



NEWSLETTER

November 2025 ISSUE#: HV021

Mercer We the People of Hopewell Valley is a steady source of news to heal the accelerating erosion of our fundamental freedoms nationally and locally.

Embrace our First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Source: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>

Kind regards,
Publius Bonhomme Richard, Publisher & Co-Editors

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Email us at: info@mercervethepeople.com

Please email us to be included for future newsletters.

Printed copies of the newsletter will be made available at Rosedale Mills and local library. Any other suggested location(s) please let us know.

Call for Contributors!

MercerWe the People of Hopewell Valley is looking for contributors to write articles, especially informing the community about what is happening at local meetings. If you're interested in writing for us about that or any other topic, whether it is monthly or as needed, please reach out to us at info@mercervethepeople.com

“No Kings” Absurdity

Cernovich: Conservatives Take It For Granted We Live A Different Life

By Ian Schwartz originally posted in Real Clear Politics (October 21 2025)

Conservative commentator Mike Cernovich on “Real America’s Voice” discussed activists holding protests without fear of attack compared to conservatives who have to live with that.

“The No Kings protesters can do whatever they want, but they want to act like they’re the good guys and that somehow they’re protesting against authoritarianism and fascism,” Cernovich said.

HOST: You put out a tweet this weekend in regards to the No Kings protest that I thought 10 out of 10, one of the top thoughts that I saw floating around. You said, They get to hold their protests without a care in the world. No snipers on buildings shooting at them. No masked thugs attacking them. Every media outlet fawning over them. Irony levels fit for a king. Mike, tell us what you were thinking there.

MIKE CERNOVICH: Yeah, well, what prompted that thinking was the we take it for granted if you’re a conservative or right wing, we take it for granted that we live a completely different life. Not not to use too much language of therapy, but the trauma is so baked in that we don’t realize that it’s not normal. Well, wait a minute.

I want to have an event immediately. I think is the venue going to cancel? Are people going to call in threats? I need to talk to the venue owner first and brief him or her on this. OK, we need armed security. OK, where are people going to come in? Where? And that’s not normal, right? That’s not normal.

That's not how you're supposed to have to live in a so-called free and democratic society. And the people who make it so that we have to live like this. Meanwhile, they get to walk around it.

I remember there was a scavenger hunt that made Gary, the guy running for New York City mayor. He had a scavenger hunt and Cassandra Fairbanks posted tweeted out. Wow, this is really cool.

I wish the right did stuff like this. And that's when I was shaken up, shaken out of the trauma that we all have to live under. And I go, we couldn't.

Could you imagine if you wanted to hold a Charlie Kirk scavenger hunt in Phoenix, Arizona? Even Phoenix? No, it would not be possible.

There would be disruption, violence, attacks that couldn't happen. Meanwhile, a mayoral candidate who's taking an endorsement from an unidentified co-conspirator in a World Trade Center attack. They can go about their day and have all the joy in the world or all the fun in the world.

The No Kings protesters can do whatever they want, but they want to act like they're the good guys and that somehow they're protesting against authoritarianism and fascism.

Access the article: https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2025/10/21/cernovich_conservatives_take_it_for_granted_we_live_a_different_life.html

Publishers note: No Kings protesters should refresh themselves with reading our United States of America's Declaration of Independence, truths of an actual king's tyranny. <https://www.hillsdale.edu/declaration-of-independence/>

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PILOT

PILOTs Actually Impede Educational Excellence In Hopewell Valley Schools

By Dufresne

It probably surprises no one that the Hopewell Township Committee voted themselves a mammoth pay raise this year.

We are all too numb to complain when the Hopewell Township Committee uses our tax dollars to print and mail The Town Crier, a publication full of political distortions, just prior to the election.

You may have seen an article in the 2025 Q3 Town Crier: "How PILOTs Support Educational Excellence in Hopewell Valley Schools." The members of the committee believe that you are all too busy and uninformed to see through their distortions:

1. PILOTs first and foremost provide huge tax breaks to the developers of affordable housing. PILOTs were enabled in law to help encourage development in disadvantaged communities. Other Mercer County municipalities, most notably West Windsor, do not use PILOTs for the reasons listed just below.

- In a PILOT, 95% of the tax revenue goes to the municipality (The other 5% goes to the County). Normally, the School District receives 56-58% of every tax dollar, an amount that the School District sets. Hopewell Township's PILOTs amount to more than \$300,000,000 over the 30-year life of the PILOTs, which means that more than \$170,000,000 does not go to the schools!
- The Township is not required to forward these new funds to the schools. They are pledging \$16,100,000 to the schools (less than 10 cents on the dollars they are receiving from the PILOTs!) which will only happen if a Pennington Borough legal challenge fails... that effort is now being appealed primarily upon a simply constitutional issue... can one municipal action raise taxes substantially in another jurisdiction?
- If the Hopewell Township Committee had not passed its PILOTs, the School District would be receiving each year those substantial additional funds. Without those revenues, they are forced to raise taxes to the maximum extent possible and to go forward to the voters with referenda. Obviously, those increases effect us all.
- With PILOTs, residents in the new developments can vote yes on the referenda, but will never face the additional tax burden. Only existing residents will pay the extra amount!

Simply put, PILOTs are a horrible idea if the goal is educational excellence.

Shame on the Township for passing these PILOTs.

And shame on them for trying to convince voters that PILOTs are good for educational excellence in the Valley.

155% RAISE

THEY DID WHAT? At a time when our schools are in desperate need of funding, our Township Committee has voted to give themselves MASSIVE RAISES, with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor benefitting the most.

Year	Salary	Effective Date	PILOT members
2017	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2018	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2019	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2020	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2021	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2022	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2023	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2024	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2025	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2026	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2027	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2028	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2029	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members
2030	\$100,000	1-1-2014	PILOT members

With a 5-0 monopoly on Township Committee, Democrats are free to pass anything they want without opposition.

WE NEED A CHANGE!

One Party Rule Doesn't Work

DEMAND:
 Accountability
 Transparency
 CHANGE!

Letter To The Editor: Perplexed About PILOTs?

By The Wall of Ed (October 27 2025)

I heard the acronym PILOT for the first time when I attended a school board meeting and two former public officials, Jon Edwards and Harvey Lester voiced their concerns about these “payments-in-lieu-of taxes” agreements. Since 2018 they have expressed these same concerns during public comment before the Hopewell Township Committee. Will these 30-year tax exemption agreements with developer Lennar for 2,356 residential units (Hopewell Parc 1,077, Collection 379, Woodmont 300, Venue 600) result in unfair treatment of regional taxpayers and cause the Hopewell Valley Regional School District to lose millions in ratable tax base to fund our children’s education?

I am not an accountant and PILOTs can be difficult to understand. To me, these tax abatement agreements seemed similar to going out for lunch at Vitos with five friends. Initially you agree to split the bill evenly. The bill is \$100 so each person pays \$20. But then one person has a “lunch abatement exemption” which alters the agreement. Now four people have to pay \$25 each for the \$100 lunch bill.

I know PILOTs are not as simple as that analogy. So I tried to learn more about PILOTs from people who are accountants. I hoped they could answer these questions:

- Do the Lennar PILOTs result in lost ratable tax base needed to provide classroom space and fund our children’s education, our public safety and our infrastructure?
- Do the Lennar PILOTs shift the tax burden to support our schools, public safety and our infrastructure to conventional taxpayers who do not have PILOTs and result in higher annual property taxes for these residents?
- Do the Lennar PILOTs unfairly distribute the payments so that the Township receives 95%, Mercer County receives 5% and the school district receives nothing?

Before answering these questions it is important to know how Hopewell Township distributes the taxes they receive from residents who pay taxes conventionally (without a PILOT). The school district receives about 57%, Mercer County is paid 24%, Hopewell Township gets 14%, the fire district is given 3.67% and open space receives about 1%.

From the Lennar payment-in-lieu-of-taxes for all four developments the township will receive 95% of the revenue, Mercer County 5%, and the school district, fire district and open space receive nothing.

Help to answer these questions is available from two accountants.

In 2010, State of NJ Comptroller A. Matthew Boxer wrote a **Programmatic Examination of Municipal Tax Abatements** because he realized that “tax abatements result in significant foregone revenue and introduce tax inequalities that deserve closer scrutiny”. His report states that “under long-term tax abatement arrangements property taxes on the development – which normally are split among several entities – are eliminated and 95% of the negotiated PILOT is kept by the municipality

(Hopewell Township), with 5% for the county (Mercer) and nothing for the school district. This system distorts the costs and benefits of an abatement deal, as municipalities may receive greater funds while other entities, particularly school districts absorb costs". **The report also states that "PILOTs shift the tax burden among regional taxpayers. If selected properties (2,356 residential units from the four developments) are exempt from taxes, then any necessary revenue MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE REMAINING TAX BASE".**

Each year Robert Colavita, Assistant Superintendent for Business/HVRS Board Secretary, must file an **Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**. In his report in 2024, he made comments about Tax Abatements (page 67). He states "if a municipality entered into tax abatement agreements, those agreements will not directly affect the school district's local tax revenue because New Jersey Statutes require that amounts so forgiven must effectively be RECOUPED from other taxpayers and remitted to the school district".

A. Matthew Boxer made recommendations about PILOTs based on his research and findings to ensure prudent management of taxpayer dollars. In the absence of new legislation from the Governor and State Legislature who are reluctant to make changes, local officials can implement many of these recommendations through their own processes and ordinances.

Boxer's first suggestion is that PILOT agreements should be restructured. "Allowing municipalities to keep almost the entire PILOT amount creates a perverse incentive whereby the municipality may gain revenue while other entities lose out. PILOT collections should be split along the same distribution lines and percentages as normal (conventional) tax collection".

The current Township Committee believes PILOTs are the way to finance a better future. They also believe, based on demographic study in 2022 using Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research, that only about "250 new students will be from new neighborhoods associated with the Township's affordable housing mandate" (over the next ten years) and that there was plenty of classroom space to accommodate them. – **from The Town Crier 2024-Q4 – Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning**. Yet according to the School Board, as of September 2025, 278 new students have already enrolled from these PILOT developments. Only 250 over ten years was predicted. 278 have actually enrolled. We warmly welcome these new neighbors and students but the Township Committee cannot claim that these projects will have little impact on our school. Will the Township Committee recognize that these tax abatement developments should provide their equitable share of revenue for the ongoing costs for our regional school district? And for public safety, infrastructure and open space?

According to the 2023 census report, Hopewell Township had 6,504 housing units. The four PILOT developments mentioned above will add 2,356 new residential units. Of that total, 1,894 will be market rate and 462 will be affordable. If these housing units paid taxes conventionally 57% of that revenue would support the yearly and long-range costs for our schools. Instead, class sizes are increasing, programs are being cut, fees are collected for extracurricular activities, maintenance projects are delayed and new classroom space is needed.

PILOTs may be legal but they do not seem to be a fair way to finance a better future.

Two candidates running for the Hopewell Township Committee, Steve Niederer and Ed Jackowski, agree with Pennington Borough Council that the current 30-year tax exemption agreement with developer Lennar (PILOTs) for over 2,356 new housing units "fundamentally undermines the principle of fairness and regional cooperation that should govern how municipalities treat their neighbors". According to Census data, between 2010 and 2020 Hopewell Township had a 3% increase in the number of residential housing units. The four PILOT developments will add 2,356 new housing units over 10 years. Hopewell currently has about 6,504 housing units. That is an increase of 36% and all of these units will be exempt from funding our school district, our public safety and our infrastructure needs. Steve and Ed are committed to protecting all taxpayers, ensuring responsible development, restoring balance and common ground on the Committee and that PILOT payments should fund our schools.

ELECTION 2025

The Time Has Come To Cast Your Vote

Make sure you have a plan to vote. Let's make this election too big to rig!

By Hopewell Valley Republican Association (HVRA) (October 31 2025)

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you vote in person, please review your ballot after it prints to make sure your selections are accurate.

