

# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A dramatic black and white photograph of a Revolutionary War soldier in full uniform, including a tricorn hat with a plume, a blue coat with gold buttons, and a white cravat. He stands in a field of tall grass, looking upwards and to the right. In his right hand, he holds a long rifle vertically. In the background, a large American flag waves in a dark, cloudy sky.

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is visible against the flag.

Q3 2022

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for LIBERTY

## OPERATION WIN AT THE DOOR

OWD is making a huge impact in 2022.

**PAGE 14**

## RON PAUL & FREE SPEECH

Ron Paul's legacy on free speech is examined.

**PAGE 22**

# The Revolution Continues

The spirit of the American Revolution lives in all of us.  
From Thomas Jefferson, to Ron Paul, to YOU,  
we are all the torch bearers of liberty.

**READ MORE INSIDE**

# Letter from the CEO

A few years ago, I took the trip of a lifetime to South America. I was so excited to fulfill a childhood dream of seeing the Andes, but what left the most meaningful impact on me was seeing the many, many refugees from Venezuela.

These refugees had walked hundreds of miles by the time I saw them. Their shoes were in tatters. Many were carrying their young children. Typically all they had was a small backpack of a few items and a blanket, but these were the folks lucky enough to be able to get out of Venezuela and try to build a new life somewhere else.

Many of them quickly turned to entrepreneurship, like selling bottled water to travelers, to help feed their families.

I was in awe of the courage and tenacity of these Venezuelans, and heartbroken at their plight. Venezuela should be one of the richest countries in the world as they have immense natural resources. Several decades ago, Venezuela was a pretty good place to be but socialist policies have since destroyed the country and the lives of so many who live there.

I do the work I do here at Young Americans for Liberty to help prevent the United States from going down that same path, and meeting a similar tragic fate as Venezuela.

Freedom is essential to human prosperity and well-being. And we must vigorously protect it here in the United States, or else our grandchildren will be living through similar horrors that so many in Venezuela have been trying to escape.

Young Americans for Liberty was founded out of the Ron Paul movement. **We tell our students that “the Revolution is yours now,”** a reference to both the American Revolution and the Ron Paul Revolution. Every generation has to do its part to carry on the proud American heritage of liberty.

We are proud to help equip our students with the training and tools they need and then give them meaningful opportunities to make a real difference.

Our coalition of legislators works to pass good bills and, equally importantly, stop bad ones. In 2021, they passed enough **pro-liberty legislation to make 88 million Americans more free!** That equates to one out of every four Americans being impacted by their work.

Our students played a role in this by doing grassroots advocacy for some of the biggest bills and, through our sister organization, Make Liberty Win PAC, knocking doors to help get these legislators elected.

And of course all of this was made possible by our very many supporters, who give so generously to help protect our sacred American freedoms. **I'd like to especially thank Jamie McMahon who gave generously to launch this magazine.** Jamie is passionate about sharing the ideas of liberty, the American Revolution, and Ron Paul with the next generation.

Big things like making 88 million people more free in a single year take teamwork -- with our legislators, students, staff, and financial supporters all playing critical roles.

We have named this quarterly magazine “The American Revolution,” because that is the sacred legacy and challenge that we have inherited. We must do our part to defend our American freedoms, and then pass the responsibility on to the next generation.

**Thank you for being part of this important work!** I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine, which outlines some of the most recent things we have achieved together.



Margaret & Jamie McMahon



Lauren

Lauren Daugherty  
CEO, Young Americans for Liberty

# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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## The American Revolution

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# Massive Free Speech Wins in Kentucky

BY JP KIRBY



Young Americans for Liberty State Chair forces sixteen schools in Kentucky to rescind their unconstitutional free speech policies, thereby restoring free speech for tens of thousands of students.

Young Americans for Liberty's Kentucky State Chair Devon McVey has completed the task passed down to him by his predecessor, Jason Beasley: defending liberty on college campuses in Kentucky. For decades, college campuses have been bastions of free speech restrictions that reduce academic freedom and shut down ideas that contradict the dominant politically correct school of thought. But **YAL students are fighting back in earnest, and have won some incredible victories.**

Devon, Jason, and I have had our sights set on the 16 schools in the Kentucky Community & Technical College System. These schools have had long-outdated prior permission policies as well as a policy restricting any campus ground from being used for "religious or political" purposes which is very unconstitutional.

In 2019, Hazlitt Coalition Member Savannah Maddox spearheaded the Kentucky CAFE Act--one of the strongest free speech bills in the country. With the help of some relentless phone calls by YAL activists, the bill got through both legislative houses and was signed into law. Since then, YAL had been attempting to contact KCTCS administrators to change their policies to comply with this state law.

In early 2022, Devon reached out to the school system's president and presented YAL's policy change suggestions. By the end of his discussions with Devon, the system President was on board and started the process of removing the non-compliant policies. Devon spent the last two months constantly contacting (or bothering) the school's bureaucracy.

Finally, the school system's secretary called Devon to inform him that the new, compliant language had been added to the policy handbooks. The old, non-compliant policies have been removed.

**Devon is now the all-time leading Free Speech Champion** in Fight for Free Speech (FFS) history, and Kentucky (17) now trails only California (19) on our all-time Free Speech Victory list.

YAL will continue to fight to defend free speech on college campuses throughout the country. ↗

*JP Kirby is the Director of Student Rights at Young Americans for Liberty. A Kentucky native, JP now lives and works in Austin, Texas.*

◀ California activist poses for photo by free speech ball.



**Top:** Students from Pierce College doing activism in California.  
**Bottom Left:** Students have fun at their free speech ball event.  
**Bottom Right:** Top activists doing free speech activism at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

# YAL GEARS UP FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS



YAL-recruited student knocking on doors and talking to voters.

The extremism within the Democrat party has alienated many Independent voters, putting Young Americans for Liberty in a favorable position for the upcoming elections.

BY BRENDAN STEINHAUSER

In his 2022 State of the Union address, President Joe Biden said, with a sheepish grin, "I'm a capitalist." Throughout much of modern American history, it would not have been noteworthy to hear that from the President of the United States.

But in this day and age, with self-proclaimed socialist and progressive candidates becoming more extreme than ever, and successfully taking over the Democrat Party, it was a sign that capitalism is back in vogue.

Biden knows that he cannot allow the far left of his party to drive them to an untenable political position -- embracing socialism, wokeism, and the ensuing punitive measures against small business owners and taxpayers. He and his team know that freedom works, and is popular with regular Americans.

Independent voters have soured on the bad ideas of the left, and they want their country back. They reject these out-of-touch policies for what they are -- the failed ideas of the previous century. So, the Biden team is acknowledging (albeit in a small way) that capitalism is the most humane, moral, efficient, and effective system -- allowing free people to make a living and determine their own destiny.

Now, don't get me wrong, Biden is surrounded by progressives and leftists, but he is well aware that if he listens to them, he will be dealt a terrible blow in the fall elections. So expect him to continue this message in the months to come.

What does all of this mean for those of us who truly cherish liberty and capitalism? It means that **we have an incredible opportunity this year to turn the tide away from big government and toward freedom.** The bad poll numbers for Biden and the Democrats, especially among independent voters, are an opening for pro-liberty candidates to win the debate, and then the election.

Available public polling on these matters is clear -- the Democrats are facing a potentially catastrophic election, akin to the 2010 elections in which they lost 63 seats in the U.S. House and six seats in the U.S. Senate. Even the liberal media and Democrat political operatives are acknowledging this impending doom for the Democrats.

R epublicans are very likely to take back the House and the Senate, especially if they focus on winning issues that activate their base and win over independents at the same time. But they will only do that if we MAKE them do so.

It is our job at Young Americans for Liberty to engage in the debates occurring in primaries around the country, and to advocate for liberty-driven agendas that focus on issues like school choice, criminal justice reform, reducing the national debt, protecting civil liberties, reforming entitlements, cutting taxes, defending personal liberty, and avoiding foreign wars.

**How will we do this? The same way we have always done it: through grassroots activism led by our students on the ground across the country.** We will show up on the campaign trail, at town hall meetings, on main street, and in the neighborhoods of America to demand that these candidates adopt our issues and policies. We will Make Liberty Win by making politicians focus on the issues that not only protect liberty, but have wide appeal among the electorate.



YAL-recruited students knocking doors for Fred Glynn in Indiana.



YAL-recruited activist after knocking doors for Allen Skillicorn in Illinois in 2020.

We have set a very ambitious and attainable goal for 2022. We are recruiting hundreds of election coordinators around the country from among our student activists, and they are knocking on millions of doors this election season for our sister PAC, Make Liberty Win. This is what will ensure that pro-liberty candidates are nominated in primaries - not establishment, big-government politicians - and that those candidates win the general election in November.

We have ambitious goals and plans, including dealing a huge blow to the establishment of both parties, and defeating the failed ideas of socialism and big government at the polls. We are confident in our ability to do just that. ↗

Brendan Steinhauer is the Chief Strategy Officer of Young Americans for Liberty. Brendan graduated Phi Beta Kappa from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Government, and received his M.A. in Statecraft and International Affairs from The Institute of World Politics. He has taught a class on global issues at St. Edward's University in Austin, and is an officer in The Texas State Guard. He lives in Austin with his wife Randan and their four children.



