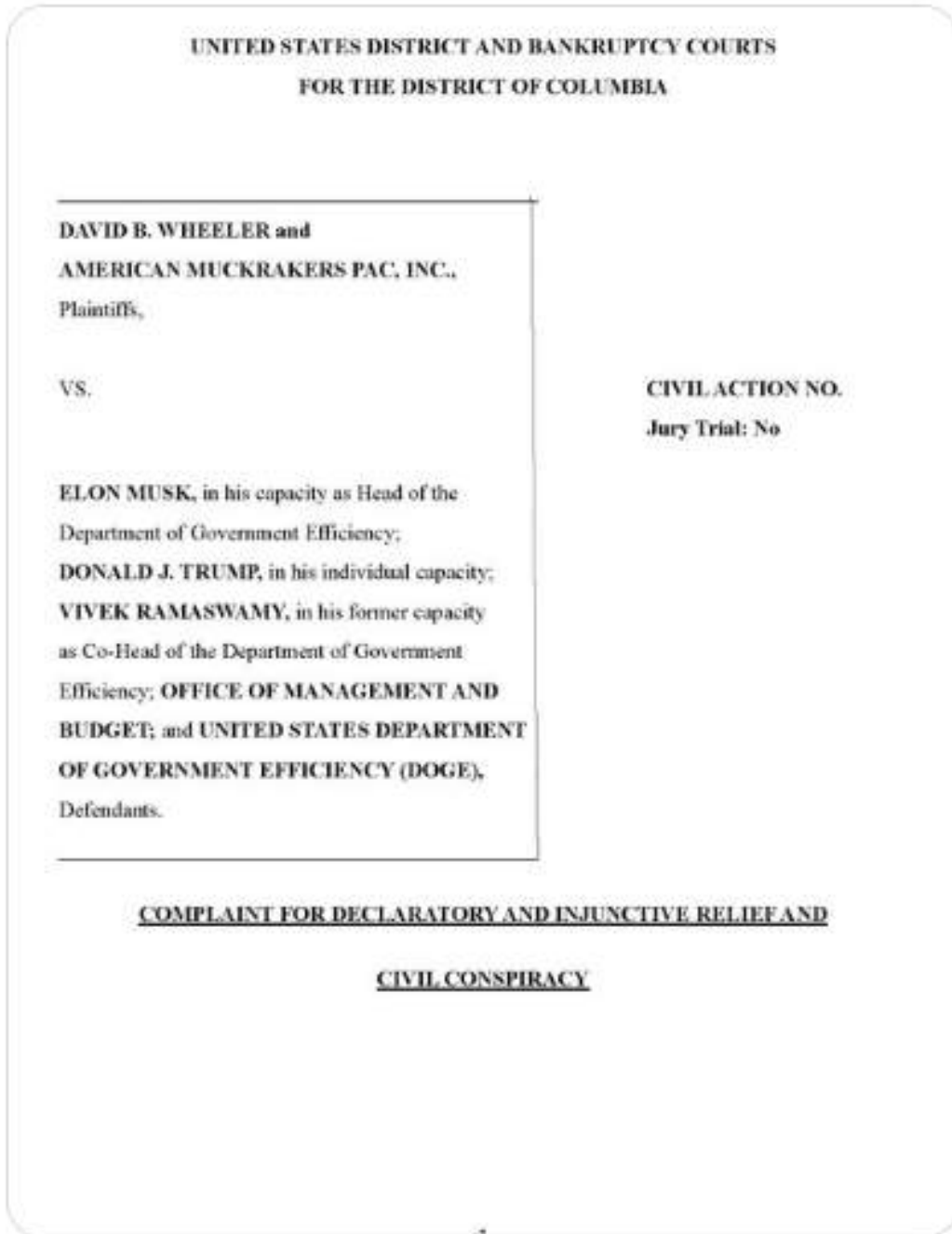
6:23 PM · Jun 14, 2022



American Muckrakers @AmericanMuck · Feb 3



NEW & BREAKING: This will be filed tomorrow against MUSK, TRUMP, RAMASWAMY, DOGE & OMB. We are seeking an injunction to stop DOGE. We're sick of this shit and fighting back, even though we'll be out-lawyered and dragged through the mud.



4.4K

7K

24K

883K



George
@George649462151



Eat shit and die. Asking for donations lol



The Forth Branch of Government, Elom Musk

@mayor2030



EXHIBIT B

We all voted to burn the deep state down!!! Stop getting in the way of democracy, you filthy communist scum!



12:51 PM • Feb 4, 2025 • 4 Views



Guaranteed Success-38 

@gsusgod



You may want to take a look at what you're defending and perhaps think "Is this the hill I die on?"

If it is, we'll memorialize you as a party to the deeds and corruption uncovered by DOGE.

9:44 PM · Feb 3, 2025 · 55 Views



WillJAC_FormerD
@WilJac_FormerD



\$53,000,000,000 in waste discovered in two weeks. And scum like you with no moral compass will do anything to protect the underbelly of the beast. It's time for the beast to die. [#weknow](#) [#itsover](#) [#DemocratSwine](#)

9:18 PM · Feb 3, 2025 · 9 Views



Michael Jones 🇺🇸 ✓
@jukeandjive45



Hopefully you die cry baby

10:35 AM · Jan 31, 2025 · 2 Views



James Burger

@TheBurgerMan78



I wish you would have a massive heart attack and die! 🖐️ 🖐️ 🖐️

9:13 AM · Jan 31, 2025 · 4 Views

← Post



ccp
@ccp696969



We all hope you die

8:10 AM · Jan 31, 2025 · 3 Views



Kibs70 @Kibs701 · Jan 31



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Nice going. Now the federal government has all your information and they'll be watching you to the day you **die** because your comment.



2





Spike

@Artisangilder



That takes too long.
JUST DIE.

3:08 AM · Jan 31, 2025 · 1 View



DrunkenCowboy ✓
@DrunkCowboy1775



I wish YOU would have a massive heart attack and die

12:21 AM · Jan 31, 2025 · 4 Views



Anita

@OmnipresentGod

@JudicialWatch @ACLJAction @LibertyCounsel

WHEN ARE DEFAMATION LAWSUITS GOING TO BE SERVED ON
ALL ALLOWED TO POST DEFAMATION CRIMES AGAINST
HONORABLE PRESIDENT TRUMP
HONORABLE ELON MUSK

👉 MARDO LARDO

👉 @americanmuckrakers



A. Remnant

@another_remnant · May 19, 2022

David B. Wheeler from Spruce Pine, NC & his Muckraker pals are actively seeking anything derogatory in Lauren Boebert's past, which caused me to wonder if any of y'all might have something of interest to share on Mr. Wheeler or any of his cronies. If so, please share it with us.



Aircraft_mech

@Aircraft_mech · Jun 15, 2022

Replying to [@jigme](#)

Davide Wheeler is a total Scumbag. I hope Boebert sues him and Muckrakers
pac into oblivion

1 3



Paul Scott @PaulSco56526065 · Feb 23



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#) and [@ColMoeDavis](#)

"Proud to serve" under Joe Biden?

Go **Fuck** yourself!

You're just another pencil pushing desk jockey hack Attorney who couldn't make it in the Private sector. Wouldn't surprise me if you get rolled up for being dirty.

I know your type.

The Phony "Tough Guy" like your pal Biden.



↩ 1



2

📄 19





Jimbo Forbes @ForbesJimbo · Feb 23



Replying to @AmericanMuck and @ColMoeDavis



This fuck-tard?





Christopher @Topher_Hulk · Feb 10




Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#) and [@jdpoc](#)

Fake ad **fuck** you retards









 72



 **Madzia** @Madzia38027940 · Feb 6 ✕ ...

Replying to [@CABLUEinColumb1](#) [@PaulMcD60525249](#) and 2 others

No **fuck** you,pussy with dick.