Important Election Dates to Remember:

- October 25, 2025 – November 2, 2025: Early Voting Period
- November 3, 2025, by 3pm: Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election
- November 4, 2025: General Election Day

- November 4, 2025: Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the General Election
- November 4, 2025, by 8pm: Deadline for In-Person Submission of General Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election and to Authorized Ballot Drop Boxes

There are three ways you can cast your vote in Mercer County.

#1: In Person Early Voting

This option enables registered voters to vote in person, using a voting machine for 9 days prior to election day at a time and place that is most convenient for you. There are 8 early voting locations available for all voters registered in Mercer County and you may visit any of them during the early voting period. **The closest location to Hopewell Valley is the Pennington Fire Co at 120 Broemel Place in Pennington.**

Early voting is a very underutilized method of voting and it is a great way to avoid long lines, possible delays due to equipment malfunction, or other obstacles, such as a personal emergency or power outage, that may occur on November 4th.

Early votes cast are not counted until election day, so this is a very safe and secure method of voting.

<https://www.mercercounty.org/departments/superintendent-of-elections/early-voting-information>

#2: Vote By Mail (VBM)

If you are a qualified and registered voter of Hopewell Township who wants to vote by mail in any election, you must complete a Vote by Mail Application Form. Deadlines for application can be found above. Application forms may be obtained online from the Mercer County or New Jersey Division of Elections websites, or in person at the following locations:

Mercer County Clerk's Office – 209 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 – 609-989-6465

Hopewell Township Clerk's Office – 201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560 – 609-737-0605 x6620

HOW-TO VIDEO: Filling out a Vote By Mail Application:
<https://www.mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk-/elections/training-video>

Mail-in ballot requests should be mailed to:

Paula Sollami-Covello, Mercer County Clerk – 209 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 – 609-989-6465

Mail-in ballots will not be provided to any applicant unless the request is received at least 7 days before the election; however, a voter may request an application in person from the County Clerk up to 3 p.m. the day before the election. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the Hopewell Township Clerk's Office at 609-737-0605 x6620.

Update Your Voter Registration Signature

If your signature has changed since your original voter registration, it is recommended that you re-register to vote so your signature is current and can be matched to the one on your registration when voting. If you have become disabled and can no longer sign your signature when voting, please reach out to the Mercer County Superintendent of Elections Office at 609-989-6750 for further information on your voter registration.

#3: Day of Voting- November 4th

You can always choose to vote at your polling location from 6am to 8pm on Election Day, November 4th 2025 We now have 14 election districts in Hopewell Twp and some locations have changed. To verify your polling location, check your sample ballot or find your election district here <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search>

View your voter registration here.

MERCER COUNTY EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 2

MONDAY - SATURDAYS: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAYS: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

EAST WINDSOR MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY HICKORY CORNER BRANCH 138 Hickory Corner Road East Windsor, NJ 08520	EWING MERCER COUNTY OFFICE PARK 1440 Parkside Avenue Ewing, NJ 08638	HAMILTON COLONIAL FIREHOUSE CO. 801 Kuser Road Hamilton, NJ 08619	TRENTON TRENTON FIRE HQ 244 Perry Street Trenton, NJ 08618
LAWRENCE MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY LAWRENCE BRANCH 2751 Brunswick Pike Lawrence, NJ 08648	PENNINGTON PENNINGTON FIRE CO. 120 Broemel Place Pennington, NJ 08534	PRINCETON PRINCETON MUNICIPAL BLDG. COMMUNITY ROOM 400 Witherspoon Street Princeton, NJ 08540	WEST WINDSOR MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY WEST WINDSOR BRANCH 333 N. Post Road West Windsor, NJ 08850

Early Voting

Mercer County residents can vote early in person from Saturday, October 25th through Sunday, November 2nd. Early voting hours are Monday to Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Voters may cast their ballots at any of the following locations:

- **Ewing:** Mercer County Office Park, 1440 Parkside Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08638
- **East Windsor:** Hickory Corner Branch, Mercer County Library, 138 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ 08520
- **Trenton:** Trenton Fire HQ, 244 Perry Street, Trenton, NJ 08618
- **Lawrence:** Lawrence Branch, Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrence, NJ 08648 (at Darrah Lane)
- **Pennington:** Pennington Fire Co., 120 Broemel Place, Pennington, NJ 08534
- **Princeton:** Princeton Municipal Building – Community Room, 400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540
- **Hamilton:** Colonial Firehouse Co., 801 Kuser Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619
- **West Windsor:** West Windsor Branch, Mercer County Library, 333 N. Post Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08850

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th. Voting early helps you avoid the lines and make your voice heard on your schedule.

You can help us clean up the voter rolls!

Did you receive a vote-by-mail ballot (VBM), a VBM application, a sample ballot, or other election mail for someone who does not live at your address?

Follow these easy steps:

1. Write "return to sender" and "does not live at this address" or "deceased" on the envelope.
2. Place it back in your mailbox or any Mercer County drop box.
3. The ballot will be returned to Superintendent of Elections office so that they can take further action.
4. Please take a picture of the envelope with the name and reason and email it to info@mercerwethepeople.com so that we can check the voter rolls and make sure it was properly removed.

Vote for Steven & Ed!

Here is a list of the Hopewell Valley locations for 2025:

Hopewell Township-4	
Locations	Districts
Hopewell Twp Mun Building, 201 Wash Cross-Pen Rd, Auditorium	1, 7, 9
Union Fire Company, 1396 River Rd, Rt 29, Auditorium	2, 3
Pennington Borough Hall, 30 North Main Street, Pennington	4
HVRSD Admin Building, 425 S Main Street, Pennington	5, 8
Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 80 West Broad St, Hopewell	6, 12
Project Freedom Community Center, 700 Heritage Ct	10, 11
Hopewell Twp Mun Building, 201 Wash Cross-Pen Rd, Municipal Court	13, 14

HOPEWELL BOROUGH

Hopewell Borough Hall, 88 East Broad St.

District 1, 2

PENNINGTON BOROUGH

Pennington Borough Hall, 30 N. Main St.

District 1,

Pennington Borough Senior Center, 393 Reading St.

District 2, 3

Restore Balance and Common Ground in the HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Steven NIEDERER



- ★ Lifelong Hopewell resident (fourth-generation farming family)
- ★ Local small business owner
- ★ Graduate of Hopewell Valley Central High School
- ★ TCNJ graduate (degree in Social Sciences & Criminology)
- ★ Retired from the Mercer County Sheriff's Office
- ★ Served with the US Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force and Sheriff's Tactical Response Team
- ★ Serves as a Mental Health Advocate for first responders and community members

Ed JACKOWSKI



- ★ A 50-year resident of Hopewell
- ★ Served honorably as a US Marine
- ★ Worked in the financial services industry
- ★ Owner of Jack's Greenhouse and Farm
- ★ Officer of the Trenton Cyrus #5 Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons
- ★ Parent of two daughters who went through the Hopewell school system

On November 4th, vote for **COMMUNITY** ★ **SERVICE** ★ **SAFETY**

Paid for by Friends of Ed and Steve, 91 Tibus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08634

Restore Balance and Common Ground in the HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Steven NIEDERER

Ed JACKOWSKI



- ★ Demanding that all PILOT payments be dedicated to schools and public safety
- ★ Preserving Hopewell's rural character and supporting local agriculture
- ★ Fostering a community that works for all residents
- ★ Ensuring responsible development
- ★ Restoring open public meetings

On November 4th, vote for **COMMUNITY** ★ **SERVICE** ★ **SAFETY**

Paid for by Friends of Ed and Steve, 91 Tibus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08634

★ COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS ★

At a time when Hopewell is considering another \$80+ million dollar referendum, our town is receiving millions of dollars from the five PILOT projects approved by the Township Committee. This unrestricted funding, if mismanaged, could have a devastating impact on our community – affecting education, public safety, affordability, and our overall quality of life.

Now is the time to demand that every dollar of these funds is invested where it matters most: Education and Public Safety. Our children – and our entire community – deserve the highest standards of safety and educational opportunity.

Elect

Steven NIEDERER Ed JACKOWSKI

For Hopewell Township Committee

A team committed to protecting taxpayers and ensuring responsible, inclusive, and transparent spending that benefits us all.

Paid for by Friends of Ed and Steve, 91 Tibus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08634



Save Jersey.

ELECT JACK CIATTARELLI GOVERNOR

VOTE Nov. 4, 2025

PAID FOR BY CIATTARELLI FOR GOVERNOR, INC., PO BOX 225, ANNANDALE, NJ 08801

EXCLUSIVE: Jack Ciattarelli's Plan To Make New Jersey Great Again (Interview)

By Kevin Mooney originally published in Restoration News (October 20 2025)

The Republican challenger pledges to reduce fiscal burdens, eliminate sanctuary policies, and resist the transgender agenda.

New Jersey's Republican candidate for governor vows to reverse policies that have made his state unaffordable, unsafe, and uncompetitive if he wins the state's hyper-competitive race in November.

In an exclusive interview with Restoration News, Jack Ciattarelli—the businessman and former assemblyman who nearly unseated incumbent Democrat Gov. Phil Murphy in 2021—believes he's poised to withdraw the state from a carbon tax plan,

alter an “unconstitutional school funding formula,” protect women’s sports, reassert free speech rights for teachers, and end sanctuary policies that give rise to criminal activity.

Fresh polls show the Republican challenger in a dead heat with Rep. Mikie Sherrill, the Democrat nominee. Restoration News reached out twice for an interview with Rep. Sherrill, but received no response from her campaign.

Although New Jersey is widely viewed as a deep-blue state where Democrats hold a significant registration advantage, recent trendlines suggest Republicans are gaining ground. Ciattarelli fell short by just three points in the state’s 2021 gubernatorial election while President Donald Trump came within six points of upsetting former Vice President Kamala Harris here in last year’s presidential election. With affordability concerns foremost on voters’ minds, Ciattarelli sees a unique opportunity to make a clean break with failed leftist policies.

“I refuse to be governor of a state that ranks as one of the worst in the country to do business,” he told me. “The current administration is trying to tax their way out of a fiscal calamity in Trenton. But I’m going to reduce the size and cost of our state government so we can afford a tax cut for individuals and businesses.

“We also need to grow our economy, and we can do that by making New Jersey a better place to do business.”

Ciattarelli pointed to the example of Pennsylvania, where lawmakers cut the corporate tax rate to increase business activity. He called for “a more dynamic relationship between the state’s Department of Labor and Department of Education” to ensure New Jersey has “a ready, willing, and able labor pool for industry.”

Changing Direction on Energy

Specifically, Ciattarelli sees several factors in play that must be addressed before businesses will once more view New Jersey as an attractive investment.

“In the old days, companies would just look at taxes and regulations,” he observed. “Today they’re looking at taxes, regulations, labor, and electricity, and we’re sucking wind in all four areas.”

Beginning in June, New Jersey residents experienced a 20 percent increase in electricity prices—a spike Ciattarelli blames on policies both Gov. Murphy has pursued in Trenton and Rep. Sherrill has pursued in Washington, D.C.

As governor, Ciattarelli would reverse course by withdrawing from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, a highly controversial carbon tax plan. Studies show that RGGI leads to significantly higher electricity costs for residents in participating states. Under Murphy, New Jersey rejoined RGGI in 2021 after his predecessor, Republican Gov. Chris Christie pulled the state out.

“I will pull us out of RGGI on day one,” Ciattarelli said. “The Regional Greenhouse Gas initiative is a carbon tax policy that has failed New Jersey. Seven and half years later, our air is no cleaner, our electricity’s only more expensive, and a half a billion dollars a year is going to other states. We need to keep that half billion here by lowering electricity rates for homeowners, tenants, and businesses.”

Ciattarelli also spelled out his vision for expanding New Jersey’s energy capacity. These efforts include reopening the six power plants Murphy shut down while also lifting the moratorium on natural gas-fired power plants.