## INDIANA CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY: A Case Study in YAL's Effectiveness

Despite pressure from the establishment, six of YAL's Hazlitt Coalition members work together to get Constitutional Carry passed in Indiana.

BY TED PATTERSON

**I**t was June 2019 and a lone Indiana Representative named Curt Nisly walked into YAL's Memphis student conference pondering his political future. Since taking office in 2014 Curt had been marginalized by Republican leadership in the Hoosier State. Year after year he would introduce Constitutional Carry legislation only to watch his bill die in committee. Even when Curt would attempt to force a vote on his pro-gun legislation he could not find a single legislator to stand with him in forcing a roll call vote.

Curt had been challenged by the establishment with Republican primary opponents who said he was a "purist,"

and was not effective at getting legislation passed. At YAL's 2019 Memphis YALCON, Nisly was determining whether he would even attempt to run again for public office. But Curt left Memphis encouraged by the other liberty legislators he met, hopeful after meeting the students from around the country committed to liberty and determined to hit the ground running in Indiana with YAL committed to building a team around Curt.

In 2020, Curt crushed his primary opponent by just shy of 20 points with YAL-trained student door knockers hammering away at more than 60,000 phone calls. But 2020 wasn't just a win for Curt, three other liberty legislators were elected

that year including John Jacob, Zach Payne, and Chris Jeter. These wins gave the liberty movement in Indiana the leaders on the inside needed to finally force a vote on Constitutional Carry.

Sure enough, in 2021 a floor vote on Constitutional Carry was finally forced. This was historic, since in prior years similar legislation never saw the light of day, and ultimately died in committee. Sadly, however, although Constitutional Carry was voted on, the bill still died.

**In 2022, Young Americans for Liberty decided to launch legislative advocacy in Indiana to push Constitutional Carry over the finish line.** A combination of door-to-door canvassing, direct mail, live phone calls to voters and online advertising was activated across Indiana in support of Constitutional Carry. The House took quick action to pass Constitutional Carry through its chamber at the beginning of session, but the Senate decided to sit on the bill and for a moment we were worried that things might end up like they did in 2021.

YAL doubled-down on key senators across the state, sending out 38,332 hard-hitting mailers holding senators' feet to the fire in concert with 53,946 live mobilization calls to voters and 12,614 doors knocked. As a result of overwhelming pressure, even amid tactics in committee to kill our idea, we were able to force the Senate to pass Constitutional Carry in 2022. Governor Eric Holcomb signed the legislation March 21, 2022.

But the story doesn't end there.

Following YAL's massive gun rights victory in Indiana, the establishment wanted to strike back in election season, and they did. Big-government Republican entities spent millions to sink Hazlitt Coalition members Curt Nisly and John Jacob. Sadly, they succeeded in defeating both of them in the 2022 Indiana primary. Thankfully, although the establishment was hell-bent on



Northeast Deputy Regional Director Dylan Oliver fighting for freedom of speech at the University of Maine.

wiping the liberty movement off the map in Indiana, they failed.

**with one legislator who was willing to stand on principle and be the Ron Paul in his home state.**

Ted Patterson is the VP of Policy for Young Americans for Liberty.





# The Catastrophic Failure of the War on Drugs

YAL-backed legislators in New Hampshire, Maryland, Florida, and Oklahoma fight for decriminalization and ending the disastrous effects of the War on Drugs.

UMaine YAL chapter hosts a free "pot" brownies event on 4/20 to educate students about the failure of the War on Drugs.

BY HEATHER FAZIO

## The War on Drugs has failed by every measure.

Drugs are no less available than they were before, substance abuse remains a significant problem in our country, and current drug policies embolden violent cartels, which hold a government sanctioned monopoly on the market. Adding insult to injury, most drug laws are enforced at the local level, turning community police into drug warriors on behalf of the federal government. This practice incentivizes more militant engagement with citizens, rather than the community policing style once revered in America.

Prohibitionist policies have led to abhorrent practices like civil asset forfeiture laws, which fly in the face of due process. Law enforcement officers often testify that the smell of marijuana is a valuable tool for searching cars they wouldn't otherwise have probable cause to search. These practices erode public trust and contribute to the divide between law enforcement and the people they are supposed to protect.

Substance abuse is a serious problem in our country and must be taken seriously if we want to save lives. It's time to look at drug abuse as a health issue, not a vice that can be discouraged by government prohibition. At great cost, our country has criminalized behavior that can only be curbed through education, rehabilitation, and dignity.

Blanket federal prohibition has hindered meaningful research, keeping Americans from better understanding how to use drugs safely. Restricting research also deprives sick people of medicine that could greatly improve their quality of life.

Driven by growing calls for reform, states and local governments are no longer waiting on the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or Congress to reverse decades of failed policy. Instead, they are beginning to move forward with policies that reduce harm by decriminalizing possession and making resources more available for those who are seeking help with substance abuse.

According to the National Council of State Legislatures, thirty-seven states, four territories, and the District of Columbia allow the medical use of cannabis products. Furthermore, twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia have decriminalized small amounts of marijuana. This generally means certain small, personal-consumption amounts are a civil or local infraction, not a state crime (or are a lowest misdemeanor with no possibility of jail time). Eighteen states have repealed prohibitions entirely, replacing it with a system of regulation. Despite this, marijuana remains federally illegal, meaning that the states that have legalized it are actually in a nullification crisis.

By removing criminal penalties for drug possession and low level sales, the states would save money by reducing prison and jail costs, free up

law enforcement resources to focus on violent crime, prioritize the health and safety of those who use drugs, reduce the stigma associated with drug use so that drug users are encouraged to seek treatment, and remove barriers to evidence-based harm reduction practices such as drug checking, heroin-assisted treatment, and medical marijuana.

At Young Americans for Liberty, we believe that if there is no victim, there is no crime. **Unless there is an identifiable victim, an individual should be able to make his own decisions.**

Working on the state level, YAL-endorsed legislators have introduced or supported a number of bills to reform outdated drug laws. In New Hampshire, our Hazlitt members championed HB 1349 and HB 1392 which

decriminalized the possession and use of psilocybin mushrooms and reduced the penalties for nonviolent drug offenses, respectively. In Pennsylvania, our legislators backed HB 1959 which provides for research, clinical studies, and the manufacturing of psilocybin mushrooms. In Florida, Oklahoma, and Maryland, YAL-backed state legislators have successfully fought to protect the second amendment rights of people who have received medical marijuana prescriptions.

Local policy changes are critical to growing momentum, but the root of the problem is federal prohibition. Ultimately, the drug schedule (Controlled Substances Act) must be overhauled. This kind of big change will require courage and foresight, two qualities that are scarce in Congress.

*Heather Fazio is the Director of Policy with Young Americans for Liberty, began her political career as a Ron Paul activist, and resides in Austin.*



# Grassroots Action Trainings

This spring, Young Americans for Liberty hosted fifteen Grassroots Action Trainings across the United States. We trained **418 students** on how to fight back against tyranny on their campuses and in their respective communities. They went back home with a better understanding of the grassroots model of politics, campus activism, and free speech fights. They also had the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals and learn from our champion activists who have already forced schools to rescind unconstitutional policies.



Arlington



Salt Lake City



Dallas



Louisville



Nashville



New York



Boston



Rapid City



Phoenix



Denver



Portland, ME



York, PA



Boise



Raleigh

# OWD IS ON PACE TO REACH ITS GOAL OF 250 LIBERTY LEGISLATORS

**“That’s how you make a difference in politics. You’ve got to win at the doorstep.”**

Operation Win at the Door is making a huge impact in 2022.

BY SEAN THEMEA

The opportunities to influence the political process are virtually endless. In 2018, in order to be maximally effective at doing our part to restore the republic, YAL decided to find the niche role we could fill that would harness the power of our comparative advantage. Once we connected the dots that mobilizing our youth army of activists to knock doors was the chief resource that we brought to the table, and that the arena for winning state legislative seats was largely untouched by freedom advocates, the answer became self evident: electing state representatives to office across the country would be YAL’s unique contribution to the liberty movement.

We were excited. But when Young Americans for Liberty launched Operation Win at the Door in 2018, with an audacious goal of electing 250 liberty legislators to state office, many said that this was an impossible dream.