 1    10  



HadarraH @TheRealHadarraH · Feb 5



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)




FUCK YOU. You're being found out, it's all coming to light. You're fucking done. File these nuts bitch. We're ready to drag you fuckers out in the streets over this treasonous dogshit.



 **Axphyl**   @Axphyl95 · Feb 4 ✂️ ⋮

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Go **fuck** yourselves, you pieces of shit!!!

    1  



Sebastian Porka DrP @_no__pasaran__ · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Elon had 9 out of 11 kids invitro. Pretty certain he isn't gonna **fuck** you.





Sobchak Security @SobchakTakes · Feb 4










Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)








Fuck yourselves







 **James iacovelli** @Jamesiacov31996 · Feb 4
Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)
Fuck off



     

    @sendddittt · Feb 4  

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you cuck.

    1  



pisstits @pisstits1608532 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you





Mac  @mac2024_ · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck off



 3





Sirius Leigh ✨ 🌙 @siriusleigh1 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#) [@krstn712](#) and [@crcwilkinson](#)

I think you should go **fuck** off to the little Jack Horner's corner of the house.



8





Runner of Rhoades @Roadrunner9797 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Go **fuck** yourself and this frivolous lawsuit.



2





Ryan Reed @dre4dfull · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Who the **fuck** asked you to do anything??
Get lost ASSHOLE



6





Cold Stoned @cole_adria49217 · Feb 4



Replying to @AmericanMuck

Fuck you assholes! All you want to do is keep your corrupt tax laundering scheme going. Eat shit.



 **Mr Conservative** @redpillednow73 · Feb 4 x1 ...

Replying to @AmericanMuck

Fuck you!

    1  



Douglas White @therealdouglasW · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

No one gives a **fuck**. The people voted for Trump to do exactly what is being done. Yall aren't doing shit except guaranteeing a 2028 win for republicans not to mention a mid term disaster 😂



3





Koa1989 
@Koap89



We the people are sick of you and groups like you stealing our fucking tax money so go fuck yourselves you will never get another penny and hopefully will instead be locked up for stealing from the taxpayers. This is just the beginning you all have no clue what's coming so buckle up buttercups

12:14 PM · Feb 4, 2025 · 3 Views

 **Darryl Thomas**  @DarrylT25396110 · Feb 4 ✂️ ⋮

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Shut the **fuck** up and sit down--- we put up with your peoples shit the last 4 years

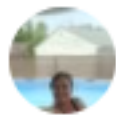
     



A screenshot of a tweet from Doug Dowler (@ddsm31) dated February 4. The tweet is a reply to @AmericanMuck and contains the text "Karma is a BITCH!!!! **FUCK OFF!**". The interface shows standard social media interaction icons: a speech bubble for replies, a retweet symbol, a heart for likes, a bar chart for retweets, a bookmark icon, and a share icon. A mouse cursor is visible on the left side of the tweet card.

 **Doug Dowler** @ddsm31 · Feb 4
Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)
Karma is a BITCH!!!! **FUCK OFF!**



Lorrie Esker @lou1776love · Feb 4



Replying to [@ThatOldCoyote](#) and [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck this political corrupt mafia government has! We the people have spoken and we are massive! [@realDonaldTrump](#) dear president Trump, I voted for you every election! Give us patriots one week paid time off to come to DC to support your efforts! We will be there in masses



41



👤 1 ↻ ▼ 📊 41 📌 📄

 **Danny Glassman** ✓ @dglassman_ · Feb 4 🗨️ ⋮

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

No standing so shut the **fuck** up and let [@elonmusk](#) save this country!

💬 ↻ ❤️ 📊 1 📌 📄



 **we are the media now** @iamthemedi... · Feb 4

Replying to [@DannyKPolitics](#) and [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you

    5  



 **we are the media now** @iamthemedi... · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you

    1  



Detourz @DanielT05210826 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you.



 2



 **offensive** @offensive_plus1 · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you I want government accountability.







    4  




 **JD** @jeepscrossfit · Feb 4 ✕ ...

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)







You're sick of finding wasteful spending? Go **fuck** yourself

    4  

    4  

 **DickPound** @whoffee · Feb 4  

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)
Fuck off! Done with Drag shows in Columbia dick head!


    2  

Hotep Anno @ParkmanAndrea · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)







Fuck you. We want this gift to be OVER.


Joe Aglio @Animalag791 · Feb 4

 **Joe Aglio** @Animalagz91 · Feb 4 x1 ...

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)







Lmao imagine being that stupid in 2025 to be against government accountability. Go **fuck** yourself

    1  

 **samsneed94** 🇺🇸 @SamSneed94 · Feb 4 ✂️ ⋮

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)


Fuck off
There's more hard working Americans than there is senators 😂

    1  



A-TRON  @A_TRON_ · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you losers. 



Dear Mr. Wheeler,

We've never met. I hope to meet you soon.

Very Soon In person

If you need a frame of reference, think of what happened in Colorado.

Please do not consider this any type of threat to you personally.

Your staff may however, not feel so comforted.

I'm on my way.

Sincerely,

A Friend

Mr. David Wheeler
American Muckrakers PAC
PO Box 51
Spruce Pine, NC 28777



Matt Poole @matt63poole · Feb 4



Replying to @AmericanMuck

Fuck you @AmericanMuck. American tax payers demand accountability for our money!





Navigation icons: Reply, Retweet, Like, Views, Bookmark, Share

 **Shepard** @shepardOTF · Feb 4 📌 ⋮

Replying to [@TrendingNewsNo3](#) and [@AmericanMuck](#)

You don't deserve the engagement **fuck** wit

1 ↻ ❤️ 👁️ 27 🔖 🔗



Jared @JaredTN23 · Feb 4
Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)
Fuck off bureaucrat



2





Chris Cook @CCrider_1418 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you & the cow you road in on! So you're fighting to not expose monumental government fraud & waste? Sounds like a noble fight you jackasses!





A.P @APTheRealTruth · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck off



 **Tommy Red** @reds_life_19 · Feb 4 ✂️ ...

Replying to @AmericanMuck

Fuck off

 **IIIV DIV** @IIIV TOP1206262 · Feb 4 ✂️ ...

 **I Trust You Implicity** 🌍 ✨ ☀️ 🟦 @thefuturebyJC · Feb 4 x1 ...

Replying to @AmericanMuck

Fuck you.

   1  17  



MayoMonkey 🐰🔒 @MayoMonkeyredux · Feb 4



Replying to [@Alldogswelcome5](#) [@krstn712](#) and 2 others

As a person who pay for your SSDI and Medicare, go **fuck** yourself



⌵ ↶ ⌵ ☰ ⌵ ⏪ ⏩

 **Octopus** @christo46358802 · Feb 4 🗶 ⋮
Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)
Fuck off pedophiles.

💬 ↺ ❤️ 📊 1 📌 ⏶

 **Wickedscary** @Wickedscary_en · Feb 4 x1 ...

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck off

    2  



John Wick @wicksudoshutdn · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Yeah how about a big **fuck** you. The majority of ppl want this to happen. Time to rip apart that corrupt govt and save the hard working Americans money asshole.



4





Pat @PSquared1994 · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

You are dumb as **fuck**



2





Breaking News @TrendingNewsNo3 · Feb 4



Replying to [@shepardOTF](#) and [@AmericanMuck](#)

Free ride lol **fuck** are you talking about dip shit - Musk gets a bigger free ride than all of us combined . Nobody ever gave me shit .





Cooler @Cooler48069 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

👍👍👍 **fuck** you pussies, no more fraud waste and abuse.



4





Crazy Jay  @CrazyJay76 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

So you're against wasteful spending???? You want us to go bankrupt? So you're a communist and want us to fail? Go **fuck** yourself



 5





MacroJon @jonnyboyz69 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

It has been a few weeks, you dirty lefties are a horrible set of crying babies.

Fuck off, somewhere cold.