“I’m looking to put the shovel in the ground on day one to build three or four new natural gas electricity generation plants,” he explained. “We’ll look to expand our nuclear capabilities in South Jersey, where we already have three nuclear reactors, and I’ll accelerate solar on the rooftop of all the warehouses that have gone up all across New Jersey. Those rooftops are prime real estate for solar arrays.”

At the same time, Ciattarelli made it clear he is opposed to wind farms off the coast of the Jersey Shore. The citizen activist group known as Save LBI (Long Beach Island) has pursued litigation at the state and federal level aimed blocking the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind project that had envisioned building up to 200 wind turbines positioned as close as eight miles off the coast of Long Beach Island (LBI), Brigantine, and Atlantic City in southern New Jersey.

“There will be no wind farms off our Jersey Shore,” Ciattarelli said. “They’re not cost effective and it’s not something the people want. These advocacy groups have been very successful, I’ve partnered with them and I’m most appreciative of their efforts.

In a major new development, President Trump’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced that it intends to reconsider prior approvals for offshore wind projects. Ciattarelli credits Save LBI and other anti-wind activist groups for applying the right legal pressure points.

Cutting Taxes & Winning Union Votes

New Jersey has the highest property taxes in the nation, with the average homeowner’s bill now hovering around \$10,000 a year. Since the state’s public schools are heavily reliant on property taxes, Restoration News asked Ciattarelli how he would address the current funding challenges.

"The current school funding formula is nefarious, it's arbitrary, and I believe it violates the equal benefit clause of our state constitution," the Republican candidate argued. "We'll have a new school funding formula that starts out with the state taking over the cost of special education."

Ciattarelli would then proceed to set a statewide standard on per-pupil spending that would allow the money to follow the student. Every school district would get a certain amount of state aid.

"Every school district must with within a reasonable range on a cost per pupil basis for the non-special ed students," he said. "If they're not, they will begin to lose state aid because this would strongly suggest they're wasting tax dollars."

Ciattarelli also made it clear he is willing to challenge the power and influence of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) while also reaching out to rank-and-file teachers.

"Shame on the NJEA union leadership for lying about me to the union members telling them that I'm taking their pension away," Ciattarelli said. "First of all, it's illegal, and second of all, it's not true."

Ciattarelli also identified three reasons rank-and-file union members should vote Republican this year. He pointed to allegations the NJEA spent about \$45 million in member dues on the failed gubernatorial campaign of Sean Spiller, its former president and former Montclair mayor. Spiller ran in the Democrat primary.

"The hardworking middle-class teachers were never asked for permission to spend their dues in that manner," Ciattarelli said.

Another reason for them to vote Republican, he continued, is that the Democrat majority in the state legislature is responsible for pushing an "unconstitutional school funding formula" that has resulted in layoffs for teachers.

The third reason Ciattarelli cited for teachers to vote Republican concerns how the Murphy administration has mismanaged the state health plan to the point where it is, in Ciattarelli's words, "on the verge of collapse."

"Most teachers are in the state health plan, and despite receiving a two or three or four percent increase in pay are going home with less take home pay because of the higher required employee contributions," the gubernatorial candidate explained. Going home with less pay as result of the state's mismanagement of the health plan is "not an easy pill to swallow during this inflationary period," Ciattarelli added.

Ciattarelli makes it a point to remind teachers that they do not have to pay that portion of their union dues that goes toward political activities thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2018 ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*.

He estimates that teachers could on average save about \$1,600 a year in union dues by exercising free speech rights the high court reestablished in its ruling.

"What I think is wrong is that the NJEA leadership only allows teachers to opt out [from paying dues] once a year," he said. "But if something is being taken out of my paycheck every single month, I think I should have a right to opt out in any given month, but the NJEA leadership does not afford them that opportunity."

"The union leaders only gives them one chance and it's usually in the summer when nobody's paying attention."

Ciattarelli is contemplating changes to state law that would enable teachers (and other government employees) to opt out in any given month. The Republican challenger has also put himself squarely on the side of parents who object to transgender policies that could put female students in jeopardy. He called out Sherrill for maintaining a "hypocritical" stance on the issue.

"There's a large hypocrisy in Mikie Sherrill's rhetoric," Ciattarelli argues. "She'll say all the time that she supports women rights, but she voted twice to allow biological boys to participate in girls' sports. I think that's dangerous and I think it's wrong and it also undermines Title 9. The congresswoman is going to have to come clean at some point with the inconsistency in those positions. I don't believe that biological boys should be in girls' locker rooms or girls' bathrooms. I also don't believe we need LGBTQ curriculum in our public schools."

Abolishing Sanctuary Cities

There are other public safety concerns Ciattarelli intends to address forcefully. In one of his first executive moves, he will repeal the Immigrant Trust Directive (the formal name of the sanctuary state policy) and also ban municipalities from declaring themselves as sanctuary cities. Any localities that disobey could lose municipal aid, he said.

Ciattarelli told Restoration News that he opposes sanctuary policies because they "encourage illegal immigration while putting handcuffs on the police." As governor, he would also target cashless bail for elimination.

"We want safe communities in New Jersey," he said. "I will appoint an attorney general that will work with me to get rid of cashless bail, which has created a professional criminal who's learned how to game the system." Ciattarelli sees a strong correlation between cashless bail and the recent spike in criminal activity that includes "flash mobs" along the shore communities and in shopping malls.

Ciattarelli also expressed support for local officials who may want to get involved in the 287(g) program that enables them to partner with federal immigration enforcement officials.

“If a local mayor and/or county prosecutor feel that a local police department needs to work in partnership with a federal agency to keep their community safe, I’m not going to get in the way of that,” Ciattarelli said. Eliminating the “Immigrant Trust Directive” will empower local officials with the ability to do what is necessary to keep their communities safe, he argued.

A Decisive Moment for the Garden State

Ciattarelli and Sherrill held their third and final debate at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center in New Brunswick on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Heading into the final weeks of the campaign, Ciattarelli sees growing momentum for his candidacy.

“No matter where I go around the state, the energy is electric and I’m not just talking about Republican circles,” he said. “I’m also talking about Democratic circles where people realize the past eight years have been a total policy failure and my opponent would just offer more of the same.”

In person, early voting in New Jersey begins on Saturday Oct. 25 and runs through Sunday Nov. 2.

Access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/exclusive-jack-ciattarelli-s-plan-to-make-new-jersey-great-again-interview>

Op-Ed: Mikie Sherrill’s War On America’s Christian Foundations

By Rev. Gregory Quinlan originally published in Save Jersey (September 29 2025)

Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill’s statement following the House resolution condemning the assassination of Charlie Kirk reveals a surprising lack of knowledge and a tendency towards the cheapest political posturing. What’s more, her statement is an attack on Christianity itself, and a denial of the role that faith has always played in shaping American liberty.

Sherrill, the Democratic nominee for Governor of New Jersey, claims to revere the First Amendment. She even waxes eloquent about having sworn oaths to defend the Constitution since her time at the Naval Academy. But in the same breath, she berates Christians—especially Bible-centered Christians—by lumping them in with racists, misogynists, and enemies of freedom.

Congresswoman Sherrill confuses Charlie Kirk with Nick Fuentes, which is as grotesque as confusing Mikie Sherrill with Marjorie Taylor Greene. She throws around the pejorative “Christian nationalist” the way some use the term “Feminazi.” Is that really the right language for someone who wants to be Governor of a state as diverse as New Jersey?

Hasn’t her campaign briefed her that approximately 63% of adults in New Jersey identify as Christians? That’s according to the Pew Research Center’s 2023 – 24 Religious Landscape Study, which is a very reputable source.

If she wants to be a Governor for ALL the people, she should refrain from applying the name of any faith to the dog-whistle of “nationalism.” Would Congresswoman Sherrill link other faiths to the word “nationalism”? Why link people who practice the Christian faith that way?

The Republican Party is not the Bharatiya Janata Party of India. The GOP is not the BJP. The Congresswoman knows that. So, stop pretending that it is.

Stop showing contempt for people who openly practice their faith. It is their right under the Constitution. The same First Amendment that shields Jimmy Kimmel protects people of faith as well.

People are allowed to acknowledge that America’s institutions were built on biblical values, that the family is the cornerstone of a free society, or that religious conviction should not be banished from civic life. Mikie Sherrill is free to disagree with that, but she shouldn’t – if she wants to be Governor of ALL the people – use pejorative language to smear those she seeks to lead.

It is ironic that the Democratic Party nominee for Governor praises the Constitution while attacking the very foundations upon which it was built. The Declaration of Independence appeals to the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God” and grounds human rights in our “Creator.” The First Amendment, she claims to defend, was written not to drive religion out of public life, but to protect it from government interference.

YES	KEEP MEN & BOYS OUT OF GIRLS SPORTS & GIRLS BATHROOMS	NO
YES	PROTECT PARENTAL RIGHTS AND FAMILIES	NO
YES	OPPOSES SURGICAL GENDER MUTILATION EXPERIMENTS ON KIDS	NO
NO	SUES CATHOLIC NUNS AND HOSPITALS	YES

 PAID FOR BY SEMPER LIBERTAS ACTION INC. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES COMMITTEE.

As the face of the Democratic Party in New Jersey, she should know the important part played by her party in forming the institutions of our Republic. The Democratic Party traces its origins to the progressive wing of our nation's founders, to popular democrats like Thomas Jefferson (the primary author of our Declaration of Independence) and James Madison.

That same James Madison, the father of the Constitution and author of the First Amendment, observed: "We have staked the whole future of our new nation... upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments." In other words, America's survival depends not just on parchment and politics, but on obedience to the laws of God.

Was James Madison a "Christian Nationalist" or was he simply a practicing Christian? He was one of your party's founders. So, what does that make you?

By suggesting that Christians who want their faith to inform their politics are dangerous, Congresswoman Sherrill is revealing contempt for the very people who made this country free. This is a mistake for someone who wants to be Governor of us ALL.

George Washington warned in his Farewell Address that religion and morality are "indispensable supports" of political prosperity. John Adams wrote that our Constitution was made for a "moral and religious people" and is wholly inadequate to the governance of any other. Were they "Christian nationalists" too?

America is not free in spite of its Christian foundations, but because of them. I am free to believe this, just as someone is free to disagree with me.

No faith should suffer being cowed by smears and slanders emanating from those who seek to govern us. That is an assault on justice because, knowing their hostility, how can we expect them to govern justly?

We should not retreat when politicians equate faith with "hate". Our task is to live and speak the truth with courage: that every right we enjoy is rooted in the truth that we are made in the image of God.

Mikie Sherrill says she will "never give up on protecting the rights and freedoms we hold sacred." Yet her rhetoric betrays her. By treating faith as the enemy of freedom, she shows an intolerance that has no place in public leadership.

Access article: <https://savejersey.com/2025/09/op-ed-mikie-sherrills-war-on-americas-christian-foundations/>

Rep. Sherrill Statement on House Passage of Charlie Kirk Resolution (September 19 2025): <https://sherrill.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-sherrill-statement-on-house-passage-of-charlie-kirk-resolution>

Education

What's Happening In HVRSD Schools?

HVRSD Board Of Education Meeting October 13, 2025

By The Wall of Ed

Agenda: <https://go.boarddocs.com/nj/hvrSD/Board.nsf/Public#tab-meetings>

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/beoqQqOyddQ>

Next Meeting November 17th at 6:30pm at the HVRSD Board Office, 425 Main St, Pennington, NJ

Reminder to Vote: \$84 Million Bond Referendum Two-Part Question

November 4, 2025 is the deadline to vote in the general election, and as we have been reporting there are 2 school bond resolution questions on the ballot. The first question will address critical infrastructure needs, with a price tag of \$58.4 million, and the second question, totaling \$25.8 million, will address expanding classroom space at Bear Tavern and Toll Gate Grammer to accommodate increases in enrollment due to the new housing units that have been added. The first question must pass for the second question to pass.