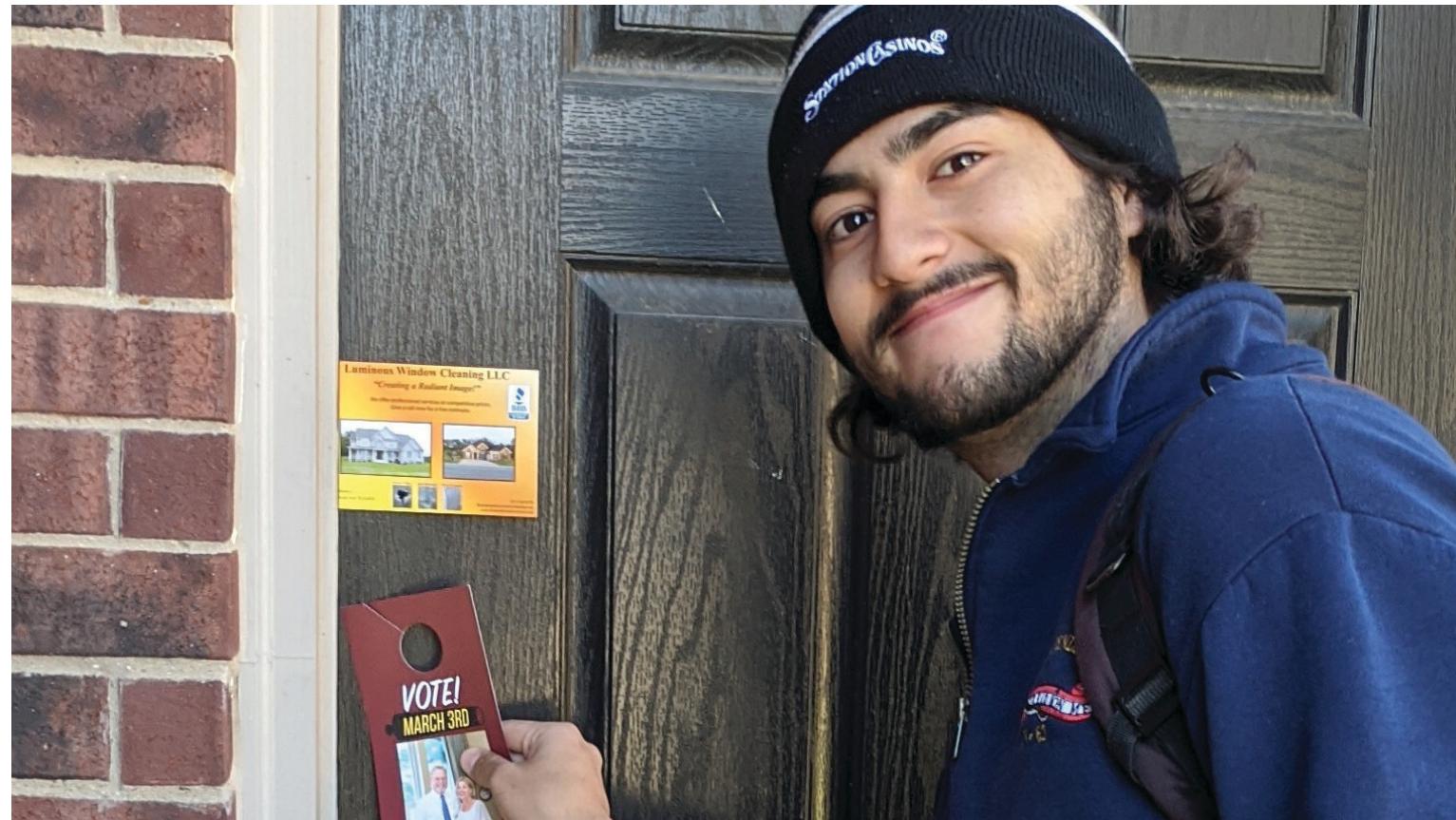
They said there wouldn’t be enough liberty donors to fund the effort. They said there wouldn’t be enough principled and viable liberty candidates. They said there wouldn’t be enough liberty students who would commit to knocking on doors across the country.

I’m happy to report that it looks like “they” were wrong.

Since Operation Win at the Door was launched, YAL’s fundraising has increased from \$2.8 million to \$15.1 million. YAL has received over 2,500 surveys from candidates documenting their liberty bona fides and vying for an endorsement. And in 2020 alone, YAL recruited 1008 young door knockers around the



Above: Student knocking doors for Minnesota State Representative Erik Mortensen who won his election after students applied direct grassroots pressure. Below: YAL-recruited student knocks doors in Texas.



country—that’s more contractors than any presidential campaign placed in the 2020 election cycle.

The proof is in the pudding. YAL’s Operation Win at the Door has secured 182 election victories for principled liberty candidates. This year alone, Operation Win at the Door has helped secure primary victories for 54 additional candidates who are projected to have safe general election races. Our goal of 250 is well within range—even 300 liberty legislators in our coalition may be possible by the end of November. That’s over five percent of all state legislative seats in the entire country occupied by hardcore liberty legislators.

What does this mean?

First, it means that **YAL is the difference maker in winning elections**. Robert Forsythe won his state representative seat by just five votes in New Hampshire. Fred Glynn won his state representative seat by just six votes in Indiana. Jeff Shipley won his race in Iowa by one percent after general election polls showed him down 25 percent. Nick Freitas won his state delegate seat as a *write-in candidate* after he was removed from the ballot. The common thread behind all these wins? YAL-recruited door knockers pounding the pavement

several weeks before the election, reaching constituents, and turning out the vote for pro-liberty candidates.

Second, it means **Operation Win at the Door has given liberty advocates a bigger microphone for our ideas**. When you elect courageous legislators who value principle over party, you start to see rousing floor speeches from representatives like John Burt in New Hampshire, who proudly reminded the Speaker of the House that “Taxation is Theft;” Tony Lovasco in Missouri, who fearlessly called out crony lobbyists buying off his fellow legislators; and Jonathon Hill in South Carolina, whose speech against the death penalty did not make him many friends at the capitol but set the tone for his peers to stand up for what they believe in. Culture is downstream from politics, but politicians can drive the culture within their state capitals.

Third, it means **Operation Win at the Door is the proven difference-maker to make millions of Americans more free**. In 2021, Kentucky and Missouri passed landmark legislation for school choice. In Kentucky, all four of YAL’s legislators co-sponsored the bill. Despite Governor Beshear vetoing the legislation, the bill passed into law through a veto override

by just one vote. That means if Operation Win at the Door had helped elect one less Kentucky legislator, the bill would not have passed. Similarly, in Missouri, the school choice bill sponsored by a YAL legislator (and YAL student alumnus) passed through the House of Representatives by just one vote. Operation Win at the Door has helped elect nine legislators in Missouri; if YAL’s efforts had elected one less legislator, school choice would not have passed. Altogether in 2021, the legislators elected through Operation Win at the Door helped make 88 million Americans more free with the bills they passed.

And finally, it means **Operation Win at the Door is building a bench of liberty legislators who will ascend to higher office and continue to make millions of Americans more free**. Savannah Mad-dox, YAL’s second-ever Operation Win at the Door victory, recently announced her candidacy for Kentucky governor. Several YAL legislators are running for U.S. Congress in 2022, with fundraising totals to-date near or over \$1 million. Andrew Sorrell, a YAL state representative in Alabama, just won his runoff election for state auditor and will be unopposed in the general election. This means that a man guided by the principles of liberty will serve as a check and balance on the state’s treasury. Andrew will be YAL’s first statewide elected official so far this year who arose from within our Hazlitt Coalition of liberty legislators.

The larger Operation Win at the Door’s impact grows, the more aggressively the establishment will target our efforts from both sides of the aisle. In 2020, Barack Obama, Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden personally endorsed over a dozen of our opponents. In 2022, the Indiana GOP spent \$2 million against our slate of state representative candidates. Challenges like these only embolden YAL’s efforts, and we will continue to scale Operation Win at the Door to build the bench of 250 liberty legislators and beyond. **With caucuses of state legislators across the country, standing up to both federal and in-state establishments, passing liberty legislation and ascending to higher office...that’s how we restore our republic.**

Sean TheMEA is YAL’s Chief of Staff, and resides in Austin.

# FEATURED SPOTLIGHT

Representative Mallerie Stromswold is a student at Montana State University and currently serves as a state representative for Montana's 50th district. One of YAL's Hazlitt Coalition members, Representative Stromswold is one of the youngest state representatives in the United States.



**Rep. Mallerie Stromswold**



**Title**

*Montana State Representative  
50th district, Hazlitt Member*

**Year Elected**

*2019*

**Education**

*Studied at Pennsylvania State University last year and is now at Montana State University.*

**Biggest Influence**

*Ron Paul*

**Favorite part about Hazlitt Coalition:**

*I absolutely love the ability to meet other state representatives in the Hazlitt Coalition. I have met such amazing people through YAL, many of whom I text frequently. We have a group chat with all the legislators and are always so excited to see one another at YAL trainings. I also appreciate all the tools I've been given through YAL, as well as how reachable everybody there is.*

**Top issues I'm fighting for in Montana:**

*Privacy rights and perfecting Constitutional Carry*

**What brought you into the liberty movement?**

*I've never quite fit in with the two-party system. Within the liberty movement, I found a niche approach to what the role of government should be, a viewpoint that resonated with me.*

**What inspired you to run for office?**

*When I was seventeen, I was a legislative page and I met a lot of incredible people who inspired me to run for the seat I currently hold. I felt like I knew what had to be done and had the support to get it done, so I decided to do it!*

**Advice for young activists:**

*Decide what your principles are very early on and never sacrifice them, no matter what.*

# Columbine Survivor Fights for Gun Rights

## TO PROTECT INNOCENTS

Patrick Neville, a spokesman for Young Americans for Liberty, is a survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting. Unlike many others in his shoes, he does not believe that gun control is the answer to eliminating mass shootings.

BY PATRICK NEVILLE

*This article originally appeared in The Daily Caller.*



YAL spokesman Patrick Neville making the case for Constitutional Carry in Colorado.