5



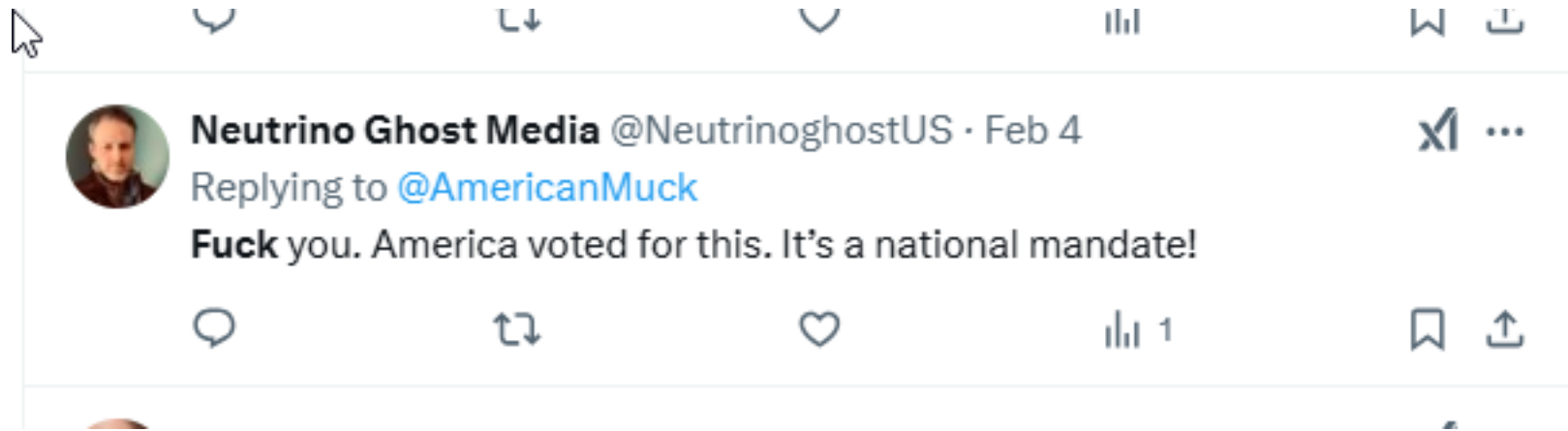
 **Robert** @Medina767Robert · Feb 4 🔊 ...

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)


Trump is doing the job we the people elected him to do. So go **fuck** yourself you communist bastards.

    4  

 **BEASTABELLE** @Beast4Della · Feb 4 🔊 ...








A screenshot of a tweet from the account "Neutrino Ghost Media" (@NeutrinoghostUS) dated February 4. The tweet is a reply to "@AmericanMuck" and contains the text "Fuck you. America voted for this. It's a national mandate!". The tweet interface shows icons for replies, retweets, likes, and a single retweet count. A mouse cursor is visible on the left side of the tweet.

 **Neutrino Ghost Media** @NeutrinoghostUS · Feb 4

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you. America voted for this. It's a national mandate!

    1  



Emmitt Fitzhume @Patriot_575 · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

You handle name tells me everything I need to know about you. **Fuck off!**
This is what the American People voted for and it is glorious!



3





Billy  @Billy1115783150 · Feb 4



Replying to [@ThatGuyAb13](#) [@EttaPlace001](#) and 2 others

Fuck off pig. Little democrat slave



 **redeemmycountry** @promuatn · Feb 4 ✂️ ⋮

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck off patsy

    1  

 **Ronald Wright** @RonaldWrig65271 · Feb 4
Replying to @AmericanMuck
Fuck you

 **Ricky Bobby**  @1760_hit · Feb 4  

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

    GET. THE. **FUCK.** OUT. Free ride is over.

   1  10  

)

 **Edward DeVere**  @Neville1905 · Feb 4  

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)
Haha **fuck** off

    1  







ABL3_MARK 🇺🇸🇺🇦🇮🇱 @ThatGuyAbl3 · Feb 4













Replying to [@ThatGuyAbl3](#) [@Billy1115783150](#) and 3 others

imagine being such a dumb **fuck** that you manage to get your post flagged by the "free speech platform" lmao. drop a follow while you're checking me out, creep 🤔



 **Hammer**  @itshammertime_G · Feb 4  

Replying to @AmericanMuck
what the **fuck** are you even sick of?     

    4  



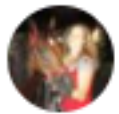
michael henry @michaelhen42684 · Feb 4



Replying to [@krstn712](#) [@AmericanMuck](#) and [@crcwilkinson](#)

Keep wasting your money on these dumb **fuck** Democrats





Cattums @CatHerdersWrath · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)



You fucking lost the election. Sit the **fuck** down and simmer in your own shit.



 **LadyD**  @DLady67 · Feb 4 ✕ ...

Replying to [@krstn712](#) [@AmericanMuck](#) and [@crcwilkinson](#)

What the **FUCK** is wrong with you? Are you stupid?

   2  28  

 **TypoNuusNetwork** @JLSdeplorable · Feb 3 ✂ ...

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you.

    2  

 **Jonah resists** 🙌 👯 🤪 😁 🐻 🌙 @Jonahresistsgop · Feb 4 ✂️ ⋮

Replying to [@mrqbtw](#) [@AmericanMuck](#) and 2 others

FUCK off

💬 1 ↻ ❤️ 📊 18 🔖 ↗️



JasonOnBlast
@JasonOnBlast

#AmericanMuckrakersPAC are #EnemiesOfThePeople.

Get to know their names and if you see them in public, give them the treatment recommended in recent years by house Rep Maxine Waters.

#AntiAmericansAreNotWelcomeHere

#WeWillEndYouFirst

news.yahoo.com/anti-madison-ca...



news.yahoo.com

Anti-Madison Cawthorn PAC that leaked explicit videos will target Rep. Lauren Boebert next: report

The American Muckrakers PAC says it has "interesting information" on Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert, after targeting Rep. Madison Cawthorn.

May 22, 2022, 2:01 AM



Tyler Tripp



Elons going to fuck you guys!!! Have fun with your lawsuit! FAFO

Will be so much fun to watch your guys downfall 😂😂
😂

Feb 4, 2025, 4:31 PM

You accepted the request

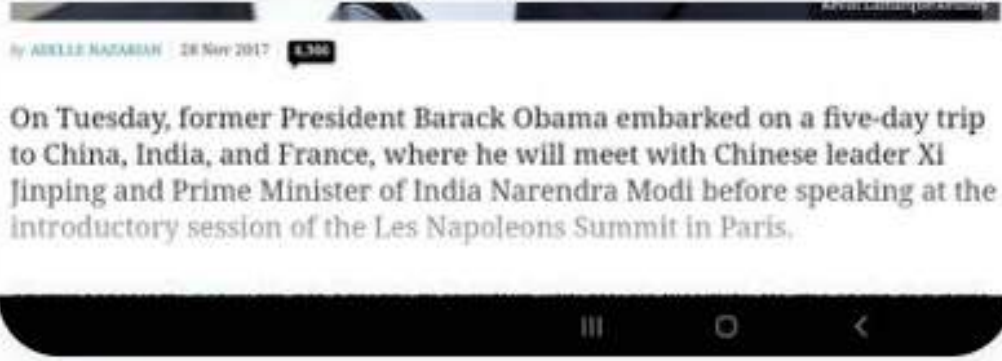
Where did you learn to write English?

Sears?

You're not very bright are you?



Based Narwhal



Hyp



crites

Traitors

Fascist bastards

Treasonous bootlickers

Aug 21, 2024, 7:32 PM

You accepted the request

Replying to



Figure out one insult. I can keep up with those different names. I ain't that smart.

Aug 21, 2024, 8:28 PM · Seen



resultsmatter

@ResistorLeave · May 20, 2022

THE ENEMY: American Muckrakers PAC co-founder David Wheeler
[foxnews.com/politics/anti-madi...](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/anti-madi...)



www.foxnews.com

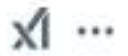
Anti-Madison Cawthorn PAC that leaked explicit videos will target Rep. Lauren Boebert next: report

The American Muckrakers PAC says it has "interesting information" on Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert, after targeting Rep. Madison Cawthorn.





