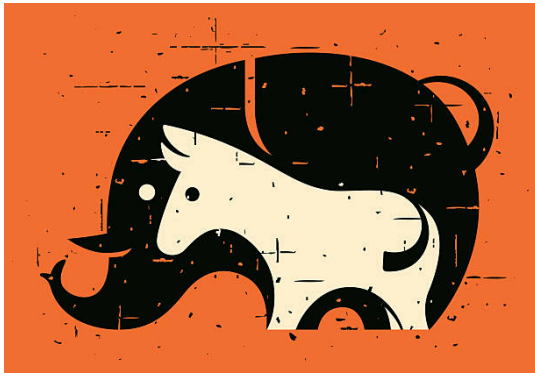


Greetings!

What's Your Political Identity?

I'm a republican.



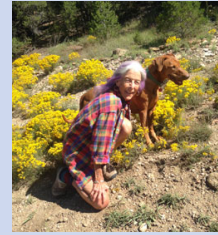
Even though I'm a registered Democrat, theoretically I can consider myself a republican. So can you. America is a republic. Here's the definition: "A republic, based on the Latin phrase *res publica* ('public thing' or 'people's thing'), is a state in which political power rests with the public (people), typically through their representatives—in contrast to a monarchy. "

Remember the *Pledge of Allegiance*? "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I reckoned with all my political identities—including being a republican—after reading something Rep. Jamie Raskin said recently: "I'm a Democrat for democracy; a liberal for liberty; a progressive for progress; a conservative because I want to *conserve* the land, the air, the water, the climate system, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, women's reproductive freedoms, the right to vote, and our imperiled political democracy."

I really have to consider myself all of the above political identities, although these days I would hardly consider myself a Republican!

[A note about the *Pledge*. It was written in 1892. "under God" was added in 1945.]



Stories, insights
and action for a world
that works for all of us

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*Justice is what love looks  
like in public.*

Cornell West

~~~~

Favorite Resources

[Fix the News](#)

(Future Crunch)

[Reasons to be Cheerful
Chop Wood, Carry Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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*We will and must resist  
and protest as long as it  
takes to get our  
democracy back*

~~~~



Lest we neglect

Most of us care deeply about the climate crisis but are distracted by the need to defend our democracy from the current authoritarian regime. Maintaining focus on the climate crisis is difficult because the climate crisis is a slow, inexorable global phenomenon that unfolds by millimeters and fractions of a degree over decades—until it doesn't.

[Climate Action Now](#) was developed to help keep our focus on the climate crisis by creating an app that gives us quick, meaningful and effective actions to take on a regular basis.

"We need to be able to do both - to defend our democracy AND preserve a livable planet for future generations. We must not let Trump destroy our democracy OR our climate." —Jessica Craven

Your [Daily Dose of Climate Hope](#) is another source of climate news.



My friends, do not lose heart!

"My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. I have heard from so many recently who are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people...In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus on that. There is a tendency, too, to fall into being weakened by dwelling on what is outside your reach, by what cannot yet be. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails.

"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good..."

—Clarissa Pinkola Estes



EVERY VOICE COUNTS

So does every vote

The more people we can encourage and help vote in the midterm elections the better our chances are of taking back the House and Senate from Trump loyalists who will not stand up for democracy, for human rights, for justice. Here's a list of some of the top organizations working to REGISTER AND GET OUT THE VOTE!

thecivicscenter.org : Mobilizing the youth vote in America.

vote.org: Everything you need to know to vote.

guides.vote: Non-partisan guide to how candidates stand on issues.

votefwd.org: Write letters to encourage folks to vote.

[Postcards to Swing States](#): Write postcards to help get out the vote.

[Blue Wave Postcards](#): An easy and straightforward way to reach voters.
[VoteRiders](#): will tell you what you need to know in order to ensure you can vote.
[rockthevote.org](#): Find everything you need to vote.



Action Sites and Resources for Democracy and Our Planet Given the continued threats to our democracy and our Earth, this resource guide lists our favorite sources of information, opportunities for action and hope.

Reclaiming and Protecting Our Democracy is Every Day

[Chop Wood, Carry Water, by Jessica Craven](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy. Always encouraging.

[Steady, by Dan Rafter](#): Excellent commentary on current affairs.

[Today's Edition Newsletter, by Robert Hubbell](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[Letters from an American, by Heather Cox Richardson](#): Commentary on current news.

[The Status Kuo, by Jay Kuo](#): Commentary and analysis of today's news. (I recommend "Surviving the Next Four Years" for strategies such as: avoid doom and despair; be a voice of hope, not fear; unplug from network news; commit small acts of resistance." [Read here.](#))

[Hopium Chronicles, by Simon Rosenberg](#): Current analysis and frequent interviews.

[Indivisible.org](#): a good source for information on future rallies.

Climate Action: Every Action Counts!

[Climate Action Now!](#): Subscribe and get an action to do every day, plus climate hope.

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

An old saying: We can all be the someone who is doing something.

All Kinds of Good News



Sperm Whale Birth

During the 34-minute labor off the Caribbean island of Dominica in July 2023, 11 whales surrounded Rounder, oriented themselves towards her during delivery and then towards the newborn, which was rarely left untouched and was usually in contact with at least 2 whales at once. Half the attending whales were not related to the mother, making the event especially striking as evidence that birth assistance in sperm whales may rely not



Recycling in Romania

Launched in 2023, Romania's deposit return scheme has already collected more than 8 billion bottles and cans, returning over 500,000 tons of high-grade recycled material to manufacturers. 90% percent of Romanians have used the scheme at least once, and 60% are regularly cashing in their empties. Other nations, including Poland, Turkey and Bulgaria, are said to be considering this type of plan and the UK will launch its own similar scheme

just on kinship but on broader social reciprocity.
[Read and watch here.](#)



Dam Removals

A record year for dam removals reconnects US rivers. 100 dams were removed in 2025, reconnecting over 4900 miles of rivers. It is the largest single-year total on record. Many of the structures were obsolete or unsafe, and their removal is already restoring fish migration routes, reducing flood risks, and reviving ecosystems. "Dam removal isn't just an environmental story, it's a community story."
[Read news here.](#)

in October 2027 "In Romania now, you don't see a bottle anywhere." [Read here.](#)



Railway Solar Project

Switzerland is testing a simple idea: lay removable solar panels between train tracks to generate power from space that normally sits unused. A pilot project in Buttes has installed 48 panels over 109 yards, producing about 16,000 kWh a year while trains keep running. If the test is successful, rail lines could double up as clean energy sources, without taking up extra land. [Read more here..](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



“Freedom is not a state, it is an act...Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.” —John Lewis, from *Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America*.

What a bridge!
What an undertaking!
What a feat of engineering!



This is the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in southwest China which crosses the Beipan River. It is the world's highest bridge. It is 2,051 feet above the river. Work began in 2022; it opened



Time to shout!
Time to be loud!
Time to act!

Time to soak up a long list of good news put together by Jessica Craven in her weekly post, [Extra! Extra!](#)

in September 2025. It took 3,500 workers to build. What used to take travelers five hours to go from one side to the other now takes four minutes. "They said it wasn't possible. They built it anyway." [This is a stunning, fascinating video of how.](#)

*Happy May!
Virginia/Gibi*

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