I consider myself one of the lucky ones as I had walked by the propane tank bombs that never exploded at Columbine High School. My friends weren't as lucky. As parents gathered at my old elementary school to pick up their children, I will never forget the look of worry and desperation as my friend's dad asked me, "Pat, have you seen him?" This father coached my soccer team growing up. He was always calm, direct, and confident. He wasn't that day, and he would never see his son alive again.

This was more than 23 years ago. At Columbine, the perpetrators used pipe bombs and firearms, (some obtained illegally) and tried to kill many more with propane tanks. This happened in the middle of the assault weapons ban, mind you.

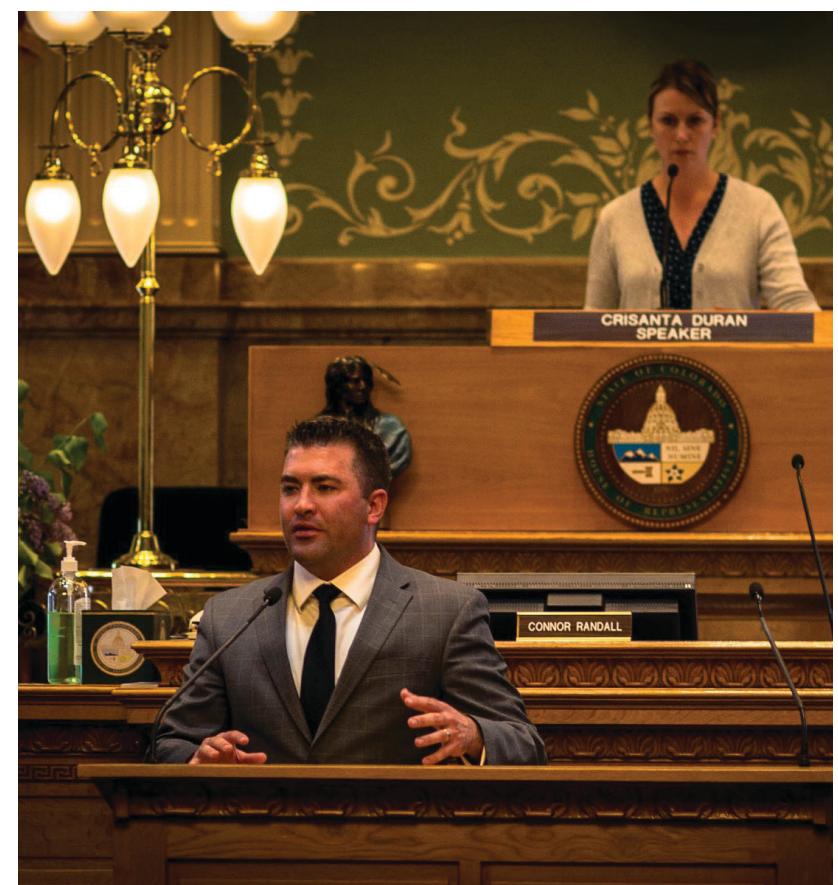
Fast forward to the recent events in Buffalo and Uvalde. I cried as I dropped my kids off at school. I cried more as I read news stories and reflected. Haven't we learned anything since that tragic day at Columbine?

While some have learned lessons from the tragedy, many politicians have not. The assault weapons ban, and other "gun control" measures didn't save my friends, nor did a flashy sign declaring my school a "gun free zone." A brave and heroic teacher did save many lives at my school. Yet, after every tragedy like this, Democrats immediately start beating the gun control drum. Sadly, many Republicans start looking for gun control policies to say they "did something." They need to start looking through a different lens. Instead of restrictions and control, they need to empower citizens, teachers, and parents to solve this problem.

**They need to start looking through a different lens. Instead of restrictions and control, they need to empower citizens, teachers, and parents to solve this problem.**

An overwhelming amount of mass shootings occur in places where citizens are banned from carrying firearms. As more and more people realize this is a problem, states have started to adopt policies to allow people to equip themselves to protect our children.

While this is a step in the right direction, many times the training requirements are steep, and the incentives are practically non-existent. Teachers often have salary incentives for obtaining advanced degrees and additional certificates. Why don't we have similar incentives in place for those who want to protect our children?



Patrick speaking about gun rights on the Colorado House floor.

I personally like the idea of School Resource Officers (SROs). One of the reasons I continue to drop my kids off at school is because of its outstanding SRO. However, this can be controversial for some parents. Locking doors, tempered glass, site assessments, communication systems, and resiliency training are not controversial, but they aren't always done. It's because of a lack of incentives, since most schools don't have to compete for enrolling students.

When I shop for a car, I look for lots of things, but one of the most important to me is making sure it has features that will protect my most precious cargo, my children. The car market has responded to parents like me by providing all sorts of safety features. **If we had more school choice, the education environment would be different.**

Schools could choose whether to have SROs based on market signals. Each school could feature different safety measures, whether site security or trained staff, and they could incentivize staff to go through the training.

Instead of seeing parents with the look of worry and desperation, I want to see parents with the look of being empowered. Empowered about restoring our God-given, constitutional rights and duties to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. We all need to work together to reverse the alarming trend of mass shootings, and take meaningful measures that will secure our schools, places of worship, and other vulnerable spaces that are often exploited by the worst of humanity. I, for one, will never stop working on finding solutions to this problem.

# FEATURED SPOTLIGHT

Spotlights are one of the many ways in which Young Americans for Liberty recognizes its wonderful staff members for all that they do. Since Jacob Tourville joined YAL, he has proven himself to be extremely motivated, passionate, intelligent, and hard-working. As the new Director of Campus, he will help bring our programs to new heights, continuing to fight for the Ron Paul Revolution.



**Jacob Tourville**



## Title

*Director of Campus*

## Previous Positions at YAL

*Truman State University YAL  
Chapter Outreach Coordinator*

*Election Coordinator with  
Make Liberty Win PAC*

*Illinois State Chair*

*South Deputy Regional Director*

*Midwest Regional Director*

## Education

*Truman State University*

*Southwestern Illinois College*

## Favorite Economist or Political Philosopher

*Friedrich Hayek*

## Why do you like working at YAL?

*I am very proud that I get to come to work every day and facilitate the growth of the liberty movement. It is amazing to work with so many passionate, capable people that care about our movement and the expansion of our liberties. Working at Young Americans for Liberty is so much more than just a job, it is a way by which we can fight for our God-given rights on college campuses, in local communities, at the state level, and so much more.*

## What are some recent projects that you've been working on?

*I have been working on our new discussion workshop curriculum, that we will soon implement on college campuses across the country. These workshops will lead students in discussions about liberty, as well as grassroots tactics that they can employ on their own campus.*

*Our Students Rights Campaigns and Fight for Free Speech on campus have also been a major focus. We are especially proud of our Student Rights Campaign wins across the United States. We were able to end a COVID-19 location and bluetooth tracking application that was a huge violation of the privacy rights for the students on campus. We were also able to overturn a mask mandate at the University of Montana and overturn restrictive speech policies at sixteen colleges and tech schools in the state of Kentucky.*

*Another project I've been working on is picking legislation in each state that I want to throw student support behind. We've already been cooperating with several groups in Missouri on free speech on campus and freedom of association legislation, and in South Dakota on the Second Amendment Preservation Act. We will be looking to expand this in certain states next year.*

## What are you looking forward to this year?

*This year I'm really looking forward to Revolution, the beginning of the Fall semester and the election season. I can't wait to see our Hazlitt Coalition with over 250 legislators! We will be able to utilize that to make an enormous difference and I'm really excited to see the progress we can make.*



# RON PAUL AND THE FIGHT FOR free speech

“

We have the **First Amendment**  
so we can say some very  
controversial things.”

BY JACK HUNTER

Dr. Ron Paul speaking to about one thousand liberty minded students from across the country at YAL's premier event, Revolution 2021. YAL was originally founded in 2008 as "Students for Ron Paul," and our students continue to fight for the Ron Paul Revolution. Originally, the attendees were told that Ron Paul would be speaking virtually but when he surprised everybody and walked onto the stage, the crowd erupted and the applause continued for several minutes.

It has been a decade since Ron Paul retired from Congress, and so much of his message from his time as a congressman and as a presidential candidate arguably resonates more today than during his time in politics. **Chief among them? Free speech.**

Dr. Paul once said, “We don’t have the freedom of speech to talk about the weather. We have the First Amendment so we can say some very controversial things.”

Indeed. But what might be considered controversial today? Saying that COVID-19 might have originated in a Chinese lab was once grounds for censorship by Twitter. Shortly after, it was accepted as a legitimate theory and news. The Hunter Biden laptop story was banned on social media before the 2020 presidential election, but has since been verified by the New York Times. Saying that a trans woman who is a biological male should not compete in women’s sports has been branded as hate speech on major social media platforms.

Private companies are free to do as they please, but the increasingly censorious nature of establishment media reflects the anti-free speech attitude of elites in general.

Now the government is getting involved, with the introduction of the Department of Homeland’s Security’s new ‘Disinformation Governance Board.’

George Orwell was only off by 38 years.

**Where in the Constitution does the federal government have the authority to dictate what is true and what is disinformation?** It doesn’t. Not that this has ever stopped the government from flexing its power beyond legal limits.

In describing the problems with our current government, Paul said in his farewell address to Congress, “The problems seemed to be overwhelming and impossible to solve, yet from my view point, just following the constraints placed on the federal government by the Constitution would have been a good place to start.”