End of Days  @afterthrstorm · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you clowns. It's not business as usual. We are taking scalps...yours will do fine



Community Notes
Update

**This post has been
determined to be
Democrat Propaganda...**



Crying While The Milk Spills 🕒 @Clever_Until · Feb 8



Replying to @jsantaaa1 @ErgoOut and 2 others

Fuck you





PoetryPatriot IStandwithTrump

@PoetryPatriot · Feb 27, 2023



"The hunter becomes the hunted." ~James O'Keefe

#AmericanMuckraker

OKeefeTips@protonmail.com





BEAST4BELLE @Beast4Belle · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Waste that USAID money they funded you with bc when it's gone it's gone!!!
Oh and **FUCK OFF!!**



6





Melissa Mayer @mayer_meli93705 · Feb 13



Replying to [@JimmyPenland](#) [@grhdhp](#) and [@AmericanMuck](#)

Giving the finger?? That your go to? **Fuck** off, loser! Here's a finger for you, dope!





Levon Helm @I_mWithTheBand · Feb 4



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Fuck you ! Pussy 👍😎👍

Come get sum!!

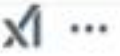


47





Patriotic American  @Trump2024FULibs · Feb 4



Replying to @AmericanMuck

Go **fuck** yourself!! Corrupt Democrats!!





Xxx Se porn hub 🇺🇸 @DeshotelRobert · Feb 4



Replying to @AmericanMuck

Fuck your money laundering schemes





John Cardillo  @johncardillo · Aug 14, 2022



So this guy, [@davidbwheeler](#), runs a super grifty far left account/site: @Fire_Fools.

He likes to doxx innocent people if they merely support certain conservative politicians.

Might be time to make him famous.

 48

 112

 333



Darius the Starborn @djb21212 · Aug 14, 2022



MAKE. HIM. SUFFER.

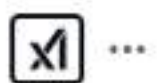


 1



American Muckrakers 

@AmericanMuck



How would you like me to suffer? Is this a threat?

10:46 PM · Aug 14, 2022



Bud Meyers

@BudMeyers · Jun 27, 2024

[#BreakingNews#](#) (Or not. It sounds like more Marxist law-fare to me.)

* NOTE: This is just an exercise of legal theory when practicing political law-fare and using this recent case as only an example.

If I reported that [#AmericanMuckrakers](#) (a political operation) and its President, David B. Wheeler should be investigated for alleged child trafficking, is that defamation?

Because he just posted that he won a defamation lawsuit against Rep. [#LaurenBoebert](#) and reported that she had settled, but he wouldn't say anything about the settlement because he said the terms were "confidential".

Could he be sued for defamation if he went on to make make several claims about "alleged" misdeeds about her, and could I be sued for using the word "alleged" when reporting about his "alleged" child sex trafficking?

americanmuckrakers.com/_files/...



tlawhon

@tlawhon · May 21, 2022

Folks, we must stop David Wheeler. He has created a group called American Muckrakers and they are going after Lauren Bobert. He is a slimy coward that has no integrity. Google him and his team. They almost as bad as the Lincoln Project. God Bless America!



Raven Ramona
@RavenRamona2



The whole turd group should die

12:30 AM · Jan 31, 2025 · 3 Views



usaplayerwarrior

@usaplayerwarrior · Jun 18, 2022

American Muckrakers PAC and David A. Wheeler are the “donkey pox” of Dem Party. 🙏🙏🙏 ✍️





K. L. Cobb, Jr.

@KLCJr77 · May 18, 2022

TIME TO GO TO WAR AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT: Madison Cawthorn foes who targeted him with a damaging nude video say Lauren Boebert is next on their hit list

"I think we're gonna go after Lauren Boebert in Colorado in a similar way," David B. Wheeler, cofounder of the American Muckrakers PAC, told Insider. "I think we're gonna engage in that race pretty quickly."



Pickle Rick @PNSHPickleRick · Feb 3

Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Dead on arrive you're trash



2





Cheesy Gordita Brett  @CreampieOrDie · Oct 22, 2023



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#)

Slut bags gonna slut bag





Codeyee @Codeyee44 · Jan 31



Replying to [@TheJadeSophia](#) [@MarettiRichard](#) and 5 others

Lmao you're fucking brain **dead**... mindless fucking shill who fell in line like the retard you are.



2





DonRoberto @RobbG29613 · Feb 24



Replying to [@AmericanMuck](#) and [@ColMoeDavis](#)

You're a complete idiot!!! Moe is a traitor to the United States!
Moe got fired because of his political views.

So **fuck** you too liberal!!!!



4



EXHIBIT C



InterContinental
Ras Al Khaimah Resort and Spa

10/17/2024 - 10/20/2024

Number of nights: 3

Total Earned	13,696
Base Points	10,696
3,000 points every 2 nights through 12/31	3,000

SPENDING CATEGORY	QUALIFIED SPENDING	AMOUNT AED (USD)
Room		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Food		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Beverage		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Phone		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Additional Hotel Bonus		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Meeting & Banquet		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Other Qualified Spending		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Other Non-qualified Spending		0.00 (USD \$0.00)
Total Spending		4,872.43 (USD \$1,226.55)
Total Qualified Spending		1,069.56 (USD \$1,049.56)

* Excludes taxes and fees

+ Non-qualified spending



Name and Address

WHEELER, DAVID
 10190 COVINGTON CROSS RD
 LAS VEGAS, NV 89144

Hotel Address

5001 FLEUR DRIVE
 DES MOINES, IA 50321

HAMPTON INN DES MOINES-AIRPORT

Room 326/KXTD
 Arrival Date 11/27/24
 Departure Date 11/30/24
 Adult/Child 2/0
 Room Rate \$84.54
 Rate Plan S-XR1
 Honors # n/a
 Airline:

Reservations
 www.hamptoninn.com or
 1-800-HAMPTON

Confirmation # 82534068

11/30/24 PAGE 1

DATE	REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
11/27/24	1302368404	GUEST ROOM	\$84.54
11/27/24	295101895	RM - STATE TAX	\$4.23
11/27/24	763834344	RM - City Tax	\$5.92
11/28/24	1058542708	GUEST ROOM	\$84.54
11/28/24	1680501828	RM - STATE TAX	\$4.23
11/28/24	905734485	RM - City Tax	\$5.92
11/29/24	1045520916	GUEST ROOM	\$84.54
11/29/24	1741493373	RM - STATE TAX	\$4.23
11/29/24	2026894148	RM - City Tax	\$5.92
11/30/24	1529495167	*****1877	(\$284.07)
		** BALANCE **	\$0.00

Receipt

Expedia itinerary: 72740612402024

Purchase date: Jan 20, 2024

Booking details

Fairfield Inn & Suites Kinston

667 SHEFFIELD DRIVE, Kinston, NC, 28504 United States of America

Check-in: Jan 19, 2024

Check-out: Jan 20, 2024

1 room x 1 night

Room, 1 King Bed (Hearing Accessible)

Booked for: David Wheeler

Payment details

Room price

Fri, Jan 19	\$149.00
-------------	----------

Taxes	\$19.00
-------	---------

Total	\$168.00
	Paid
	[Visa 0571]



InterContinental
 Ras Al Khaimah Resort and Spa
 10/17/2024 - 10/20/2024
 Number of nights: 3

Total Earned	13,696
Base Points	10,696
3,000 points every 2 nights through 12/31	3,000

SPENDING CATEGORY	QUALIFIED SPENDING	AMOUNT AED (USD)
Room		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Food		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Beverage		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Phone		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Additional Hotel Bonus		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Meeting & Banquet		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Other Qualified Spending		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Other Non-qualified Spending		0.00 (USD 90.00)
Total Spending		4,572.43 (USD 91,238.52)
Total Qualified Spending		1,069.56 (USD 91,069.56)