HVRSD Achievement Report

Dr. Vicky Pilitsis gave a presentation on how our students are performing in AP classes, SATs, and NJSLA (state testing). She reported that while we are consistently higher than the state average, our students have had a lower passing rate on ELA and Math NJSLA tests than a comparable local district. It's worth mentioning that we are only required by the state to report on the NJSLA results, but our district chooses to report on NJSLA, AP, SAT, and starting next year we will also be reporting on the ACT at the request of a board member.

Our district is working to address learning needs by investing in multiple supports, such as after school programs, data driven benchmarking, online platforms, adopting a new writing tool at the elementary level, and engaging in collaborative data conversations. These tools allow the district to personalize instruction and close gaps while maintaining high expectations for all students.

Questions Surround FCA Volunteer Participation

Several community members, including a CHS student, asked the school board why Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) volunteers are no longer permitted in the building. FCA, a worldwide student-led Christian organization, has met at CHS for many years and began meeting at TMS last year. In the past, volunteers were allowed to participate in school meetings; however, that changed after Dr. Treece received a complaint letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation. The club continues to meet weekly without its volunteers, and the matter is still being looked into.

New Students Flooding Our District

Another community member said that she has asked the board to publish the number of new students coming from the new affordable housing units in the agenda several times, but that it has not happened yet. When the Hopewell Township Committee originally approved the units and the PILOT Program, the Hopewell Township Committee repeatedly told the public that the impact on schools would be negligible, but this is not the case.

The community member brought The Q4 2024 Town Crier (Hopewell Township's Newsletter) and in it current mayor, Courtney Peters-Manning, stated that the new affordable housing units would not impact the schools. She stated that as part of a demographic study, the number of students from the new developments would be 250 over the next 10 years. However, the district is seeing new students flood into our schools and HVRSD reported in September that we have seen 278 new students enrolled from the affordable housing units as of the start of the new school year.

Dr. Treece does not want to publish these numbers monthly because she feels that it could make the new students feel like outsiders, but a board member pushed back and said that as our three municipalities continue to grow, having actual numbers could be helpful for long-term planning. He added that at a recent municipality meeting, someone said that the town can expect ½ student per unit, which is not plausible.

Excerpt from The Q4 2024 Town Crier:

The Hopewell Township Committee, the HVRSD, and the Board of Education collectively have a productive working relationship, including our recent partnership on a joint demographic study. The study showed that the HVRSD has seen an enrollment decrease of over 7% during the past 10 years, and current enrollment is more than 500 students below the peak enrollment during the 2006-07 school year. Further, in looking at the demographic study's "Medium Projections" for growth, the HVRSD would see growth of 431 students through the 2032-33 school year, which is still below 2006-07 enrollment. Moreover, the study shows that 40% of the coming 10-year growth comes from typical, organic factors like births and home sales. This means that only about 250 new students will be from new neighborhoods associated with the Township's affordable housing mandate.

The full newsletter can be found here: <https://www.hopewelltp.org/DocumentCenter/View/15229/Newsletter-Q4-2024-FINAL?bidId=>

Hopewell Schools Need Accountability Before More Debt

Letter to the Editor originally published in MercerMe (October 20 2025)

To the Editor:

Dr. Rosetta Treece's recent MercerMe letter in support of Question 2 tells only part of the story. The district's own records, including statements from its Virtual Town Hall, reveal something different.

- 1. Enrollment has stayed level.** – The February 2023 SLAM study projects Bear Tavern at 592 students in the high case and 544 in the medium case for 2032-33. The Department of Education lists Bear Tavern's functional capacity at 506 students and its target capacity at 446. The medium projection is about 98 above the target. Across all four elementary schools, DOE capacity totals 1,940 and the medium projection is 1,724, leaving roughly 216 open seats district wide. The 25 percent "increase" cited publicly came from one redistricting year, not sustained growth. New affordable- and market-rate housing was already counted in the 2022 SLAM projections. Even with those homes occupied, more than 200 seats remain available through 2033.
- 2. Trailers are not proof of overcrowding.** – Under state rules, modular classrooms count as instructional space. The Department of Education authorizes new construction only when a district has students without classrooms. Hopewell Valley has none. Replacing trailers with a new wing is a choice, not a necessity.
- 3. The \$16.1 million in PILOT funds are real but unavailable.** – During the Town Hall, officials confirmed Hopewell Township's pledge of \$16.1 million for Bear Tavern and that the funds are tied up in litigation. Borrowing now means taxpayers pay the full cost first and wait for reimbursement later. Responsible planning would wait until the money is in hand.
- 4. Bonds do raise taxes.** – The district's bond-counsel agreement sets a base fee plus a charge for each thousand dollars borrowed. The bonds run twenty years and overlap the 2016 issue, stacking debt service through 2046. State aid covers only 40 to 50 percent of eligible costs; the rest lands on local tax bills beginning 2026. Calling that neutral is inaccurate.

5. **Roofs, HVAC, and verification.** – Administrators said roofs with warranties expiring in 2026 or earlier would be replaced. They also said warranties cover only defects, not wear or age. An expiring warranty does not prove a roof is failing. The public deserves independent condition reports showing which sections leak now, which were recently replaced, and which still have service life. The same applies to HVAC. Some systems fail often, others work well. Publishing a phased list by building and wing would let the district target replacements and avoid borrowing for items that can wait.
6. **Basic upkeep has been deferred.** – Residents have seen rusted window frames and door hardware at Bear Tavern that appear original to the 1960s. Even district officials admitted many classroom doors date back fifty years. Why were those doors never replaced? Why were metal frames allowed to rust through? These are signs of long-term neglect, not sudden failure. When maintenance is deferred for decades, the costs pile up and are then presented as an emergency. Taxpayers should not be asked to finance decades of postponed upkeep.
7. **Shared sacrifice and transparency.** – Families are managing record grocery prices, higher health-care costs, and rising property taxes. Small businesses have cut staff and delayed improvements to stay open. The district has not shown the same restraint. Before asking residents for new debt, it should reduce non-instructional and redundant administrative positions, direct savings to maintenance, and show that every project is independently verified. Homeowners would never replace a roof or boiler based on someone’s word; they would get a certified inspection. Taxpayers deserve the same certainty.
8. **Conflicts of interest.** – The consultants and bond counsel guiding this referendum are paid according to how large the bond is. That fee structure rewards scale, not savings. Full disclosure of all professional compensation should be public before any vote.

The bottom line: Enrollment is steady, future housing is already counted, and the Township’s \$16.1 million commitment remains pending. Roof and HVAC projects require independent verification and clear phasing. Deferred maintenance and administrative bloat should be addressed before new borrowing.

The responsible vote on Question 2 is No.

Sincerely,
Daniel Opdyke
Hopewell Township Resident

Access the article: https://mercerme.com/hopewell-schools-need-accountability-before-more-debt/?utm_source=Memberful+Main+List+--+Mercer+Me&utm_campaign=db11d32522-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b51cf3ae42-db11d32522-563818349

When School Boards Act Like The PTA

By Robert Pondiscio originally published in The American Enterprise Institute (October 16 2025)

School boards rarely make national news unless someone is shouting. A community member reads a passage from a controversial library book; a teacher’s social media post ignites outrage; a member storms out over masks or diversity policies. Skirmishes over culture war issues dominate headlines, giving the impression that the most pressing questions in local education politics are whether the local school board is too conservative or too “woke.” The deeper and more consequential problem is far more banal: too many school boards don’t govern. They cheerlead.

A new study from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, *Who’s on Board? School Boards and Political Representation in an Age of Conflict*, by David M. Houston and Michael T. Hartney, offers an unvarnished look at the nation’s school board members. The findings confirm what I’ve long suspected (and said, including during my own ill-fated run for school board in my upstate New York town): local school boards function less like independent oversight bodies and more like glorified Parent-Teacher Associations.

Houston and Hartney surveyed more than 5,000 board members across 3,000 districts. The portrait that emerges is of a group that doesn’t always mirror the communities they serve demographically. Nearly nine in ten are white; almost half hold postgraduate degrees; one in four is a current or former teacher. Board members’ partisanship and ideology largely mirror the American public’s and tend to align with local voters on hot-button cultural issues, the pair found. They’re also less supportive of charter schools and teachers’ unions than their constituents. However (and this, to my mind, is the troublesome bit) school

Vote NO

for Ballot Questions 1 & 2

PILOT funds from the new housing developments are **not required** to go to our schools, even though we are being asked to pay for an expansion that will be **needed** for the influx of additional students.



Vote NO until our schools get their fair share of PILOT funds for this **UNFUNDED EXPENSE**

Paid for by Citizens For Good Government in HV, PO, Box 102, Titusville, NJ 08560

board members give their districts glowing marks—three-quarters grade their districts an A or B while the public is much less sanguine.

This is not evidence of corruption or malice. It's something more subtle and insidious: institutional capture. The same dynamic that makes regulatory agencies too cozy with the industries they oversee makes school boards too loyal to the districts they're supposed to supervise and hold accountable. Most board elections are low-turnout, off-cycle affairs, dominated by candidates with ties to local education establishments. Once elected, they're socialized into a culture that prizes collegiality and harmony over honest oversight.

As Mike Petrilli and Adam Tyner note in the report's foreword, boards "focus more on facilities and labor issues than on academics." In other words, they devote their energy to maintenance and morale, not to student learning and accountability.

This gap between a school board's power and authority versus what it actually does is the heart of the problem. The board–district relationship need not be adversarial, but it must be independent. A good board should resemble a corporate board of directors: setting vision, ensuring transparency, holding executives accountable, and asking uncomfortable questions. Instead, too many boards act as if their job is to "support" the superintendent and staff—offering encouragement and deference, not impartial oversight.

When I ran for my local board years ago, I made this point and lost. Voters seemed to prefer candidates who promised to "support our teachers" and "work as a team." But there's a difference between working together amicably and being captured by the institution you're meant to steer. It's not that boards are too partisan or ideological. The real divide is professional: boards are dominated by people steeped in education's internal culture, not by independent-minded representatives of the broader community.

The result is a system where even well-intentioned board members measure success by institutional satisfaction rather than student outcomes. They ask whether the superintendent's budget passed smoothly, not whether third graders can read. They grade their districts generously while families vote with their feet for charters, microschools, and education savings accounts.

For all the attention paid to angry board meetings and "book bans," the more serious and enduring crisis is institutional capture. If the American public school system is to regain trust, it needs boards willing to act less like boosters and more like fiduciaries of the public interest. That starts with designing elections that encourage real competition. Ideas that have been proposed include "on-cycle" contests on Election Day in November, recruiting candidates outside the education establishment, and even making school board elections partisan affairs—adding candidates' political affiliation to the ballot has been shown to increase voter turnout. After the election, it means training board members to understand student learning—not just budgets and buses.

Local control of education doesn't mean uncritical support for the status quo. The job of a school board is to represent citizens, not staff; to serve students, not systems. The culture wars will come and go. The question is whether our local boards will ever learn to govern like boards—and not like PTAs with a bigger budget.

Access the article: <https://www.aei.org/education/when-school-boards-act-like-the-pta/>

Will Public Libraries Feature Charlie Kirk Books For Banned Books Week?

As Banned Books Week comes to a close, one question lingers: are libraries truly protecting all viewpoints, or only the ones they prefer?

By Mulhern originally published in Fair for All (October 10 2025)

Last month, Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, was shot and killed during a Turning Point event at Utah Valley University.

Not long afterward, I found myself wondering:

- Had Charlie Kirk written any books?
- Were his books available through my local library system?
- And were libraries responding appropriately by purchasing additional copies to meet the sudden surge in demand?

It turns out the answers are:

- Yes, Charlie Kirk has written several books. His most recent, *Right Wing Revolution: How to Beat the Woke and Save the West*, was published in 2024.
- Yes, every Charlie Kirk book in my state's library system appears to be on hold.