Enough said. There is no legal foundation whatsoever for the Biden administration’s new Ministry of Truth.

Along with “follow the Constitution,” Paul would also say often that “freedom is popular.” He believed the marketplace of ideas would help individuals succeed and the freer our nation is overall, the healthier it would be. Generations of Americans would have found nothing to quarrel with in this belief.

But even though freedom of expression is a cherished American right enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution, it is increasingly under attack by the U.S. government and also a ruling class that dismisses unfettered free speech as too dangerous. These elites work in tandem—they are often the same people—to change the longstanding narrative that free expression is a public good into free speech is a public menace.

**It will be up to liberty lovers to hold the line and stand up for free expression in America. Resist censorship. Allow a diversity of ideas. Defend unfettered speech.**

Freedom is popular. And those of us who were—strike that—ARE part of the Ron Paul Revolution, young and old, won’t let our wannabe overlords forget it.

*Jack Hunter is the editor of Liberty Tree and a co-founder of BASEDPolitics.*

# How We Helped Pass Constitutional Carry in Texas Against All Odds

For 35 years, Republicans in Texas have tried, yet failed, to get Constitutional Carry passed. Young Americans for Liberty, however, stepped in and used direct grassroots pressure to force legislators to reaffirm the rights of Texas residents, resulting in the Governor signing Constitutional Carry into law.



YAL staff working with allies to pressure politicians to pass Constitutional Carry in Texas.

BY DANIEL STUART

**W**hen Young Americans for Liberty first got involved in Texas Constitutional Carry, we kept our expectations low. We did not expect that Constitutional Carry would pass and our initial goal was to get a roll call vote in the Texas House and then challenge any Republican that voted against it. However, as we saw a rift forming within Texas politics, we decided to increase the pressure and see what we could accomplish.

For weeks we pressured the legislators in the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, where

all of the Constitutional Carry bills were being held. Then in late March we delivered petitions to the State House members with our ally, Texas Gun Rights.

In April, we saw House Bill 1927 moving out of committee to the House floor and immediately pivoted our pressure to an unlikely character: the bill's sponsor, Matt Schaefer. Schaefer is an historically conservative legislator, but this session he introduced a weak and watered-down version of Constitutional Carry. The day before the House floor vote for Constitutional Carry, we put pressure on Schaefer via patch through calls urging him to strengthen his bill.

Some of our allies observed the huge number of phone calls coming into his office, and so did the representative. That was when we knew our pressure worked. He ended up accepting floor amendments to his bill to make it a stronger Constitutional Carry bill, and it passed the House.

The Senate was our uphill battle. Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick was adamantly opposed to Constitutional Carry and had been blocking it for years. This time, House Speaker Dade Phelan forced Patrick to make the tough call: pass Constitutional Carry, which he opposed, or be called out, and possibly lose his next primary. Again, we used the same tactics we did in the House: apply pressure to the weakest links. When the bill first came to his chamber, Patrick was quoted saying, "If we have the votes to pass a permitless carry bill off the Senate floor, I will move it. At this point, we don't have the votes on the floor to pass it." On April 19th, ten days after enormous grassroots pressure, his tone changed and he was quoted saying, "We're going to come out with a strong bill, and I believe we'll pass it. It's rare that I do this. Usually, if you don't have the votes for a bill, you don't bring up a bill that's going to lose, but this is an important issue."

When the bill passed the Senate, everyone on YAL's staff was surprised that it could really be that easy. Then we heard from our partners at Texas Gun Rights. One of the amendments added on the bill in the Senate was what is known as a "poison pill" amendment. It was worded in a way that violates House rules and allowed Democrats the opportunity to raise a point of order and kill the bill. Dan Patrick and the Senate had tossed the political equivalent of a live grenade into the House. We immediately pivoted our pressure to Dade Phelan and Dan Patrick urging them to send Constitutional Carry to Governor Greg Abbott's desk immediately.

In mid-May, the bill was sent to a conference committee to work out the differences between the Senate and House bills. Again we pivoted our pressure and our message, urging the members of the conference committee to clean the bill up and send a strong Constitutional Carry bill to Abbott's desk. Toward the end of May, all of our pressure paid off and the conference committee finally released its version of Constitutional Carry to the governor's desk.

**After knocking 35,000 doors, sending out 200,000 mailers, and making 150,000 calls, we helped to get Constitutional Carry passed in Texas. For almost a decade, conservatives in Texas tried to pass this legislation but it was not achieved until YAL stepped in and pressured legislators to pass it.**

*Daniel Stuart is the Hazlitt Action Director with Young Americans for Liberty and currently resides in Texas.*



One of YAL's Revolution 2021 attendees arriving at the resort.

# Liberty Candidate Academies

This Spring, YAL hosted 21 Liberty Candidate Academies, advanced trainings that teach candidates how to win their elections. We trained **450 candidates**. From fundraising to list-building to door-knocking, we provide freedom-loving patriots with the resources they need to win their primaries and general elections. When working in politics, it's important to be confrontational and not settle for just having access; whether a person is running for office, working on a campaign, or considering running in the future, he or she needs to remain principled, dedicated, and humble.



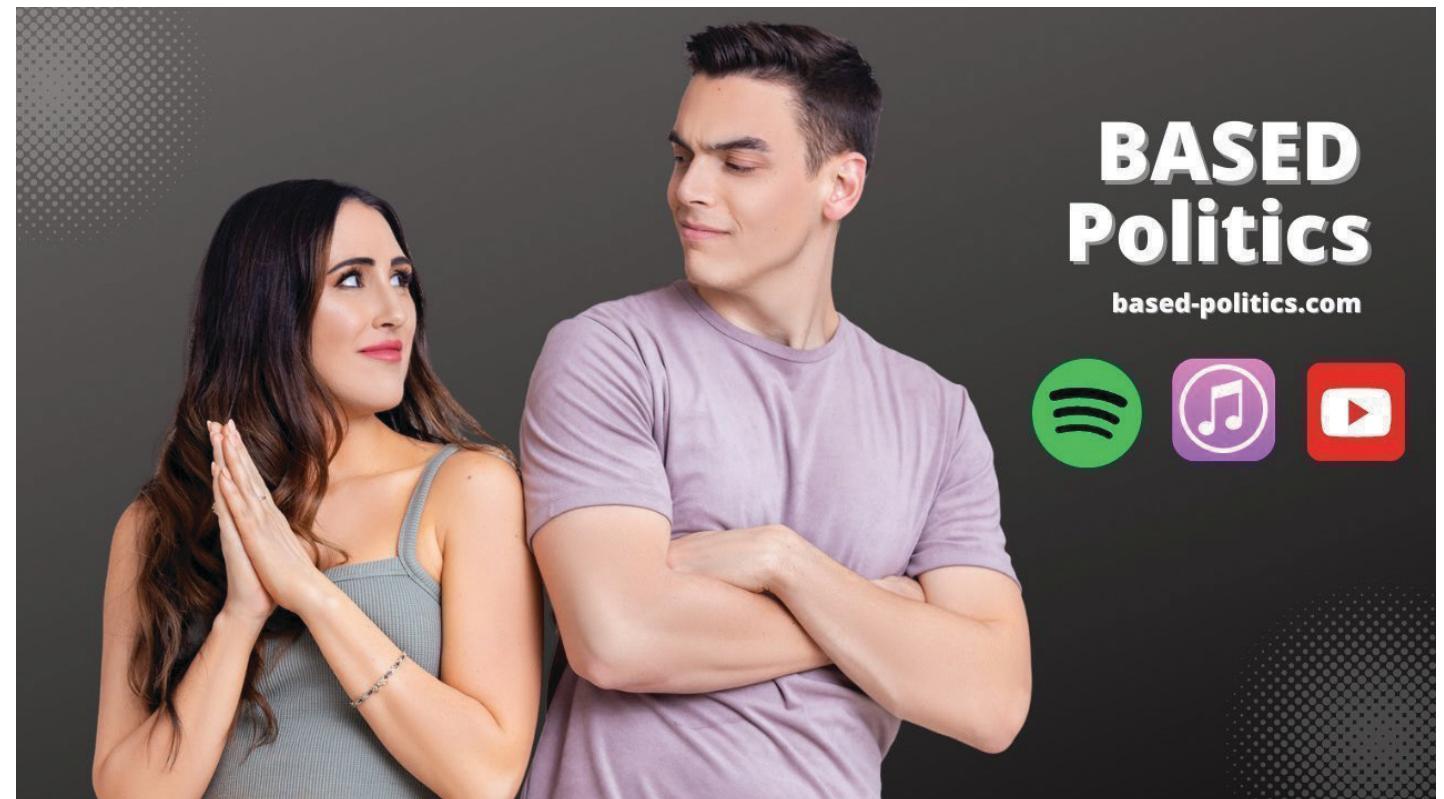
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# Ron Paul REVO-LUTION

THE WHOLE POINT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS TO VINDICATE THE PRINCIPLE OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT.

THE BRITISH DENIED THAT COLONIAL LEGISLATURES WERE EXCLUSIVELY ENDOWED WITH THE POWER TO MAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS FOR THEIR PEOPLES.

THIS IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL APPROACH TO DECIDING ALL ISSUES THAT ARE NOT SPELLED OUT EXPLICITLY IN OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENT: LET NEIGHBORS AND LOCALITIES GOVERN THEMSELVES.