* Excludes taxes and fees
 † Maximum eligible amount

[Back to Stays and Events](#)

Hotel Bill

Kimpton

Hotel Arras
7 Patton Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina 28801
United States

Hotel Front Desk: [Call Hotel](#)
Hotel Fax: [1-828-2550304](#)
Email Address: frontdesk@hotelarras.com

David Wheeler
Po Box 51, Spruce Pine, 28777 United States

Confirmation Number: 45052629
Room Number: 607
Folio Number: 22691

Check-In Date: 12/26/2024
Check-Out Date: 12/28/2024

Feedback

Date / Description

AMOUNT (USD)

12/28/2024

-\$1,022.17

*****1343187707/28



12/26/2024 *Accommodation	\$341.00
-------------------------------------	----------

12/26/2024 State Tax 7%	\$23.87
-----------------------------------	---------

12/26/2024 County Tax 6%	\$20.46
------------------------------------	---------

12/27/2024 Mini-Bar - Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverage	\$8.00
---	--------

12/27/2024 Mini-Bar - Tax	\$0.56
-------------------------------------	--------

12/27/2024 *Accommodation	\$556.00
-------------------------------------	----------

12/27/2024 State Tax 7%	\$38.92
-----------------------------------	---------

12/27/2024 County Tax 6%	\$33.36
------------------------------------	---------

Terms and Conditions

The electronic version of your final hotel bill will be available within 24 hours of your check-out time. The bill will reflect any charges made through 11pm on your check-out date. Any adjustments after that time may not be shown. The hotel retains official records of all charges and credits to your account and will only honor those records. Most hotels are independently owned and/or operated.

Hotel bills will be available for up to 6 months following your stay. You will continue to receive a paper copy of your bill upon check-out.



JW MARRIOTT

WASHINGTON DC

GUEST FOLIO

301	WHEELER/D	208.00	02/22/25	11:00	53694
ROOM	NAME	RATE	DEPART	TIME	ACCT#
GK			02/21/25	14:10	
TYPE			ARRIVE	TIME	
141					
ROOM					MBV#: XXXXX5728
CLERK	ADDRESS	PAYMENT			

DATE	REFERENCES	CHARGES	CREDITS	BALANCES DUE
02/21	1331	4427 301	80.70	
02/21	ROOM	301, 1	208.00	
02/21	ROOMTX	301, 1	33.18	
02/21	DEST FEE	DESTFEE	30.00	
02/21	DESTFTAX	DESTFEE	4.79	
02/22	MC CARD			\$356.67

PAYMENT RECEIVED BY: MASTERCARD CURRENT BALANCE .00

See our "Privacy & Cookie Statement" on Marriott.com

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GUEST FOLIO

301	WHEELER/DAVID	208.00	02/22/25	15:14	53694
ROOM	NAME	RATE	DEPART	TIME	ACCT#
GK	26 NORA LN		02/21/25	14:10	
TYPE	BAKERSVILLE NC 28705		ARRIVE	TIME	
51					
ROOM		PASSPORT:			
CLERK	ADDRESS	MCXXXXXXXXXXXX2249			MBV#: XXXXX5728
		PAYMENT			

DATE	REFERENCES	CHARGES	CREDITS	BALANCES DUE
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02/21	1331	4427 301	80.70	
02/21	ROOM	301, 1	208.00	
02/21	ROOMTX	301, 1	33.18	
02/21	DEST FEE	DESTFEE	30.00	
02/21	DESTFTAX	DESTFEE	4.79	
02/22	AVENUE	1063 301	51.20	
02/22	CCARD-MC			407.87

PAYMENT RECEIVED BY: MASTERCARD XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX2249
 ***** AUTHORIZATION *****
 APPROVED
 Total: \$363.16 Card Type: MASTERCARD Card Entry: CHIP Acct #: *****2249 Approval Code: 703952
 PIN Verified
 ***** EMV AUTHORIZATION *****
 App Label: Mastercard Debit Mode: Issuer
 AID: A0000000041010 TVR: 0000048000 IAD: 0110607001220000D85D00000000000000FF TSI: E800 ARC: 00
 AC: 0597B59FD219DAFA CVM: 420300

.00

===== EXP. REPORT SUMMARY =====

02/21	DEST FEE	30.00
	1331	80.70
	ROOM&TAX	241.18
	DESTFTAX	4.79
02/22	AVENUE	51.20

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Springmaid Mountain - #75664

1 message

Springmaid Mountain <communications@resnexus.com>
Reply-To: Springmaid Mountain <info@springmaidmountain.com>
To: davidbwheeler1@gmail.com

Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 3:32 PM



SPRINGMAID MOUNTAIN RETREAT

RESERVATION INFORMATION (#75664) - DAVID WHEELER

David Wheeler 312-213-6001
PO Box 51 Estimated Arrival - --
Spruce Pine, North Carolina 28777, US
davidbwheeler1@gmail.com

River View Cabin \$7,550.40

Sat, Dec 21, 2024 — 6 Guests — \$114.40
Sun, Dec 22, 2024 — 6 Guests — \$114.40
Mon, Dec 23, 2024 — 6 Guests — \$114.40
Tue, Dec 24, 2024 — 6 Guests — \$114.40
Wed, Dec 25, 2024 — 6 Guests — \$114.40
Thu, Dec 26, 2024 — 6 Guests — \$114.40

➔ **Depart: Fri, Dec 27, 2024**

Sat, Dec 28, 2024 - Thu, Feb 27, 2025 — 6 Guests — \$6,864.00

➔ **Depart: Fri, Feb 28, 2025**

Hospitality Fee \$271.32

Sat, Dec 21, 2024 — \$3.99 x 68 = \$271.32

Cleaning Fee - 2 Bedroom \$75.00

Sat, Dec 28, 2024 — \$75.00 x 1 = \$75.00

Sub Total: \$7,896.72
Tax Total: \$990.15
Total: \$8,886.87

PAYMENTS / DEPOSITS

12/28/2024 MC ...1877 David Wheeler \$3,149.06
2/14/2025 Check 1051 David Wheeler \$4,005.70
2/28/2025 Check 1053 David Wheeler \$1,732.11

Paid: \$8,886.87
Due: \$0.00

EXHIBIT D



Trump ramps up his dangerous political rhetoric in final weeks of campaign

Oct 14, 2024 6:45 PM EST

Over the weekend, Vice President Kamala Harris made stops in North Carolina, while out West, Former President Donald Trump ratcheted up his political rhetoric. Now both candidates are in opposite corners of one of the most important states in this election, Pennsylvania. Laura Barrón-López reports.

Read the Full Transcript

Notice: Transcripts are machine and human generated and lightly edited for accuracy. They may contain errors.

Amna Nawaz:

Turning our focus now to the 2024 presidential race, over the weekend, Vice President Kamala Harris made stops in North Carolina, while, out West, former President Donald Trump ratcheted up his political rhetoric.

But, tonight, both candidates are in opposite corners of one of the most important states in this election. That's Pennsylvania.

Laura Barron-Lopez has our report.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

This afternoon, Kamala Harris jetted off to the country's largest battleground state. The vice president is doing in Pennsylvania as she did in North Carolina over the weekend, energizing Black voters. Meanwhile, former President Donald Trump increased his extreme rhetoric, describing some American citizens as enemies.

Donald Trump, Former President of the United States (R) and Current U.S. Presidential Candidate: I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

In a FOX News interview yesterday, Maria Bartiromo asked Trump whether or not Election Day would be peaceful.

Donald Trump:

We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the — and it should be very easily handled by — if necessary, by National Guard or, if really necessary, by the military.

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, NYU History Professional:

This kind of terminology is the terminology of dictators.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

Ruth Ben-Ghiat an American historian and scholar.

Ruth Ben-Ghiat:

Initially — and he's been doing anti-immigrant rhetoric since 2015 — it was keeping people out so that you should militarize the border. But now it's the enemy within. And that enemy can be anywhere, even in the heartland, such as Aurora or Springfield.