To answer the third question—how libraries are responding to what we might call the "Charlie Kirk Book Challenge"—it helps to examine "holds ratios." This metric compares the number of patrons' holds on a book to the number of copies available within a library consortium. When a sudden spike in interest occurs, libraries are expected to purchase additional copies to meet that demand. Comparing the holds ratio for available copies versus available plus "on order" copies shows whether libraries are responding effectively. If they are, the second ratio should be significantly lower.

Figure 1 illustrates this for Right Wing Revolution, Kirk's most recent title. I looked at Massachusetts library consortia with a large proportion of public libraries—academic libraries are not a good fit for a book like this. A high holds ratio indicates that demand greatly exceeds supply; a ratio of around 1:1 is ideal, meaning one patron waiting per copy.

Most, but not all, Massachusetts consortia are responding adequately. Either the existing holds ratios are reasonable, or libraries are ordering more copies to meet demand.

Unfortunately, the NOBLE (North of Boston Library Exchange) system has zero copies of Right Wing Revolution and, as of now, no plans to purchase any—disregarding the clear interests of some of their patrons.

Elsewhere, the situation is worse. The Allegheny County, Pennsylvania library system, with roughly 75 libraries, has only one copy of Right Wing Revolution—and 53 holds. One more copy is on order, which will still leave a ratio of 26:1. At that rate, the last person in line could wait six months to a year. Montgomery County, Pennsylvania has no copies at all, and a retired librarian in Oregon told me that there is just one public library copy in the entire state.

This year, the American Library Association (ALA) has designated October 5–11 as “Banned Books Week.” During this annual event, libraries across the country celebrate their supposed courage in resisting “book bans” and “censorship.” Many claim that left-wing censorship doesn't exist—though most of us know better. In blue states, librarians often deride other states for their supposed intolerance, while promoting “banned book” lists that, in reality, consist of titles readily available everywhere. These lists function more as marketing tools than statements of principle.

So, will libraries include Charlie Kirk's books in their “Banned Books Week” displays this year, praising their own bravery for defending the “freedom to read”? I doubt it. Instead, they'll proudly display titles like Randi Weingarten's Why Fascists Fear Teachers—for which the Allegheny County system has 15 copies to satisfy just 11 holds. For many librarians, personal sympathies clearly align with Weingarten's views, not Kirk's.

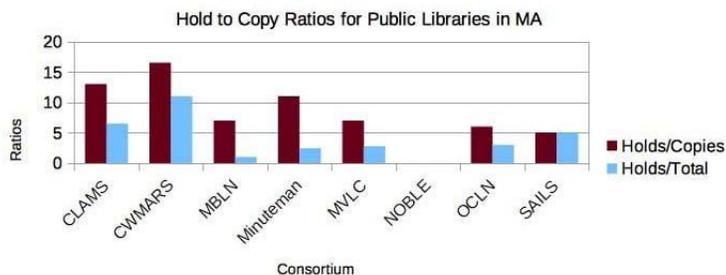
What will compel libraries—such as NOBLE in Massachusetts or Allegheny County in Pennsylvania—to treat all patrons fairly, regardless of ideology?

I propose total transparency, enforced by legislation. Each year, libraries should be required to publish detailed reports showing the number of items purchased, weeded, lost, and checked out. If purchasing decisions reveal ideological favoritism rather than responsiveness to patron demand, that would be evident in the data.

The issue is urgent. Many libraries are actively “weeding” books that conflict with prevailing ideologies. Once removed, these books are unlikely to return. The time to demand accountability—and to legislate transparency—is now.

Access the article: https://news.fairforall.org/p/will-public-libraries-feature-charlie?utm_medium=email

Figure 1: "Right Wing Revolution" Library Statistics



Local News

And for the Runners and Walkers...

The FCA New Jersey 5K is coming up on Sunday, November 9th at Thompson Park Trail in Lincroft!

Join us for a great race together! “And let us run with endurance the race set before us...” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Register Here: <https://fca.regfox.com/2025fcanj5k>

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES OF NJ

5K RUN & WALK 2025

DATE / VENUE NOVEMBER 9TH
THOMPSON PARK TRAIL, LINCROFT, NJ

1:30 PM CHECK-IN / 2:30 PM RACE* / \$25 FEE

REGISTER TODAY!

RUN OR WALK - BRING THE FAMILY! PARTICIPANT TEES & SNACKS! AWARDS FOR TOP FINISHERS & POST-RACE INSPIRATION FOR ALL! CLICK LINK BELOW FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES! ALL PROCEEDS SEND STUDENT-ATHLETES TO LIFE-CHANGING FCA CAMPS! READY - SET - GO !!

***WALKERS START AT 2:00 PM!**

INFO CHECK THIS LINK [WWW.FCANJ.ORG/5K](https://www.fcanj.org/5k)



Are you looking for a time to be refreshed and recharged spiritually?

You're invited to join us at Fields of Faith!

Join us Friday, November 21st at Rider University!

Save the Date!

Date: Friday, November 21st

Start Time: 7:30 P.M. Sharp

Where: Rider University: Meet on the Ben Cohen Turf (note: in Google Maps it shows up as "Rider Soccer Field")

Who's Invited: Students, parents, friends, pastors, grandparents, community members

All ages are welcome to come!

Hope you can join us and be encouraged! Mark your calendar! We're excited to have the Philadelphia Worship Collective band leading our time in worship music!

Blessings in Christ,

Carolyn McDonough, Area Director | Central Jersey West

support: my.fca.org/carolynmcdonough • email: cmcdonough@fca.org • address: PO Box 397, Pennington, NJ 08534

Election Integrity

URGENT CALL TO ACTION: Why The New Jersey Legislature Should Not Approve The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act

By Mark Demo

New Jersey's election system is already among the most transparent and accessible in the nation. Voters can cast their ballots by mail, vote early in person, or vote at the polls on Election Day. County election boards — operating under bipartisan oversight — maintain a process that counts every legitimate vote.

The proposed John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act (S3009/A4083) would not improve this framework. It would destroy it — transferring authority, adding costly mandates, and inviting court interference in what has long been a fair, well-run process.

A Solution in Search of a Problem

Election administrators testified before the Assembly Oversight Committee that there is no evidence of systemic disenfranchisement in New Jersey.

The state already provides 45 days of mail-in voting, multiple early voting days, and a process to cure rejected ballots. Claims that voters are being prevented from participating are not supported by data — and this bill provides no clear mechanism to identify actual discrimination since the state's voter system does not even collect racial or ethnic data.

This legislation appears to be a solution in search of a problem — one that risks creating confusion, not equity.

Shifting Power Away From Elected Legislators and Local Election Boards

As Burlington County Election Administrator Linda Hughes testified, "This bill seems to take the authority of conducting elections away from the legislature and the county boards of elections, and instead vests it with the court system".

If enacted, the bill would allow judges to unilaterally alter election rules — including ordering ranked-choice voting, redrawing districts, or changing term lengths. That would fragment New Jersey's uniform election laws and replace consistency with judicial discretion. Election rules should be set by the Legislature — not rewritten by individual judges.

Subjective and Open-Ended Legal Standards

The bill's enforcement provisions are dangerously vague, allowing lawsuits based solely on an individual's perception that their voting rights were impaired. That means anyone unhappy with election outcomes could claim discrimination based on subjective feelings about turnout or campaign rhetoric. Such a standard would expose election offices to constant, politically motivated litigation — draining resources and eroding public trust.



Costly Mandates and Bureaucratic Delays

The Act would impose new requirements far beyond federal law — such as translating all election materials into any language spoken by just 2% of local voters, compared to the federal 10% threshold. This would force counties to spend millions on translation, printing, and compliance, even in areas where no communication barrier currently exists.

Worse yet, the bill’s “preclearance” rule would require state approval and a public comment period before counties could make even minor administrative updates — like correcting addresses, removing inactive voters, or relocating polling places. Such delays would slow down critical maintenance of voter rolls and undermine confidence in election integrity.

A Time for Vigilance — Not Complacency

Sources tell Citizens for NJ Election Integrity (C4NJEI) that this bill could move quickly during the lame duck legislative session that begins immediately after Election Day.

This would allow the measure to advance with minimal public scrutiny — a troubling possibility for a law that could so profoundly reshape New Jersey’s election system.

Citizens, lawmakers, and local officials must remain alert. A rushed vote in the post-election period could permanently alter how elections are conducted in the Garden State — without public input and without evidence that such changes are needed.

Call to Action

Now is the time for every concerned New Jersey resident to make their voice heard.

Contact your State Senator and Assembly representatives today and urge them to vote NO on A4083/S3009 — before this bill moves forward in the lame duck session.

Preserve New Jersey’s fair, bipartisan, and transparent election system. Tell your legislators that our elections work — and we intend to keep them that way. Click this link to view the bill sponsors in the Assembly and here for the Senate and to communicate your views to them directly.

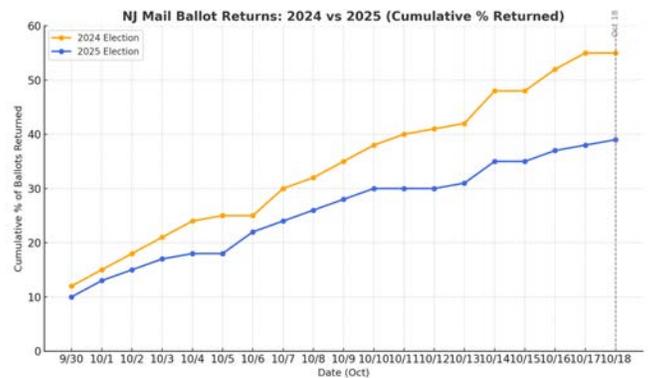
Mail Ballot Returns Continue To Trail 2024 Pace As 2025 General Election Day Nears

By Mark Demo

New Jersey’s vote-by-mail participation rate remains well behind last year’s pace, despite steady increases in ballots returned during mid-October. The latest data show that the state’s mail voting engagement, while healthy, is significantly lower than the activity seen in the November 2024 general election.

Fewer Ballots Mailed, Slower Returns

As of October 18, 2025, the New Jersey Division of Elections reports that 918,655 mail ballots have been issued statewide. So far, 358,515 ballots have been returned — equal to 39% of those mailed. By comparison, at the same point in October 2024, voters had already returned 55% of mailed ballots — a difference of 16 percentage points, or roughly 145,000 fewer ballots returned this year.



Comparative Totals

Metric	2024 (as of Oct 18)	2025 (as of Oct 18)	Δ(2025- 2024)
Ballots Mailed	1,114,154	918,655	-195,499 (-17.5%)
Ballots Returned	~613,000	358,515	-254,485 (-41.5%)
Return Rate	55%	39%	-16 pts
Projected Final Returns	856,604	= 660k-700k	-20% to -25% (expected)

Mid-October Trends

- 2025 has gained nearly 40,000 new returns since October 15, bringing the total to 358k — but remains far behind the 2024 curve.
- At this point last year, more than half of all ballots mailed had already been returned; this year, only two in five have.
- County election offices continue to process ballots on a similar schedule to 2024, suggesting that the shortfall stems from voter behavior, not operations.

Why 2025 Lags Behind

1. Fewer 'permanent VBM' voters — Following the February 2025 voter roll cleanup, counties removed thousands of inactive mail voters, shrinking the overall mailing pool.
2. Lower-intensity election cycle — With no presidential race on the ballot, voter enthusiasm and early participation have dropped.

Projected Outlook

If the 2025 return curve mirrors 2024's late-October surge, total returns could still reach 690,000–700,000 (about 75% of ballots mailed). If momentum stays subdued, totals may finish closer to 650,000 (around 71%). Either way, the data indicate a 20–25% decline from last year's 856,604 returns — reflecting both a smaller mail-voting population and slower engagement.

Summary

Mail-in voting remains a vital part of New Jersey's election process, but participation in 2025 is notably down from the high turnout levels of 2024. With less than three weeks remaining until Election Day, the coming days will determine whether voters close the gap — or confirm that New Jersey's record mail-ballot era peaked last year.