THE COLONISTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, INSISTED THAT THEY WOULD BE GOVERNED ONLY BY THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

DO AS I SAY.

BITE ME.

JEFFERSON WARNED, "WHEN ALL GOVERNMENT, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, IN LITTLE AS IN GREAT THINGS SHALL BE DRAWN TO WASHINGTON AS THE CENTER OF ALL POWER, IT WILL RENDER POWERLESS THE CHECKS PROVIDED OF ONE GOVERNMENT BY ANOTHER..."

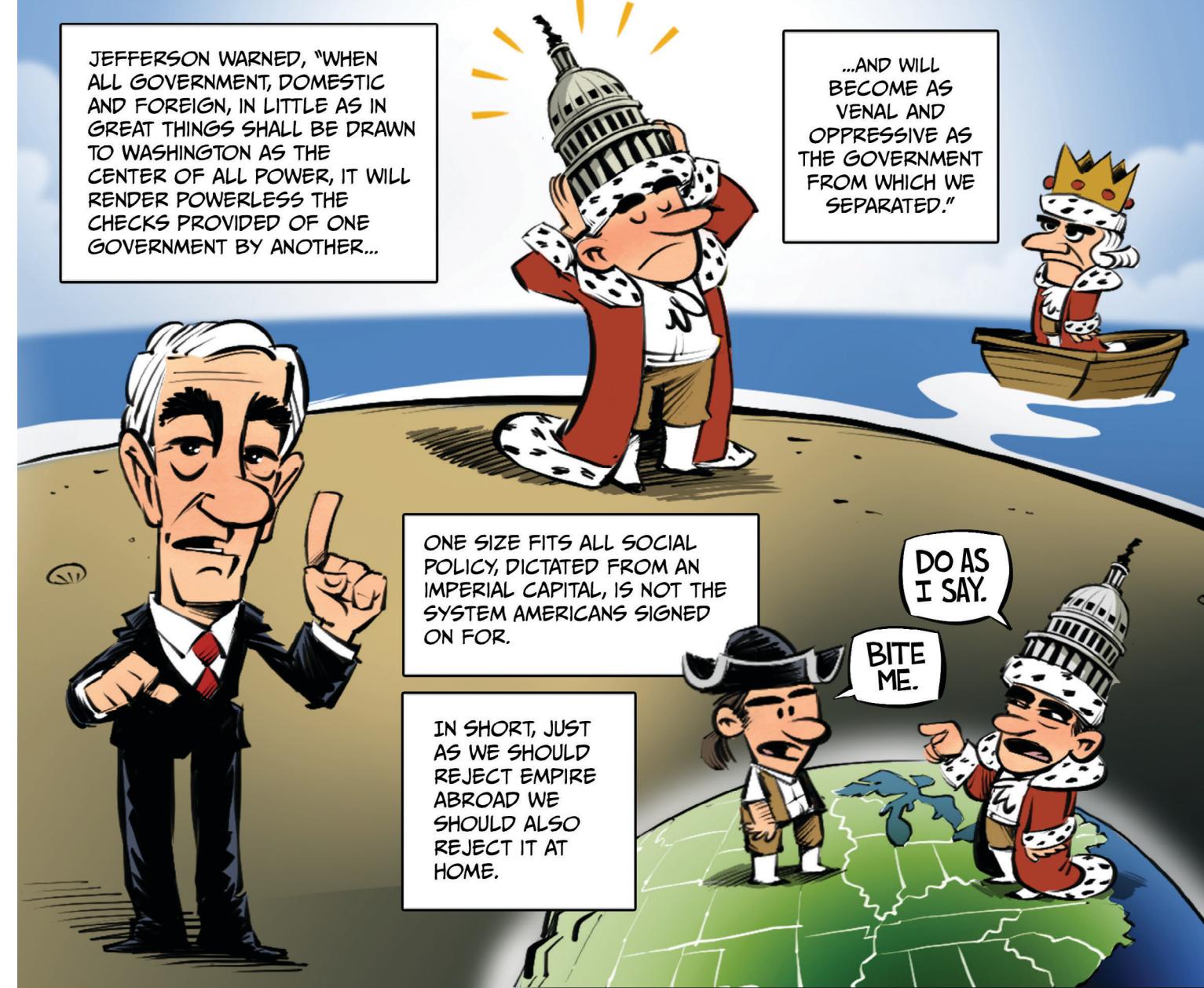
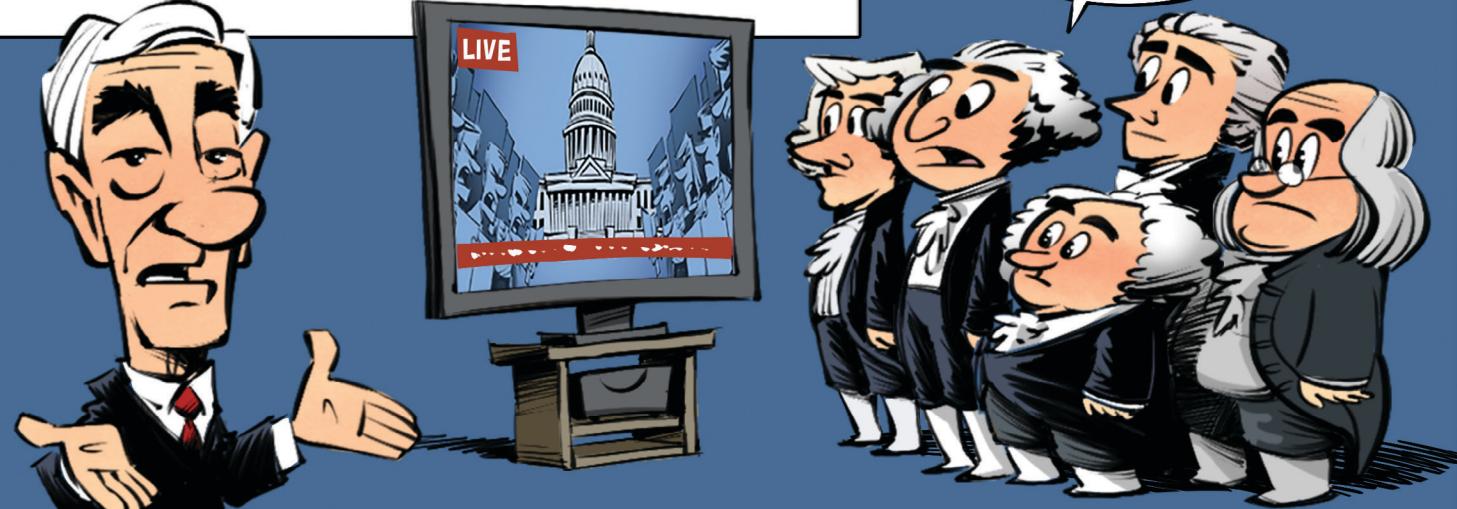
...AND WILL BECOME AS VENAL AND OPPRESSIVE AS THE GOVERNMENT FROM WHICH WE SEPARATED."



BUT WE HAVE COME TO CONSIDER IT NORMAL FOR D.C. TO DECIDE ON SOCIAL POLICIES THAT AFFECT EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD, FAMILY, AND INDIVIDUAL, IN AMERICA- A TOTALITARIAN IMPULSE IF THERE EVER WAS ONE.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS WOULD BE ASTONISHED TO OBSERVE HOW POLITICIZED OUR SOCIETY HAS BECOME. NOWADAYS, EVERY ISSUE ON WHICH PEOPLE DISAGREE QUICKLY BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF D.C.

OMG



IF THE PEOPLE WANT TO BE FREE, IF THEY WANT TO LIFT THEMSELVES OUT FROM UNDERNEATH A STATE APPARATUS THAT THREATENS THEIR LIBERTIES, SQUANDERS THEIR RESOURCES ON NEEDLESS WARS, DESTROYS THE VALUE OF THEIR DOLLAR, AND SPEWS FORTH ENDLESS PROPAGANDA ABOUT HOW INDISPENSABLE IT IS AND HOW LOST WE WOULD BE WITHOUT IT, THERE IS NO FORCE WHICH CAN STOP THEM.

IF FREEDOM IS WHAT WE WANT IT IS OURS FOR THE TAKING.

THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES.

ERIC ALLIE

Ron Paul's commentary in this comic is based on his book "The Revolution."



**Left:** YAL's field directors being trained in Texas. **Right:** Team of election coordinators after knocking thousands of doors.

# WHY WE MUST FIGHT BACK

Young Americans for Liberty is fighting against the proliferation of “wokeism” and firmly stands against the progressive takeover of our schools and our country.

BY DAN TAYLOR

In public discussion of America’s education system, much time is devoted to spending, infrastructure, COVID policy, curriculum, and any number of other admittedly crucial factors. But the elephant in the room—the extraordinary bias that has developed throughout the education system—is often left undiscussed. There was once a consensus that the primary purpose of education is to provide students with the facts, and the critical thinking skills to allow them to draw their own conclusions from those facts. Unfortunately, we have seen a shocking reversal in our schools, where educators now provide opinions from which students must extrapolate the facts. Using leftist tropes from the likes of Karl Marx and Howard Zinn, our students are being taught that collective security should trump individual freedom in remaking an America that was founded on hatred. In fact, *The Communist Manifesto* is the fourth most frequently assigned economic work in schools, and Marx is assigned twice as often as Adam Smith, six times as often as Milton Friedman, and forty-two times as often as Ludwig von Mises.