And, thus, he's talking about using various types of armed forces, National Guard and, he says, even the military, to go and liberate these territories. And this is very dangerous rhetoric. It's turning armed force against a domestic population, and that's what dictators have done in the past.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

Trump's choice language didn't stop at FOX News.

On Saturday, he described American towns as being invaded at a rally in Coachella, California.

Donald Trump:

We're like an occupied country. We got people taking over parts of Colorado. We have people taking over other states. November 5, 2024, will be liberation day in America, liberation day.

Ruth Ben-Ghiat:

This is a strategy. The ultimate goal is to convince Americans that democracy is failing and that strongman leadership to fix everything, and Donald Trump will say, I alone can fix it, is supposed to be the answer. And so as soon as he would take over and go back to the White House, all of our problems would be solved.

But this is based on a fictional reality that's been created by disinformation.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

In Prescott Valley, Arizona, this weekend, Trump made a new immigration pledge, to add 10,000 agents to Border Patrol ranks and bump up their salaries.

Donald Trump:

After I win, I will be asking Congress immediately to approve a 10 percent raise, haven't had one in a long time, for all agents, at a \$10,000 each retention and signing bonus. So we're going to retain them. We're going to retain them.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

Across the country, at her own rally in Greenville, North Carolina, Harris, who released her own medical records on Saturday, took a swing at the former president's lack of transparency.

Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States (D) and U.S. Presidential Candidate: He refuses to release his medical records. I have done it. Every other presidential — every other presidential candidate in the modern era has done it.

He is unwilling to do a "60 Minutes" interview, like every other major party candidate has done for more than half-a-century. He is unwilling to meet for a second debate.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

Back in Pennsylvania where the stakes couldn't be higher, this festival in Greeley described by vendors as three days of God, guns and motorcycles, drew huge crowds of Trump voters.

With November 5 just three weeks away, die-hard Trump supporters are counting down the days.

Todd Herhart, Voter:

We're 23 days away from the election. And the days drag. It's like a 10-year-old waiting for Santa Claus to come. The days just can't get here fast enough.

Laura Barron-Lopez:

For the "PBS News Hour," I'm Laura Barron-Lopez.

By — Laura Barrón-López

Mother Jones

EXTREMISM OCTOBER 24, 2024

Trump's Extreme Rhetoric Is Echoing in Threats of Violence

Law enforcement sources say cases reflect conspiracy theories and a migrant “invasion” hyped by the ex-president.

MARK FOLLMAN



Donald Trump in silhouette **Abaca Press/AP**

Fight disinformation: Sign up for the free Mother Jones Daily newsletter and follow the news that matters.

Donald Trump's rhetoric during his 2024 campaign has been the darkest in modern memory. He has emphasized grievance and demagoguery ever since he first ran for president, most infamously with his build-up to the January 6 insurrection. But in recent months he has gone to new extremes. In numerous speeches and media appearances, he has peddled false conspiracy theories about the two assassination attempts against him and stoked fear and anger nonstop about an alleged “invasion” of murderous migrants, who he claims are “poisoning the blood of” America and “conquering” cities and towns nationwide.

Throughout the election homestretch, Trump has woven these virulent strands into his core message about a supposed grand conspiracy by Democrats to steal the White House from him. Trump and multiple top surrogates have spent months asserting that his political opponents “even tried to kill him” as part of this plot—a canard Trump further amplified when he returned for a second rally at the site in Butler, Pennsylvania, where a gunman opened fire in mid-July.

During a speech in Atlanta, Trump reiterated lies about Democrats conspiring to use undocumented migrants to transform America. “It’s so sinister,” he said, “but they want to sign these people up to vote, and if they do that, this country is destroyed. We’d become a dumping ground for the entire world.” Trump has drawn on such “Great Replacement” themes—an extremist ideology embraced by multiple mass

shooters—ever since he was in the White House. And Trump's biggest financial backer, Elon Musk, is now also advancing this theme, speaking at Trump rallies and posting with massive reach on his social media platform, X.

Most news media rarely, if ever, frame Trump's rhetoric for what it is: methodical, sustained incitement. Proving a direct connection between Trump's incendiary messaging and acts of violence can be all but impossible—a gap of plausible deniability that is central to the method of stochastic terrorism, as it's known to national security experts. Nonetheless, there is a long history of Trump's rhetoric correlating strongly with subsequent menace and violence: a surge in threats targeting journalists as “the enemy of the people,” a Trump supporter attacking an FBI field office after Trump raged against the raid on Mar-a-Lago, threats to kill FBI agents over a “stolen election” and the Hunter Biden case.

The intensifying demagoguery from Trump this election season has caused high concern among threat assessment and law enforcement experts, as I've been reporting since June. Fortunately, their worst fears about the kind of catastrophic violence it might provoke have yet to be realized. But according to two senior federal law enforcement sources I spoke with in recent weeks, Trump's extremism has been accompanied by a rise in violent threats reflecting his messaging.

According to these sources, multiple cases of threats have involved individuals citing or parroting Trump's ongoing claims about violent migrants invading and taking over the country. Trump's continual focus on that alleged menace has produced a noticeable hardening effect, one source told me: “We see that the longer it's talked about, the more it becomes perceived as fact.” Other cases have included talk of “payback or revenge” against Trump's political adversaries for the assassination attempts, including threats focused on elected officials.

“It's really poisonous, and it's giving justification to people who are on the edge to take extreme actions.”

Trump's hyperbole at recent rallies has included macabre descriptions of alleged rape and murder by migrants, such as telling his supporters, “they'll cut your throat.” After his rally last Saturday in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, most media coverage focused on his lewd comments about golf legend Arnold Palmer's genitals, but less noted was that Trump also conjured a specter of war against migrants: “We will not be

invaded, we will not be occupied, we will not be conquered. That's what they're doing. This is an invasion into our country of a foreign military.”

He has continued to blame Vice President Kamala Harris for this non-reality: “She's letting vicious gangs take over whole communities,” he inveighed at a rally on Monday in Greenville, North Carolina. “She's bussing and flying them in by the millions.”

A threat assessment expert who consults for federal law enforcement told me that the fear and contempt generated by such rhetoric is potent, and can be interpreted by some people as permission to commit violence. “It's really poisonous, and it's giving justification to people who are on the edge to take extreme actions.”

In September, the town of Springfield, Ohio, endured waves of paralyzing bomb threats and other harassment after Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, spread lies about Haitian immigrants supposedly stealing and eating neighbors' pets. Risk for violence escalated in the southeastern US when Trump and his allies seized on the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, falsely accusing FEMA and the Biden administration of abandoning victims. These repeated lies were debunked by state and local leaders, including Republicans, but that didn't stop Trump. “They spent their money on illegal migrants,” he declared again at Monday's rally in Greenville. “They didn't have any money left for North Carolina.”

Trump has continued to tell this lie in his stump speech—even after a Trump supporter armed with multiple guns was arrested in western North Carolina in mid-October for allegedly threatening to harm FEMA workers. That and other armed threats disrupted the agency's efforts to help hurricane victims.

Risk for violence around Election Day remains a high concern and a focus for law enforcement, the sources confirmed to me. As one longtime election official in Georgia explained this week to the *Wall Street Journal*: “People have had four years of just marinating in all sorts of different conspiracy theories, and we worry they'll come in looking for a problem. Then you got, ‘Hey everyone come down to the polling place,’ and mobs showing up, maybe armed, and it can really snowball very quickly.”

The temperature also has been rising with adversarial partisan crowds, as seen in Pennsylvania on Sunday in the vicinity of a McDonald's where Trump posed briefly as a fry cook. Concern will extend well beyond Election Day, through a period of uncertainty about voting results that is likely to follow—and that undoubtedly will be further weaponized by Trump and his allies using baseless claims of fraud, sand-in-the-gears litigation, and beyond.