About Citizens for NJ Election Integrity

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity is a non-partisan organization dedicated to ensuring fair and transparent elections in New Jersey. The group advocates for electoral reforms, improved voter verification processes, and public education on election integrity. For more information, please visit <http://www.citizens4njei.org/>.

Media Contact: Mark Flaherty, Communications Director, Citizens for NJ Election Integrity
914-473-2038 • Mark.Flaherty@citizens4njei.org

For further inquiries or to schedule an interview, please contact C4NJEI at the information provided above.

ICYMI

Antifa's Communist Roots, Violent Tactics, And Terror Designation

A presidential order and recent clashes with ICE are drawing attention to the once-obscure, hard-to-define movement.

By Janice Hisle originally published in The Epoch Times (October 15 2025)

Just after conservative influencer Charlie Kirk was publicly gunned down, authorities revealed that the alleged gunman left behind bullet casings, inscribed with messages such as "Hey, fascist! Catch!"

Law enforcement authorities said last month that they believe the 22-year-old suspect acted alone when he shot Kirk, but are investigating whether anyone else had a role in plotting the killing.

President Donald Trump blamed "the radical left" for inspiring attacks against political figures such as Kirk.

The far-left extremist movement known as Antifa has been tied to "a campaign of violence and terrorism," Trump wrote in a Sept. 22 executive order, 12 days after Kirk was killed.

Trump designated Antifa a "domestic terrorist organization" and ordered agencies to root out "any and all illegal operations" connected to Antifa and to prosecute perpetrators and their financiers.

In a related memo, Trump highlighted "so-called 'anti-fascist' rhetoric" found on the alleged Kirk assassin's unfired rounds.

Trump's executive actions and Antifa's clashes with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in major cities are drawing more public attention to a once-obscure movement that remains hard to define.

Trump said Antifa has recruited young people to riot, assault police, and obstruct federal agents, while also trying to squelch lawful political speech.

Members of Antifa have long argued that people they deem to be fascists or oppressors deserve no platform to spread their viewpoints and that violence is justified if other silencing tactics fail. Alleged fascists must be stopped by "any means necessary," the movement's leaders say, and the phrase has become synonymous with Antifa. "Only mass antifascism, legal or not, can save us," Mark Bray, author of "The Anti-Fascist Handbook," wrote on the Bluesky social media platform on Oct. 4.

Antifa's ultimate goal is less obvious and more menacing than that, Trump and others warn.

The president's Sept. 22 order declared: "Antifa is a militarist, anarchist enterprise that explicitly calls for the overthrow of the United States Government, law enforcement authorities, and our system of law."

A trio of Democratic congress members and others denounced the Republican president's order as an unenforceable, unconstitutional attempt to criminalize political opposition. Others pushed back against Trump's description of Antifa as a group rather than an ideology. People victimized by Antifa, including some journalists, commend Trump for taking action against a shadowy movement that arose from communist roots and became increasingly influential, well-coordinated, and dangerous.

How Antifa Started

Antifascism began as a response to Italian dictator Benito Mussolini in the 1920s. His National Fascist Party was named after a symbol of penal power in ancient Rome, the "fasces," a bundle of rods with an axe. Fascists embraced "extreme militaristic nationalism, contempt for electoral democracy and political and cultural liberalism," according to Britannica.

In 1932, Antifaschistische Aktion (Antifascist Action), a communist-led militant group that confronted Nazi stormtroopers in Germany, gave the modern Antifa movement its nickname and symbols that are still in use today, such as the raised-fist salute.

The Antifa movement persisted for decades in Europe before spreading to the United States via punk rock culture.

By the 1980s, a group called Anti-Racist Action had risen to prominence in the United States; later, it dissolved into smaller, decentralized groups.

Since the 2000s, Antifa groups have grown globally, largely thanks to the digital age; encrypted messaging networks have enabled Antifa to communicate privately and evade detection.

Although the most prominent Antifa groups in the United States are situated on the West Coast, the earliest groups emerged in the Midwest, including far-left skinheads known as "Baldies" in Minneapolis.

What Is Antifa?

Antifa, in many ways, defies description; journalist Andy Ngo and others told The Epoch Times that's by design.

"It's meant to appear as if there is no organization, but they are organized," said Ngo, author of the 2021 book that became a New York Times best-seller, "Unmasked: Inside Antifa's Radical Plan to Destroy Democracy."

Ngo, the son of Vietnamese immigrants who escaped communism, delved into exposing Antifa for years in his hometown of Portland, Oregon. After repeated harassment, threats, and beatings—one severe enough to cause a life-threatening brain bleed—Ngo relocated outside of the United States.

In 2020, when then-FBI Director Christopher Wray and others called Antifa "an ideology" rather than an "organization," that description was correct but "incomplete," Ngo said, because what matters is how people organize around that ideology.

"Antifa is the decentralized movement of autonomous networks, groups, cells, and individuals who follow an ideology of violent anarchism and communism," he said, adding that these people are united in their goal of destroying the United States and all of its institutions.

He said Antifa often commits "violence for the sake of violence," and may randomly smash a local business as "an attack on capitalism."

Although the Antifa Torch Network lists seven active U.S. chapters, no national Antifa group exists. And "there isn't necessarily a specific shared ideology among those who label themselves anti-fascists," according to a September report from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project. That nonprofit research group, based in Wisconsin, tracks political violence and protests worldwide.

Antifa attracts socialists, communists, and anarchists, but some Antifa adherents may not align with any of those belief systems, according to the report.

Antifa members often wave black-and-red flags and gather en masse in all-black clothing, known as the "black bloc," a typical German Antifa tactic to make individual members harder to identify. But even those visual cues don't reliably identify who is Antifa and who isn't, the report stated.

Terry Newsome, a Chicago-area parental-rights activist who became the target of Antifa death threats and doxing after he became vocal about school COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, told The Epoch Times, that "there are tons of 'Antifa wannabes,'" young people who think it's cool to associate with Antifa. He's also convinced that there are a lot of "paid, full-time agitators," based on seeing the same people show up at numerous protests.

Newsome said it would be preposterous for Antifa to have "an org chart," showing who the group's leaders are; illicit operations such as drug cartels don't compile those or hand out membership cards. Neither does Antifa.

An Insider's View

Gabriel Nadas, a self-described ex-Antifa participant, wrote in his 2020 book, **"Antifa stands for antifascist, but the name is deceptive. ... Anyone who dares to criticize the group or its tactics can be labeled a fascist."**

In "Behind the Black Mask: My Time as an Antifa Activist," Nadas said that many news reports "oversimplify this radical movement."

Anti-American sentiment is a primary driver of Antifa, he wrote, rather than opposition to fascism.

While he participated in Antifa actions from 2011 to 2012, Nadales said, news outlets mistakenly reported that anarchists orchestrated events that Antifa had actually led.

Rose City Antifa in Portland, Oregon, the nation's oldest continuously active group using the Antifa name, formed in 2007 to "shut down a neo-Nazi skinhead festival," its website states. To explain the ideologies it opposes, the group wrote: "Fascism can be hard to define. ... The term has also come to be used to label any idea that is authoritarian, right-wing, or even just disliked."

Rose City Antifa lists numerous stances that it may consider "fascist," ranging from white supremacy to opposition of labor unions; the group deems a movement "fascist" if it embraces "a majority" of the listed characteristics.

"Militant opposition to fascism creates the social consequences that make becoming a fascist in the first place a lot less appealing," the group states.

Rose City Antifa says it doesn't work with police or courts because "we cannot count on state actors to push forward the cause of justice, equity, and community safety."

Nadales said other leftists also commit violence, but "Antifa exemplifies the worst of this dangerous ideology, which is becoming bolder and more prevalent in American society."

"Many politicians refuse to see Antifa for the violent movement that it is because they blindly see Antifa as an ally—since it opposes President Trump," Nadales wrote. "Further, they fear that Antifa will target them next."

Escalation During Trump Era

When Trump was inaugurated as the nation's 45th president, hundreds of protesters smashed windows, blocked traffic, and scuffled with police in Washington. Some of the black-clad vandals were reportedly Antifa affiliates, according to "The Anti-Fascist Handbook."

Bray wrote that he rushed to publish the 2017 book shortly after Trump first took office, feeling an urgency to combat "a resurgence of white-supremacist and fascistic violence" and the "tumultuous climate of the Trump era."

Trump's name is mentioned at least 85 times in Bray's book. Toward the end, Bray wrote, "Our goal should be that in twenty years those who voted for Trump are too uncomfortable to share that fact in public."

Bray calls the book "an unabashedly partisan call to arms."

Based on interviews with 61 current and former anti-fascists from 17 countries, the book argues that "militant anti-fascism is a reasonable, historically informed response to the fascist threat" that persisted after 1945 and became more "menacing" prior to Trump's first presidency.

Bray decried "an alarming lurch to the right" in Europe and the United States following the 2008 economic crisis.

In 2016, while Trump was running for office, the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, under President Barack Obama, began monitoring Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization. Those concerns arose over violence at Trump campaign rallies dating to at least April 2016.

In 2019, after Antifa activists attacked Ngo and others in Portland, Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Bill Cassidy (R-La.) proposed designating Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization. The proposal went nowhere.

Antifa Rises to Prominence

Public awareness of Antifa soared during the summer of 2020. Members of the group sided with Black Lives Matter to protest against police and alleged "systemic racism" after the death of George Floyd, a black Minneapolis man, in police custody. Rioters destroyed businesses, set buildings and vehicles on fire, and fought with police across the nation.

Antifa exploited "justifiable indignation" that many people felt over Floyd's death, and "used the anger as a springboard to push their radical left-wing agenda," Nadales wrote.

The core motivation was not to demand police reform and prevent similar deaths, but rather that "the violence was targeted at destroying the private property of innocent Americans because Antifa hates capitalism and everything America stands for," Nadales said in his book.

As Bray wrote in his book, even as times changed, Antifa's commitment "to stamp out fascism by any means necessary" remains intact and connects the movement to its earliest origins.

Following Trump's recent domestic-terror designation of Antifa, Bray and at least one other prominent Antifa adherent fled to Europe. Bray said he and his family no longer felt safe in their U.S. home.

An Antifa organization that benefited from proceeds of Bray's book announced that it had shut down donation-processing operations because of Trump's order.

The International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund took the step “to protect our donors and recipients,” its website states. The group said it was looking to resume operations “in a country not currently governed by fascists.”

What’s Next?

Trump said that his administration, led by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, is tracking down who is funding Antifa-related activities such as commercially printed signage.

The president said those who financially support Antifa “are going to be just as guilty as the people that smack people over the head with a baseball bat.”

Ngo said that some grants from philanthropic groups eventually filter down to Antifa, which also benefits from crowdfunding and donations from around the world.

Some aspects of Antifa’s apparatus have moved underground, Ngo said, predicting that Antifa will “try to lay low, depend on the media to run cover for them, and hope that they get a Democrat in office again, who will undo the executive orders ... [and] obviously not view Antifa as a domestic terrorist threat.”

Ngo, who participated in an Oct. 8 White House roundtable discussion about Antifa, said he hopes that his reporting provides insights that will help investigators.

He also suggests that, if people accept that Antifa opposes fascism, they should also wonder what the group supports.

“What Antifa is for is violence, destruction, murder, an abolishment of the liberal democratic order,” Ngo said. “It’s quite actually ironic in many ways that Antifa act as shock troops for people who claim to care about those institutions and values and concepts.”

Ngo suggested that rather than just listening to him, people should watch videos of Antifa violence, “and you can see how organized it is,” he said. “Watch that and then ask yourself, ‘What is that in furtherance of?’”

Access the article: https://www.theepochtimes.com/article/antifas-communist-roots-violent-tactics-and-terror-designation-5929103?ea_src=frontpage&ea_med=section-1

Who Are The Real Kings?

By Victor Davis Hanson originally published in The Blade of Perseus (October 23 2025)

So-called King, Donald Trump, ran in two contested Republican primaries.

He ran three times in a general election.