It would be incorrect for us to postulate that these students are uneducated or dense, because the fact of the matter is that they are not. Rather, they represent the tenets of wokeism: they are highly educated, albeit misguided and brainwashed. They are taught from every available source that the collective is more important than the individual and that society’s supposed needs take precedence.

Parents think that they send their children to school in order to develop critical thinking skills, but are those skills being developed? How many previously liberal students come out of college with a new understanding of conservatism? How many conservative students remain conservative after their college experience? The fact is that only 1.46% of Harvard faculty members identify as conservative, and these professors are often bullied into silence regarding their beliefs. Liberal professors are notably free to share their viewpoints with students, but conservative professors voicing their opinions are publicly repudiated and belittled. Our schools have gone from centers of education and enlightenment to indoctrination centers for educational Marxism.

This educational Marxism is not the Marxism of the past. This is a new Marxism, one that hates the working class and despises its ignorance of the “correct” academic philosophy. This new Marxism has, in an unholy alliance, melded with progressive wokeism to create an intersectional collectivism that assigns value to people based on the collectives with which they intersect, rather than on individual intellectual achievement. Ironically, these same divisive ideas first came forth in the late eighteenth century as an attempt to keep certain races and classes from rising outside of their “proper place” in the society of the time. In this woke communism, individual success is thrown to the wayside, replaced

by judgment based on the immutable characteristics of race and sexual orientation, and judgment on the basis of creed and religion. Should the demagogues have their way, all disparities will be treated as discrimination, and the original individualist freedom of the American experience will be replaced by the endless search not for equality, but for equity. Any such push to completely equalize outcome differences will inevitably lead to a loss of individual achievement and individual responsibility.

This search for equity can lead to nothing short of unending conflict. The success of this “woke communism” means endless wars—foreign and domestic, endless debt, government-mandated healthcare, an end to property rights, and the abolition of any means of personal defense. The aforementioned goals are tied together in the recent resurgence of the founding ideas of communism, fascism, and socialism. While we typically associate these movements with the left, the modern right has contributed its fair share to our impending demise. The hard truth is that nobody is coming to save us; not Donald Trump, not Ron DeSantis, and surely not Joe Biden and his cabal of social justice warriors.

At the end of the day, we each have a choice to make: we can either be passive recipients of our environment and sit back and watch our country turn into the former Soviet Union, or we can learn to fight back. We, and I mean each and all of us, must realize that these elitist goals

of dividing individuals into segregated classes, and then tyrannically oppressing those classes to keep them in their artificial boxes, will continue until a few of us are brave enough to “stick our necks out” and fight back. **Since the beginning of history, every generation has had its torch-bearers of liberty** who felt the obligation to fight against the tyranny of their day. From James Madison to Calvin Coolidge to Ron Paul, and now to our Hazlitt Members, these liberty leaders have had the ability to protect our Republic and all of the principles enshrined in our Constitution—and that opportunity remains open to us.

At Young Americans for Liberty, we are seeing these torch-bearers return and fight back against the “woke communism” that we battle on college campuses daily. From Anthony Pecoraro in Connecticut, to Dylan Dean in Montana, to Zachary Gale in Nebraska, to Ezra Ginerich in Virginia, our activists know that the only way we can overcome the bureaucratizing elite is to force the issue, and fight back against the collective intersectionality with which they attempt to divide us. At the end of the day, the only thing that stands between a descent into the hell of “woke communism” and the rekindling of the flame of freedom is the torch-bearers that are courageous enough to fight for liberty in our lifetime. \*

Dan Taylor is the Vice President of Campus at Young Americans for Liberty.



# YAL Overturns Mandate at Private School in Connecticut

YAL Connecticut State Chair applies direct grassroots pressure until Dr. John Patillo, the President of Sacred Heart University, agrees to rescind the university's mask and vaccine mandates.

Former Pennsylvania State Chair, Ben Heckman, meets with Philip Steinkrauss, Chapter President at UPenn.

BY LUKA LADAN

Sacred Heart University (SHU), based in Fairfield, Connecticut, has officially lifted its vaccine mandate after facing relentless pressure from Young Americans for Liberty (YAL)—the nation's most active youth liberty organization. It marks YAL's first victory against campus vaccine mandates and fourth Student Rights Campaign (SRC) victory overall.

YAL's Connecticut state chair Anthony Pecoraro officially launched his SRC petition in July 2021, securing hundreds of petition signatures by the end of the fall semester. Fast forward to March 2022, and Pecoraro attended an anti-mandate protest hosted by the group CT Liberty, using Instagram to call on SHU President Dr. John Patillo to change the policy. Patillo responded by calling the protestors "a bunch of clowns."

After the protest, Pecoraro continued to post on social media in support of medical freedom, prompting Patillo to invite him to a meeting to "straighten up the [Instagram] business." In the meeting, Pecoraro again made his case for removing the vaccine mandate on campus.

Less than a month later and with the petition surpassing 400 signatures, SHU officially announced that the vaccine mandate had been removed and students would no longer be coerced into being vaccinated to attend classes. Because of Pecoraro and other YAL activists, SHU faced the constant pressure needed to force change.

Below is a statement from Pecoraro:

"This Student Rights Campaign was a big fight. It took a lot of time, pressure, dedication, and patience, but we did it. Sacred Heart students no longer have to worry about their medical freedoms being violated. I'm grateful to all of the activists who supported me in this fight. Without them, we wouldn't be able to get this done."

JP Kirby, YAL's director of student rights, added the following statement:

"Anthony has shown his fellow students at Sacred Heart what it looks like to be a liberty warrior. When faced with the same obstacles as Anthony, many activists would have given up or become distracted. Anthony stayed the course and remained a firm and outspoken champion for the rights of his classmates."

When we follow Anthony's example, schools like SHU can no longer pretend like their tyrannical mandates and coercive tactics are universally accepted.

**YAL is proud to have leaders that stand up and put our values into action:** The students at Sacred Heart and millions more around the country are freer for it." ↗

*Luka Ladan* is a public relations consultant based in Maine, and an integral part of the YAL team.



## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS:

# Defend the Guard

If the United States really cares about our men and women in arms, each state will disallow the military from deploying its troops unless Congress officially declares war.

BY BRANDON WILLIAMSON

George W. Bush's Global War on Terror has been the longest-running war in U.S. history. As of 2018, 2.77 million of our service members have deployed in support of that far-reaching conflict. We've seen the costs of this intervention, both fiscal and humanitarian.



**Left:** YAL members host a Bring Them Home event.  
**Top Right:** Activists educate students on the necessity of a limited government.  
**Bottom Right:** Northeast Regional Director Peyton Hornberger joins her activists in the field to help grow the chapter.

The war has cost the United States taxpayer a whopping eight trillion dollars. That is no chump change, but what about the humanitarian costs? Well, the number of civilian casualties is around 360,000 but that number doesn't include the civilian casualties from our operations in countries like Nigeria.

On top of those civilian casualties, we've also lost approximately 7,000 of our warfighters, but even that number is not entirely accurate because of missing data. That's 7,000 families who will never see their brothers, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, wives, or husbands again. That is 7,000 souls lost thanks to the war industry's lies. Those lies, however, have more victims than the dead and their families. According to the VA, up to 20% of veterans of the War on Terror suffer the effects of having watched their friends die and have their lives at risk continuously for as many as 18 months per deployment. This number is also likely low, however, due to the military's culture which treats mental illness as weakness.

What has caused our troops to have to deal with these issues? In WWII, the average infantryman in the South Pacific saw 40 days in combat. In Vietnam this number jumped to 240 days. Often, troops in these wars were given "R&R" time to decompress. I could not find a statistic on the average number of days an infantryman spent in combat during the GWOT.

The above statistics include patrols as "days in combat" so using that metric it is very likely that the average infantryman in the GWOT saw combat nearly every day of their deployment. Naturally, some units saw more violence than others.

For example, special operations units such as the Commanders in Extremis soldiers from Special Forces, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and Delta, often conducted multiple raids per night. That level of violence being witnessed and committed is sure to leave lasting scars on the individuals who were involved.

It wasn't just active duty units enduring this, as [approximately 40% of deployed troops during the GWOT were members of the National Guard](#). We've spent vast sums of money to train our troops to do violence on behalf of the civilian populace in order to keep them safe. How can they do that if we are breaking them down with these continuous deployments?

Everybody has heard the "22 a day" statistic about veteran suicides. If our politicians and society truly care about the military and veteran communities we owe it to them to stop sending them into harm's way for causes that do not

affect our nation. How can we do this? The answer is to stop unconstitutional wars.

The Defend the Guard Act forces Congress to reclaim, from the president, their constitutional duty when it comes to declaring war. Congress has not declared war on any country or group we have fought since the Second World War. Instead, they've authorized the president to engage our military in wars.

Force Congress to declare war in accordance with our founding document. The states have the power to do this. [By passing the Defend the Guard Act in each state we can send a message to Washington that we value the lives and well-being of our troops](#) more than they value contracts for their friends at Raytheon and Lockheed-Martin.