National security and threat assessment experts told me after the January 6 insurrection that quashing the violent extremism unleashed by Trump requires a fundamental change in what political leaders treat as acceptable rhetoric. But through the years of Trump's continuing grip on the Republican Party, that standard has trended in the wrong direction, with many Republican politicians excusing or even joining in on Trump's tactics.

With Election Day fast approaching, no Republican member of Congress or high-profile figure in the party is speaking out forcefully against Trump's dark rhetoric. House Speaker Mike Johnson and others stick to misdirection or feigned ignorance, if they address the matter at all. As one threat assessment source told me: "Silence is its own form of participation."

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ELECTIONS

A Heated Political Moment

Vandals have allegedly damaged Democrats' property at least twice this month along the N.C. coast, before and after the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump.

by Johanna F. Still July 17, 2024



Several days before the attempted assassination of former president Donald Trump, the New Hanover County Democratic Party Chair's car was vandalized. (Courtesy of Jill Hopman)

New Hanover County Democratic Chair Jill Hopman had already had a packed day when she arrived home to find her car window and door had been smashed.

Six Democratic campaign signs line her front lawn, others adorn her front porch. Her house is the only property on her street with campaign signs, she said, and she believes the vandalization was likely politically motivated. Exhibit D

A police officer told her the object used to hit her car was likely a golf club. A Wilmington Police Department spokesperson said it hasn't yet confirmed a motive.

Hopman says she's not sure if the vandal specifically targeted her house knowing her political position or whether it was just the yard displays. "I signed up for this," she said. "I understand it."

But she's been reluctant to talk more—worried, she said, that it could discourage Democrats from campaigning in a vital, tense election year.

"It's hard enough to get people involved in politics," she said. "I don't want anybody to be afraid of bumper stickers or yard signs."

She said she knew the role would have challenges, but this one—entailing cops, insurance, repairs, a \$500 deductible, and a rental—she resents a little more.

"We live in unfortunately an incredibly sadly politically intense time where people do need to be particularly safe and vigilant over the next couple of months," she said.

The vandalization happened several days before the July 13 attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania. The shooting grazed Trump's ear, left one spectator dead and two others critically injured, and invigorated national debates over political violence.

For Hopman, the property damage at her home was another sign of just how toxic partisanship has become, even at the local level. "It was a, 'Wow, things are this bad' kind of moment," she said.

Farther up the North Carolina coast last weekend, another openly Democratic property was vandalized.

Early Sunday morning, Carteret County Democratic Party Chair Katie Tomberlin arrived at the party's Morehead City headquarters to find its window smashed, with a large concrete planter wedged beneath the broken glass. Someone had also thrown large rocks, Tomberlin wrote in a Facebook post.



The Carteret County Democratic Party headquarters was vandalized in the hours after the assassination attempt. (Courtesy of Carteret County Democratic Party)

The damage happened when no one was in the building, according to North Carolina Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton. The local campaign temporarily suspended operations. Morehead City Police Chief Bryan Dixon said the department is investigating.

Late Tuesday, county Democratic chairs convened for a statewide emergency meeting and learned the national Biden-Harris campaign has pledged to beef up security at its offices across the state. Officials with knowledge of the arrangement declined to share specifics, citing safety concerns. A spokesperson for the national Biden-Harris campaign said it hasn't seen a trend of property damage in other states.

Matt Mercer, spokesperson for the North Carolina GOP, said the party doesn't share security protocols. He was busy at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee this week and didn't immediately address whether the NC GOP has seen any similar vandalization.

Tone and Temperature

The gravity of the attempt on the former president's life prompted a brief moment of bipartisan reprieve across the country, with politicians nearly universally condemning the violence.

Leaders from both parties called for civility and to tone down dramatic rhetoric—a directive that is proving difficult to follow for some amid a hotly contested election with just three months until early voting begins.

Despite calls to dampen insults, many Republicans point to continued stark messaging from prominent Democrats, including the state Democratic Party calling Trump's vice presidential pick, J.D. Vance, an "ultra-MAGA extremist."

Biden and other top Democrats have repeatedly characterized Trump as a dictator and threat to democracy. Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Budd said “hysterical and incendiary” language about Trump has fueled political violence. “It must stop,” Budd wrote on X Sunday. Vance said on X that Biden’s language had directly led to the attempted assassination. Exhibit D

Hopman said all political leaders have a responsibility to cool it in light of the shooting. “I have always felt that politics has gotten far too extreme,” she said.

Former North Carolina Republican Party and current chair of the Republican National Committee, Michael Whatley, was subdued in his first post-shooting commentary on Sunday: “Everybody in America needs to stop, they need to pause, they need to reflect,” he told Fox News.

Others were less measured.

Former New Hanover County Board of Education member Judy Justice, a Democrat who is campaigning to rejoin the board, wrote in a Facebook comment after the attempted assassination that Trump was “bloodied by one of his favorite high powered rifles.”

New Hanover County Republican Party Chairman Nevin Carr III responded with a sharp denunciation. “Listen to the Democrats when they tell you what they want to do to your freedom,” Carr wrote in a letter the party shared on Facebook. “Their plans fall right in line with every other failed primitive society that has plagued mankind since the beginning.”

Conservative Wilmington radio host Nick Craig of WAAV shared even blunter thoughts. “War is on scumbags,” he wrote in a since-deleted post on X. “Blood is on the hands of every single Democrat in this county.” In a post commending Trump’s heroism, an X user that Craig reposted wrote “If you’re voting for anyone else, you can go fuck yourself.” Wednesday, Craig shared he and WAAV had parted ways (it’s not clear whether the posts factored into the decision).

UNC Board of Governors member and influential Wilmington conservative Woody White speculated about the attempted assassination. “They lie about him for 4 years. They impeach him twice,” he wrote on X. “They falsely indict him. Then, apparently, they shoot him.”

Asked who “they” is, White told a reporter: “‘They’ know who they are, but the term certainly encompasses journalists who pushed the lies, never apologized, called him Hitler, and contributed more than any other group to the current state of our political discourse.”

Republican New Hanover County Commissioner Dane Scalise also scorned the media, writing on X that “almost all journalists are objectively political propagandists.”

Last weekend’s shooting will be seen as a moment that either unites or further divides a polarized electorate. It’s too soon to say which.

. . .

Correction: A previous version of this article inadvertently omitted “almost” from Commissioner Dane Scalise’s quote.

Johanna F. Still is The Assembly’s Wilmington editor. She previously covered economic development for Greater Wilmington Business Journal and was the assistant editor at Port City Daily. She can be reached at johanna@theassemblync.com.

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To commemorate Memorial Day, veterans demand Trump and NC Republicans stop threatening violence



DAN BARKHUFF

MAY 24, 2024 6:00 AM





📷 A member of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment places flags at the headstones of U.S. military personnel buried at Arlington National Cemetery. (Getty Images.)

On [Memorial Day](#) I reflect on two deaths from [the 9/11 wars](#), and what, from the comfort of my home as the chirping of the spring birds greets the dawn, I owe them. One was a Marine I only knew for an hour or so, and the other was a close friend of years and deployments.

The Marine died because he took a few seconds to push his men off of a rooftop first and didn't jump down the stairwell to safety when he could have. He waited his turn, which as a leader, was to go last.

A bullet hit him in the back, just above the plate in his body armor, traveled through his chest, and exited the front. When I removed his body armor, the ugly little piece of metal fell into the hands of another Marine helping me work on him.

We tried the best we could, with what we had, but he died quickly and silently, in the shadows of a rooftop staircase in Iraq. He was from Georgia, and he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

My close friend died as a member of a special mission unit. At the time, the terrorist network run by [Abu Musab al-Zarqawi](#), who

commanded al-Qaida in Iraq, was strapping bombs on special needs children and adults and walking them into crowded marketplaces, and a raid targeting those jihadists resulted in his death.

My friend and another SEAL were clearing a room that held a hidden bunker and a machine gun, awaiting their entry. Both men were killed instantly. I learned of his death from a mutual friend on a snowy day in northern Vermont, working as a lab technician while I applied to medical school. My friend was from New Hampshire and is also buried in [Arlington](#).