He was elected twice, and his party recently won a Republican Congress.

In contrast, in 2020, Joe Biden did not run a typical campaign.

He avoided the public, staying ensconced in his basement. He outsourced his campaign to Democratic politicians, donors, and a sycophantic media.

No red state ever sought to remove Joe Biden or Kamala Harris from their 2024 ballots. In contrast, twenty-five blue states attempted to take Trump off their ballots.

In 2021, Joe Biden’s DOJ and FBI raided then-former-President Trump’s home. They found only 102 classified documents among some 14,000 seized, but nevertheless indicted him.

There was no such SWAT raid on Biden’s multiple repositories of illegally removed classified documents.

All were in less secure places than at Mar-a-Lago. Biden removed them over the course of three decades with impunity. At the time, unlike Trump, he had no presidential prerogatives to declassify them.

Special counsel Robert Hur found Biden culpable for the removal of these files but declined to prosecute, claiming that he was too enfeebled to stand trial.

In 2024, the same backroom donors and politicians who had conspired to ensure Biden was the 2020 nominee now, against his wishes, in coup-like fashion, removed him from his own reelection ticket.

Within 48 hours and without a delegate vote, they crowned Kamala Harris as the presumed nominee. Queen Harris had not received a single delegate vote in her disastrous 2020 primary run.

Donald Trump, in 2020, did not sic his Department of Justice on his rival, Joe Biden.

Nor during his presidency did his Department of Justice indict any past or future political opponent or ex-president.

In contrast, Kingly Joe Biden’s White House helped coordinate 91 indictments of his past and future presidential rival, ex-president Donald Trump.

A mere three days after Trump announced his reelection bid on November 15, 2022, Jack Smith was coincidentally appointed special prosecutor of Trump.

That same day, strangely, Nathan Wade, the Georgia county prosecutor prosecuting Trump, met with Biden's White House counsel.

On the same day, Matthew Colangelo, the former lead prosecutor in Letitia James's case against Trump, abruptly left his DOJ post. He would soon go on to lead Manhattan prosecutor Alvin Bragg's prosecution of Trump.

In the 2020 election, Joe Biden's surrogates rounded up 51 "intelligence authorities" to lie that Hunter Biden's authentic and incriminating laptop—then verified but suppressed by the FBI—was the work of the Russians.

The Biden-era FBI also joined Twitter, Facebook, and other social media to help smother any media story that might have verified the authenticity of the laptop.

The left portrays Trump's constitutional right to pardon as the act of a king.

In his nearly five years of governance, Trump has pardoned roughly 1,700, including about 1,500 en masse for those convicted for the January 6 protests.

That number so far is about 200 fewer pardons than during the Obama administration.

Joe Biden, in a mere four years in office, pardoned roughly 4,245 people—the vast majority through autopen signatures and without the full knowledge of Biden himself.

Under the Obama and Biden administrations, admitted left-wing government lawbreakers and White House allies were never prosecuted for felonious behavior.

CIA head John Brennan admitted to lying twice to Congress.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper confessed to lying under oath to Congress as well.

FBI Director James Comey claimed ignorance or amnesia 245 times while under oath to a House oversight committee.

Interim FBI Director Andrew McCabe lied four times, often while under oath to government investigators.

A federal judge in 2020 admonished John Bolton, Trump's former National Security Advisor and vehement critic, that he had endangered national security by removing sensitive documents to write an anti-Trump campaign-cycle memoir.

He also warned Bolton that he could be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Not one of these political grandees was ever indicted by either the Obama or Biden DOJ.

Trump's White House advisors Steve Bannon and Peter Navarro were arrested in public for ignoring a congressional subpoena, convicted, and imprisoned.

In contrast, top Democrat officials like former attorneys general Eric Holder and Merrick Garland both ignored congressional subpoenas and faced no such indictments.

Monarchs might order assassinations of U.S. citizens abroad and surveil the phone records of Associated Press reporters.

Obama did both during his tenure.

Do kings monitor the phone records of their senatorial opponents?

Joe Biden's special counsel, Jack Smith, did just that.

Why then do the Democrats' "No Kings" protests claim that Trump is a monarch?

Answer: Through open and fair elections, the left lost most of its former political power in Congress, the White House, and the Supreme Court.

Now in their fury and impotence, Democrats hit the streets—projecting onto their hated nemesis, Donald Trump, their own past preferences for kingly methods.

Access the article: <https://victorhanson.com/who-are-the-real-kings/>

Rubio Visits Contentious Jerusalem Archaeological Site, Boosting Israeli Claim To Area

By Nava Freiberg, Reuters and Jacob Magid originally published in *The Times of Israel* (September 16 2025)

In closed ceremony attended by PM, top US diplomat inaugurates newly completed Pilgrims' Road in City of David archaeological park under Silwan, a Palestinian neighborhood.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday visited a contentious archaeological site beneath Jerusalem, giving US backing to a Jewish settler-led project that critics say undermines prospects for a future Palestinian state.

The visit, from which international and local media were barred, marked the latest endorsement by the Trump administration of initiatives that opponents say are aimed at cementing Israel's claims to East Jerusalem, which Palestinians view as the capital of a future state.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, the City of David Foundation said in a statement.

The City of David archaeological park sits in the shadow of the elevated compound known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, a flashpoint that has triggered outbreaks of violence over the decades and remains at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The global heritage body UNESCO opposed construction of the park in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, outside of what most of the world recognizes as Israel's territory.

Rubio said he would be inaugurating a newly excavated path attached to the park known as Pilgrims' Road, believed by archeologists to have been traversed by visitors to Judaism's Second Temple around 2,000 years ago.

"It's one of the most important archaeological sites in the world," Rubio said before departing Washington on Saturday. "I understand people want to involve politics in it. I understand everything in this region is political to some extent. But at the end of the day, it's an extraordinary archaeological site."

Speaking at a press conference alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, Rubio called the park "one of the most important archaeological sites on the planet — one that has deep meaning to so many people in the United States as well."

"It's an honor to be here and be a part of that," he said.

While parts of Pilgrims' Road had previously been opened, it has now been fully excavated by the Israel Antiquities Authority, allowing visitors to walk from one end to the other.

In a brief clip shared by the City of David Foundation from the event, Rubio said that standing "on the very road where 2,000 years ago, so many from everywhere ventured to fulfill that desire to be closer to the Creator is a humbling and honoring experience."

Netanyahu added that "two thousand years after the destruction of the Second Temple, we are rediscovering our past and building our future—based on the Jerusalem of 2,000 years ago."

He appeared to hit back at past remarks by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who in 2020 implied that Jerusalem belonged to Turkey, given the Ottoman Empire's control over the city for much of the modern era.

"This is our city, Mr. Erdogan. It's not your city. It's our city. It will always be our city. It will not be divided again," Netanyahu said now.

"That's why I so much appreciate the leadership of [US] President [Donald] Trump in this area as well," he went on.

He said that when the president declared Jerusalem as Israel's capital in his first term — "something that should have been acknowledged by every leader in the world" — and moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, Netanyahu told the president that any fallout "will be primarily directed at us, and we are definitely ready. So he just did it."

"And I welcome today [Rubio,] who understands that this is the foundation of our common Judeo-Christian heritage... This is our city. It is forever our city. It will never be divided again," he declared.

Huckabee also hailed Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided" capital, saying:

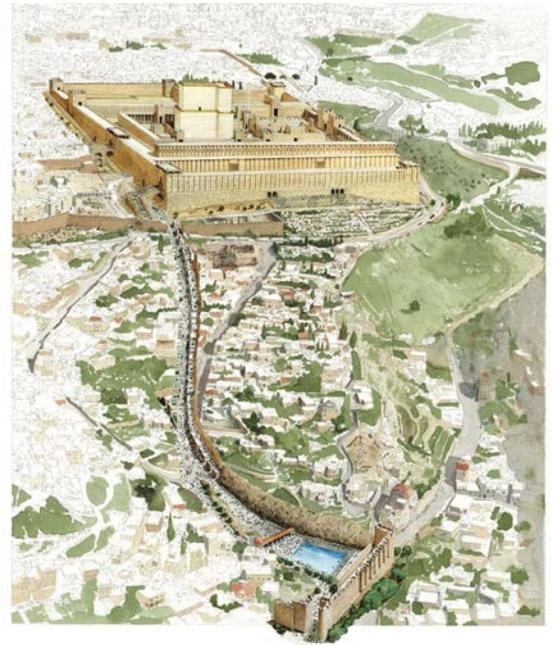


Illustration of the "Pilgrim's Road" during the Second Temple period (586 BC-AD 70). (Shalom Kveller, City of David)

“The Jewish people never forgot that this was their land, their home, their undivided, indisputable, indigenous capital from eternity.”

According to the City of David Foundation, the tunnel was discovered at the Pool of Siloam at the base of the City of David, an archaeological site just south of the Old City, and runs 600 meters (1,970 feet) to the Temple Mount.

...

Rubio’s visit to Jerusalem began on Sunday when Netanyahu led him and US Ambassador Mike Huckabee on a tour of the Western Wall, one of Judaism’s holiest sites. They also visited the nearby Western Wall tunnels, another Israeli excavation that has been criticized by the UN.

A State Department spokesperson said Sunday’s visit reaffirmed “America’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal capital.”

Access the article: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/rubio-visits-contentious-jerusalem-archeological-site-boosting-israeli-claim-to-area/>

The Sun Also Rises

The Genesis of a Great Revival

By Ray DiLorenzo originally published in Canada Free Press (October 25 2025)

In the midst of war, conflict, and the never-ending struggle for power, there is always hope for peace, if not outward, then inward. America is embarking on a revival, striving for a peace that transcends all comprehension.

An awakening is happening in America and in many parts of Europe. People, especially young men, are going to church, whether they are new to it or returning after many years. Church parking lots nationwide are packed, and Bibles are rapidly disappearing from the shelves, even in major Democrat cities.

Americans are realizing that the universe is out of balance and that malevolence truly exists

TPUSA events are standing room only. Faith-based movies are huge. People have observed candle-lit vigils everywhere for Charlie Kirk, even in Europe. The resurgence of faith expresses a shared desire for something more than the chaos the Left has offered and engulfed us in. As communities come together in search of spiritual solace, the potential for unity and understanding grows stronger, paving the way for peace in a fallen world.

Americans are realizing that the universe is out of balance and that malevolence truly exists. NGOs and cabals are inciting conflict between different groups to create a war aimed at permanently ending national sovereignty. Over the past few decades, progressives have unleashed unprecedented levels of both political and societal corruption.

People are seeing and understanding that no one willingly dies for a lie

They tried unsuccessfully to normalize it, but Americans are now seeing it for what it is. This awakening has sparked a national conversation about morality and the core values of what our country was founded on, prompting many to reevaluate their beliefs and the impact of societal changes. As awareness grows, individuals are increasingly motivated to take a stand against the forces they believe are undermining the fabric of their communities and are willing to call it what it is...evil.

Who has ever witnessed politicians and those in high office openly expressing their faith as we are seeing today?

Like Charlie Kirk’s murder, Stephen’s brutal martyrdom in public, as described in Acts 6 and 7 of the New Testament, sparked one of the greatest expansions of Christianity in church history. As Stephen died for his faith, so has Charlie Kirk. People are seeing and understanding that no one willingly dies for a lie.

We are in a great struggle. This struggle is unlike anything I have witnessed in my lifetime

Colleges across the country are witnessing a surge in interest for Turning Point USA, with 130,000 inquiries to establish new college and high school chapters. Additionally, there are 800,000 new students registered in its network, and 114,000 new young people are actively participating in chapter meetings.

This upcoming generation differs significantly from previous generations. They are discovering that their parents and grandparents lacked a sense of purpose and meaning. Charlie Kirk explained to them that true purpose comes from having faith in a Supreme Being who is greater than themselves, the politicians, the teachers, the professors, and those in power.

Inadvertently, the evil entity amplified Kirk’s message that faith can spread even through malevolent actions.