I bet you're wondering "how would this bill force Congress to take that power from the president?" Well, it's fairly

simple. During the GWOT about 40% of all deployed troops were members of their state's National Guard. If a state were to pass this bill it would bar members of that state's National Guard from being federally mobilized for combat unless Congress had done its job and declared war in accordance with the Constitution.

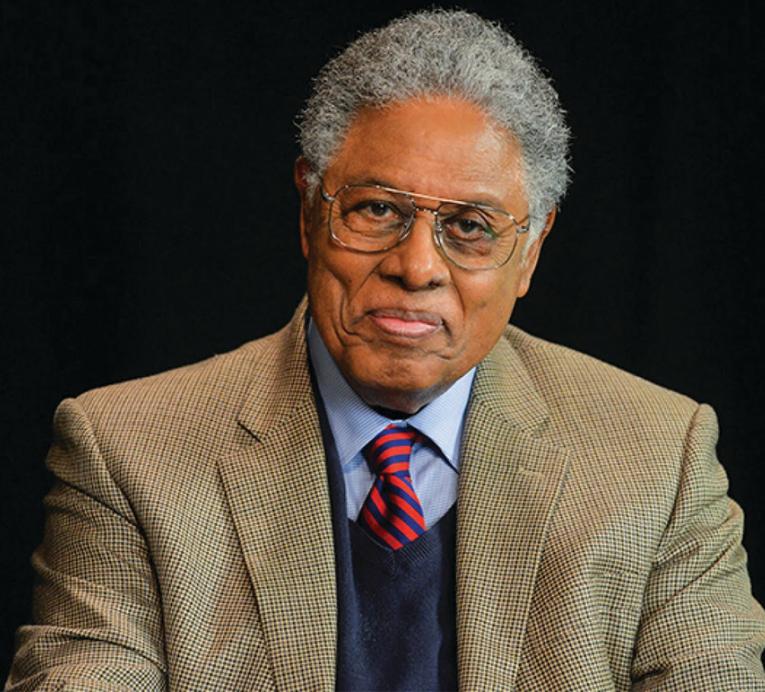
If the states strip away 40% of the US military power, including National Guard Special Force units, DC politicians will have to think long and hard before throwing our troops into another 20-year long meat grinder.

*Brandon Williamson is a U.S. Army Veteran, and the Director of Social Media at Young Americans for Liberty. He lives in Wyoming.*

Activist hosts recruitment drive on her campus.



Brandon hanging on top of a turret on an armored vehicle.



# The Conflict of Visions

In *A Conflict of Visions*, renowned economist and historian Thomas Sowell argues that two competing visions form the ideological basis of modern socio-political debates.

BY MICHELLE BRODSKY

Thomas Sowell, a renowned economist and historian who has written over thirty books on school choice, race relations, capitalism, and identity politics.

**T**here are two types of people in the world—fans of *The Addams Family* and fans of *The Munsters*. Or, *Star Wars* fans and *Trekkies*. Or, to quote Bill Murray, those who like Neil Diamond, and those who don't. We've all heard some version of the "two types" statement, and it's usually followed by something funny, or inane, or otherwise less-than-useful. However, according to prize-winning economist and author of *A Conflict of Visions*, Thomas Sowell, there really are two types of people in the world: those who adhere to a "constrained vision" of humanity and those with the "unconstrained vision."

What is a vision? Reality, writes Sowell, is far too expansive to chart a path through it without a map. "Visions are like maps that guide us through a tangle of bewildering

complexities." No map can encompass every detail, but the best maps highlight the crucial geographical features—those you cannot afford to ignore on your journey from point 'A' to point 'B'; similarly, visions guide us through reality such that we don't get lost in the wilds of unstructured cognition. Just as we consult a map before setting out, "a vision is what we sense or feel before we have constructed any systematic reasoning that could be called a theory... Visions are the foundations on which theories are built."

Sowell isolates two primary competing visions. In the constrained vision, incentives operate upon selfish humans as we make decisions for our own benefit, and thousands of such decisions constitute a diffuse system, the unintended consequence of which is the betterment of society. Intentions aren't important, only consequences matter. And, because every choice has costs, there can be no perfect solutions, only trade-offs and incentives. The constrained vision assumes our choices to be selfish, therefore it relies on incentives to guide us toward making our best decisions, which we as individuals are uniquely capable of making. Sowell writes, "practically every individual has some advantage over all others because he possesses unique information of which beneficial use might be made, but of which use can be made only if the decisions depending on it are left to him or are made with his active cooperation." This decentralized system of decision-making pushes societal evolution in a mutually-beneficial direction for its members.

However, "the unconstrained vision of human nature [holds that] man [is] capable of directly feeling other people's needs as more important than his own...even when his own interests or those of his family were involved." Sowell explains further that the unconstrained "rationalist whose reason is not sufficient to teach him [the] limitations of the power of conscious reason, and who despises all the institutions and customs which have not been consciously designed, would thus become the destroyer of

the civilization built upon them." By this view, any individual decision, no matter how beneficial to others, is corrupt if its intention is not exclusively social benefit.

All organic social institutions, no matter how effective, must be redesigned and rebuilt 'rationally.' Therefore, while the constrained vision operates on the basis of the consequence, intended or not, of diffuse processes, the unconstrained operates on intention. As a result, processes and process costs—in other words, trade-offs—tend to be ignored by those who have the unconstrained vision. They believe they can plot out all the consequences, plan for all ends, and make all the right decisions—for everyone.

**The result of this difference of visions is the political divide to which we are all witness.** "In the constrained vision, social processes are described not in terms of intentions or ultimate goals, but in terms of the systemic characteristics deemed necessary to contribute to those goals—"property rights," "free enterprise," or "strict construction" of the Constitution..." It is the process characteristic of equality that manifest

themselves most strongly in the political creeds built on the constrained vision—equality of opportunity rather than equality of outcome. The outcomes are beyond human ability to predict; the best we can do is to create the fairest process with the greatest number of available choices. This is the libertarian position. "The unconstrained vision," however, "speaks directly in terms of desired results...liberty, equality, fraternity." The organic process characteristics of society may all be sacrificed on the altar of righteous goals—social justice, for instance. If it sometimes seems that authoritarians and libertarians are speaking past each other, rather than to each other, it's because that's largely true. We literally have differing visions of reality, and all our views are built upon them. Through the public policy debates of the opposing ends of the political spectrum, we are indeed participating in a conflict of visions.

*Michelle Brodsky is a writer at Young Americans for Liberty. She is from Stroudsburg, PA and will be attending Cornell Law School in the fall.*

**Below:** YAL member Joel Getz hosts a civil liberties graveyard event at East Stroudsburg University, educating students on how their rights have been curtailed.



Pennsylvania State Chair Wyatt Paden and Virginia State Chair Ben Walls pose for a photo with Glenn Jacobs after he spoke to the YAL chapter at Virginia Tech.



# FEATURED SPOTLIGHT

Marie March is a Virginia State Delegate who currently represents the 7th District. As a small business owner, she does not play political games, instead working to lower taxes, reduce regulations, and stop the government from encroaching on people's rights. Elected to office in 2021, Delegate March is a proud member of the Hazlitt Coalition, YAL's coalition of liberty legislators.



**Marie March**

## Position

*Virginia Delegate, 7th district*

## Year Elected

*2021*

## Education

*Bachelors of Science in Package Engineering from Clinton University.*

## Biggest Influences

*Ron Paul, Rand Paul, C.S. Lewis*

## Fun Fact

*I ride horses, not fences.*

## Favorite part of Hazlitt Coalition:

*I have learned so much from being a part of the Hazlitt Coalition with Young Americans for Liberty. As a freshman legislator, I had a lot of questions and YAL was always there to help and guide me. The mentorship is just incredible and Operation Win at the Door played a significant role in my victory last year, something I'm very grateful for. The legislators in the coalition are inspiring and remind me that even in the face of turmoil, there are hundreds of liberty champions on my side.*

## Top issues I'm fighting for in Virginia:

*Last session, my main priorities were repealing red flag gun laws and securing medical freedom for my constituents. My husband is a doctor and we were both appalled to see how many people were dying all alone in their hospital beds. Even during a pandemic, patients should be allowed to have visitors.*

## What brought you into the liberty movement?

*Growing up, my parents owned a tobacco farm that was crushed by unnecessary government regulations. I had an innate distrust of the government for as long as I can remember.*

## What inspired you to run?

*After seeing what happened to my parents' business, I felt like I had to fight back on behalf of all small business owners. I didn't feel like legislators were listening so I decided to just become one.*

## How do you overcome pressure?

*When I first got elected, I faced a lot of pressure to vote a certain way or align with a certain mission. When a bill on red flag gun confiscation was sent into committee to die, Young Americans for Liberty students conducted a massive phone-bank. I even had someone come up to me and ask when students would stop calling him - I told him that when the bill is passed, he'll stop being bothered. I overcome pressure by remembering what I am fighting for and working closely with others who have the same mission.*

## Advice for young activists:

*Get involved, run for office, work for OWD, and find a mentor who can help you. Remember to make sure that your mentor is someone you can really learn from and isn't just chasing ego. It's so important to remain firm in your convictions and fight for the movement, not yourself.*



**For information, please write to:**

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