Both of these men are with me now and will always be. Their sacrifice, of all they were and would ever be, took away from them all the fruits our nation have enjoyed. T-ball games on warm spring days, hot cocoa fireside in a snowstorm, and love, community, and family were all sacrificed in dank little buildings in Iraq.

Making sense of their deaths, for me, was only possible if I viewed their sacrifice as a gift. It makes sense that my friend gave his life for me. It made sense that the young Marine gave his life, quite literally, in my stead.

Or at least that's how I try to see it.

And while I can never repay what these men gave me, I can try to earn it by accepting the Sisyphean task of living a "good life." Their gift was not free of obligation, or duty, and while it can never be repaid, it can be earned.

As I think through the meaning of Memorial Day, to honor all those who lost their lives in defense of America, I wonder what would these two men who live inside me feel about our democracy today?

On Friday, I am joining a coalition of veterans, including [Common Defense](#) and past leaders of the [North Carolina National Guard](#), concerned about this issue. We are gathering at [Greensboro's Guilford Courthouse National Military Park](#).

Across the city, the state Republican Party is holding its annual gathering, which will include members of the [Republican National Committee](#), like new co-chair former president Donald Trump’s daughter-in-law Lara Trump. In attendance at the GOP event are multiple individuals, [who echo Trump’s doubts about the legitimacy of U.S. elections and his refusal to commit to accepting this year’s results.](#)

The former president, who has displayed [an unprecedented disrespect for military service over the years](#), has also repeatedly threatened violence if the election does not go his way.

We are demanding that Republican leaders now in Greensboro use all their influence to force Donald Trump to renounce these awful and dangerous threats of violence, which have no place in a democracy. Trump must commit to a peaceful and non-violent election season.

We have a duty to our fallen brothers and sisters, whom we honor this weekend. They fought battles abroad so we can live in a country free of such threats. Who among us will not honor their sacrifice?



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DAN BARKHUFF

Dan Barkhuff is the president and founder of Veterans for Responsible Leadership. A 2001 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he served for seven years as a Navy SEAL and is now an Emergency Medicine doctor.

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**NC Army vet:
Americans must reject**



**Disgraceful pardons of
January 6**

Where Trump goes, violence follows

By Francis Wilkinson, Bloomberg • Last Updated: Oct 17, 2024, 04:21:00 PM IST

Synopsis

Trump's rise has been linked to an increase in political violence and threats. His rhetoric, often laced with false claims, has incited dangerous behaviors, prompting concerns about public safety. The article discusses how Trump's actions and misinformation campaigns have led to threats against various individuals and organizations, highlighting the impact on American politics and democracy.



Donald Trump

[Donald Trump](#) speaks at a fourth-grade level but without him I might never have looked up the word “stochastic.” I began noticing the word in academic circles as [Trump](#) made his first run for president in 2016. Stochastic is an adjective, derived from Greek, meaning randomly determined. In social science, it suggests a random probability distribution that may be statistically meaningful without being precisely predictable.

Back then, political scientists weren't using “stochastic” to describe Trump's meandering speech patterns, which have only become more disjointed and fantastical. They were talking about the violence that he generates, randomly yet also certainly.

Violence and Trump are inextricable. After Trump and [MAGA](#) propagandist [Elon Musk](#) spewed lies about the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the wake of Hurricane Helene, threats and harassment prompted FEMA temporarily to withdraw field teams in North Carolina while the agency assessed the danger to its personnel. A man possessing a handgun and rifle was arrested outside a grocery store that was being used as a relief site. He was charged with a misdemeanor — going armed to the terror of the public. “We know that significant misinformation online contributes to threats against response workers on the ground,” North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said in a statement.

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Learn More

The terror of the public has been as essential to Trump’s political identity and MAGA movement as resentment at the rising social status of women and racial minorities. The appeal to violence is inherent in his message even when Trump refrains from making it overt. His lies about Haitian immigrants in Ohio, for example, a buffet of racist falsehoods on which Trump’s running mate, JD Vance, also gorged himself, led to more than 33 bomb threats in Springfield, Ohio. Schools were shuttered. Residents are still on edge.

This week, Trump proposed unleashing state violence — the National Guard or US military — against domestic political opponents, whom he described as “scum” and enemies far more dangerous than the anti-American dictators and Trump idols in Beijing, Moscow and Pyongyang.



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Market

Performance

By - Zafar Market

“I’ve refrained from describing Trump as a fascist until now, but there’s no other way to describe the last few weeks of his campaign,” said Dartmouth College political scientist Brendan Nyhan, a co-director of [Bright Line](#), a research organization that monitors threats to democratic norms and practices. “The wolf is at the door.”



In a large-sample national survey released by Bright Line on Thursday, more than eight in 10 Republicans endorsed Trump's false claim, echoed by other Republican leaders, that Democrats are permitting unauthorized immigrants into the country to vote. It's the sort of evidence-free claim likely to incite the MAGA base, the same cohort that attacked the US Capitol in 2021 without a shred of evidence informing their rage.

The disjointed nature of the violence — shots fired repeatedly at a Harris-Walz campaign office in Arizona, a deranged gunman shooting at Trump in Pennsylvania, election officials being menaced in locales nationwide — makes it more difficult for either the news media or casual consumers of political information to plot the threats on a partisan or even logical graph. “These incidents are not confined to one part of the country and the extent to which they are linked to local dynamics — the hurricane disaster in the Southeast, the incidents in Arizona, the localized nature of election administration — makes it possible for much of the country to miss any one incident, and makes it difficult to make any single incident a major media event,” Marquette University political scientist Julia Azari said.

Yet the connective tissue is hardly a mystery. A study in 2018 found a measurable increase in local assaults when a city hosted a Trump rally. Targets of MAGA propaganda, a list that ranges far beyond politicians and public activists to meteorologists, business owners, nonpartisan election administrators and librarians, seem invariably to receive death threats.

Republican leaders, of course, surrendered to the mob. “The people who have the power to reduce violence and violent language are people within the [Republican Party](#),” Johns Hopkins University political scientist [VDO](#) [AI](#) [Lilliana Mason](#) said. “But people who stand up against Trump are often threatened with violence themselves.”

Trump's personal pathologies are now Republican pathologies. Given the broad reach of the [GOP](#), Republican pathologies have necessarily become American pathologies. “There's a thrill in transgression,” Mason said.

That litany, of course, also works as a loose description of authoritarian will to power: An undemocratic faction imposes its will, by intimidation and force, and its alternate reality, via propaganda, on a national population. When you mix the cultish, overlapping beliefs of MAGA, Q-Anon and Christian nationalism, the potential for harm compounds.

This year, Mason and colleagues have been surveying a panel of 2,000 voters. Like other surveys, their research shows that Republicans who acknowledge that the 2020 election wasn't fraudulent inhabit, more or less, the same reality-based environment as most Democrats and independents. The MAGA faction that can't accept election reality is a distinct bloc. "The election-denier Republicans, half of them say they strongly agree that people in the other party are 'evil' — the Democrats are evil," Mason said. "And there's no other group that looks like that. The other Republicans don't do that. Democrats don't do that. It's a completely unique effect in the electorate. That likely goes along with the rhetoric that they constantly hear that Democrats are the bad guys, they're bad for the country, they're evil, and they're going to change your entire way of life, and, therefore, violence is OK against them."

A Trump summons to violence on Jan. 6, 2021, produced an unprecedented attack on American democracy. Four years of MAGA lies and rage, accompanied by widespread institutional failure, have followed. With early voting in the 2024 election under way, we can only hope that people who wish harm on others will exercise restraint even as Trump excites their most primal fears.

Mason said that the MAGA voters in her survey panel are also distinct in their high expectations of violence connected to the 2024 election. We don't have to wonder where they got that idea. We just have to bolster our citizenry, and our democratic institutions, to counter it.

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