Move out of the darkness and step into the light

We are in a great struggle. This struggle is unlike anything I have witnessed in my lifetime. It’s a societal battle to define our place in the universe and who we owe allegiance to, not just a political struggle. The political sphere has become a battlefield, largely taking place in the streets and the halls of government. In Europe, the United Kingdom especially needs to take action or risk losing its sovereignty forever.

This conflict is a spiritual battle. It is good vs. evil, not blue vs. red. Each person must test the spirits to discern which is which. Everyone has the inherent ability to make that determination. We are made in the likeness of God to commune with Him. We all have a divine assignment in this life. It is up to each of us to ask God what that is. Move out of the darkness and step into the light.

Access the article: <https://canadafreepress.com/article/the-sun-also-rises>

Public Corner

Public Local Meetings

Interested in attending public meetings? Here are a few in your area for this month.

<https://www.mercercounty.org/i-want-to/calendar-meeting-list>

HVRSD School Board Meeting

Monday November 17, 2025 - 6:30 PM

425 S Main St. Pennington, NJ 08534

Or Livestream on YouTube

Municipal Township Meetings

<https://www.hopewelltpw.org/calendar.aspx?CID=32>

Monday, November 10, 2025 6:30 PM

Monday, November 24, 2025 6:30 PM

Meetings are in hybrid format- Township Municipal Building & Zoom

Township meetings will be held at HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING 201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560

In case you are unable to attend Township Committee mtgs, the recordings are available. Per the township clerk's office Kathy, they are "usually," available within a few days of the meeting.

Happy viewing click here:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB_6dlk4EjvYfv9xDQOqNH9z/videos?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true

Or: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/> select How Do I.../ bottom right View/ Video Library

Board of Elections Meeting

Tuesday November 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Board of Elections Meetings will be at 930 Spruce St., Lawrence, NJ 08648

Mercer County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Schedule -- November 2025

Monday November 10, 2025 6:00 PM Formal & Agenda Meeting

Monday November 24, 2025 6:00 PM Formal & Agenda Meeting

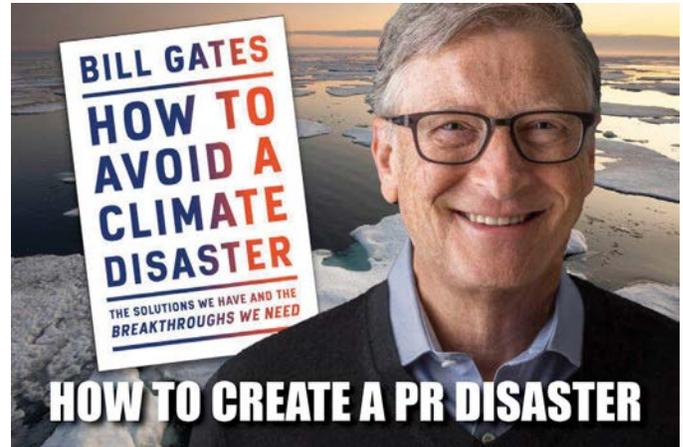
Agenda and Formal Meetings will take place at the Mercer County Administration Building, Room 211, 640 South Broad St, Trenton, NJ unless otherwise stated.

In order to encourage full participation of these meetings, please submit any requests for accommodations of people with disabilities to the Clerk to the Board, Mercer County Administration Building, PO Box 8068, Trenton, NJ 08650

(609) 989-6584 {V/TTY}

{Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 101-336}

TruthBTold



At the Movies, Bookstores

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (2025)

A FILM BY KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT
Premieres November 16
New Six-Part, 12-Hour Series

The American Revolution was at once a war for independence, a civil war, and a world war. It impacted millions – from Canada to the Caribbean and beyond. Few escaped its violence.

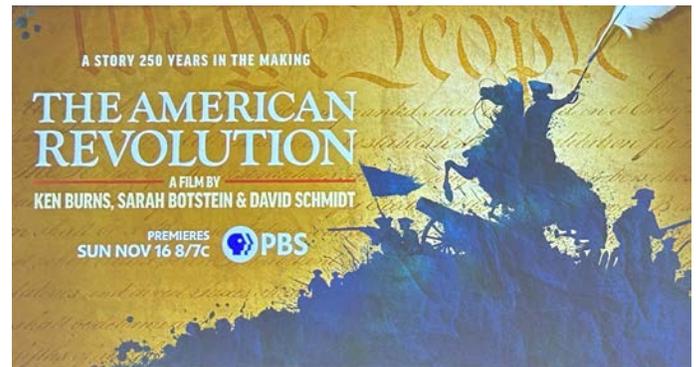
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION examines how America's founding turned the world upside-down.

Thirteen British colonies on the Atlantic Coast rose in rebellion, won their independence, and established a new form of government that radically reshaped the continent and inspired centuries of democratic movements around the globe.

An expansive look at the virtues and contradictions of the war and the birth of the United States of America, the film follows dozens of figures from a wide variety of backgrounds. Through their individual stories, viewers experience the war through the memories of the men and women who experienced it: the rank-and-file Continental soldiers and American militiamen (some of them teenagers), Patriot political and military leaders, British Army officers, American Loyalists, Native soldiers and civilians, enslaved and free African Americans, German soldiers in the British service, French and Spanish allies, and various civilians living in North America, Loyalist as well as Patriot, including many made refugees by the war.

The Revolution began a movement for people around the world to imagine new and better futures for themselves, their nations, and for humanity. It declared American independence with promises that we continue to strive for. The American Revolution opened the door to advance civil liberties and human rights, and it asked questions that we are still trying to answer today.

About the film, official trailer, more information: <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-american-revolution/>



Friends of Washington Crossing Park and Princeton Battlefield Society Hosted an Exclusive Advance Screening of New Ken Burns Documentary The American Revolution

By Friends of Washington Crossing Park

Washington Crossing, PA — The Friends of Washington Crossing Park, in partnership with the Princeton Battlefield Society, were proud to present an exclusive advance screening highlights from The American Revolution, a highly anticipated new PBS documentary series from Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt. The event took place on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at the Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center in Pennsylvania.

“Washington Crossing Historic Park and Princeton Battlefield are central to America’s Revolutionary story,” said Jennifer Martin, Executive Director of the Friends of Washington Crossing Park. “We’re honored to partner with the Princeton Battlefield Society as part of their Cadwalader Lectures to host this exclusive preview and panel discussion. The event emphasized the vital role of reenactors and how the power of storytelling, whether through film, interpretation, or reenactment, deepen our understanding of this pivotal moment in history.”

Guests enjoyed a 45-minute curated preview reel from the series, introduced by Director Sarah Botstein, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Jennifer Martin, Executive Director of the Friends of Washington Crossing Park. The discussion explored how documentary filmmakers, reenactors, and living-history interpreters collaborate to bring the Revolutionary era to life.

Panelists included Sarah Botstein, Director and Producer of *The American Revolution*; Megan Ruffe, Co-Producer; Buddy Squires, Emmy-winning Cinematographer and founding member of Florentine Films; and James McKane, Living History Interpreter and Commander of the Third New Jersey Regiment.

“Our film tells the remarkable history of the people who lived through the American Revolution, their everyday concerns, and their hopes, fears and failings,” said Sarah Botstein (*The U.S. and the Holocaust* [2022], *Hemingway* [2020], *The Vietnam War* [2017]). “Washington Crossing is one of those special places where you can experience the history where it happened. We’re so grateful to the team who welcomed us on-site and couldn’t be more excited to bring an early look at the series back to this historic location.”

The American Revolution is a six-part series that explores America’s fight for independence through the eyes of soldiers and civilians, Patriots and Loyalists, Native peoples, and African Americans. The series brings to life a defining moment in world history while highlighting the diversity of experiences that shaped the nation’s founding.

Several scenes were filmed at Washington Crossing Historic Park, reinforcing the site’s enduring role as a living classroom for Revolutionary history. The 12-hour series explores the Revolution as a war for independence, a civil war, and a world war that transformed millions of lives across North America and beyond. This program will celebrate that connection and provide audiences with a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film and its sweeping portrayal of America’s founding struggle.

The Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center is located at 1112 River Road in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

Visit the Park and access more information at: <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/>

We the People of Interest

Against the Grain: The NBA Player Who Refused To Kneel Or Get The Shot

By American Thought Leaders - Epoch TV (October 21 2025)

NBA player Jonathan Isaac is known not just for his talent on the court, but for his convictions and outspoken faith. He’s the author of the 2022 best-selling memoir “Why I Stand.”

“As a youth, he struggled with anxiety—but a chance encounter in an elevator with the man who would later become his pastor changed the course of his life.

Faith helped him triumph over his battle with anxiety, but it also later put him at the center of a national debate. After George Floyd’s death, at the height of the Black Lives Matter movement, most NBA players chose to kneel during the national anthem. But Isaac chose to stand. Later, his decision to decline the COVID-19 vaccines also drew intense media scrutiny.

In this episode, he shares his story, his convictions, his choices and why he made them, and what it means to believe in something bigger than yourself.

Now, through his UNITUS shoe line, Isaac shares Bible verses and a message of hope.

Views expressed in this video are opinions of the host and the guest, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

To watch interview (47 mins): https://www.theepochtimes.com/epochtv/against-the-grain-the-nba-player-who-refused-to-kneel-or-get-the-shot-jonathan-isaac-5932399?ea_src=frontpage&ea_med=section-1



Our New Jersey Signers Of The Declaration Of Independence

Publishers note: As we near 2026, our 250th Semiquincentennial, we wanted to encourage getting to know our esteemed New Jersey Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

- Abraham Clark
- John Hart
- Francis Hopkinson
- Richard Stockton
- John Witherspoon

This month we begin with our very own local patriot John Hart.

Documentary: “Beyond the Signer: The Life of John Hart”

(Released September 4 2025, 33 mins): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14o-SVvneul>



Write Title: Portraits of signers of the Declaration of Independence. Call Number: MSS 12130. Citation: Robert Edge Pine. Copies of Pine's Portraits of Signers of the Declaration of Independence, 1820, Accession #12130, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

Dive into the remarkable life of John Hart, a lesser-known but essential figure among America's Founding Fathers. This documentary goes beyond his famous signature on the Declaration of Independence to reveal his courageous journey as a patriot, farmer, and family man. Discover how John Hart's unwavering commitment to American liberty led him to sacrifice everything—his home, his land, and his family's security—during the Revolutionary War.

We explore key historical locations, including:

The John Hart Homestead in Hopewell, New Jersey. Jim Jeffers, the current owner and caretaker, invited us into the house for a rare tour of the original section that belonged to John Hart.

The Hopewell Baptist Meeting House Cemetery, where Hart's remains were reinterred.

The Twin Hunt Cemetery, the original burial site of his wife, Deborah Hart.

Join us as we uncover the inspiring and often tragic story of this forgotten hero. This is the untold history of a man who risked it all for freedom.

For more details on John Hart visit the website Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence: <https://www.dsdi1776.com/signer/john-hart/>

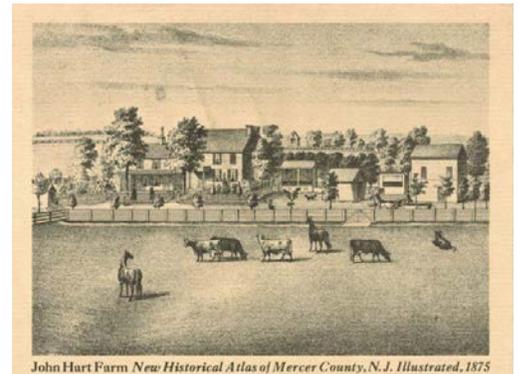


Photo: Gravesite of John Hart, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Hopewell NJ. Photo courtesy of Editor

Mercer We the People of Hopewell Valley Newsletters:

Access previous issues at: <https://hvr.gop.org/mercero-wethepeople/>

To report a correction or share feedback, please email us at info@mercero-wethepeople.com

Mercer We the People

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