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## (Time-sensitive) Letters submissions (there are 4 different ones, take your pick)

2 messages

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Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 6:40 PM

Reply-To: Gww1210@aol.com, Gww1210@gmail.com, Gordon@contractwithamerica2.com

To: Graham Brink <gbrink@tampabay.com>, VoterGuide@tampabay.com

Cc: Colin Gallaty <cgallaty@tampabay.com>, TimesChairman@tampabay.com, AKeeler@tampabay.com, Jim Verhulst <iverhulst@tampabay.com>, Sherri Day <sday@tampabay.com>, John Hill <hill@tampabay.com>, Sebastian Dortch <sdortch@tampabay.com>, "William E. March" <wemarch@gmail.com>, Gww1210@aol.com, Gww1210@gmail.com, Gordon@contractwithamerica2.com

SUBJECT: (Time-sensitive) Letters submissions (there are 4 different ones, take your pick)

Monday, 12 August 2024

**Dear Graham Brink:** 

Cc: Editorial Board, for reasons explained below

As you recall, I emailed you a guest column submission on July 23, 2024, and cc copied the entire editorial board, but for whatever reason, you didn't publish it (I know that you get a lot of submissions).

I suspected that might happen—and resubmitted a "letter sized" letter (you occasionally publish letters up to 300 or so words) on the 25TH, a few days later—but did not cc copy the Editorial Board—just you and Sheri Day (and Bill March in news-to keep the news side in the loop-I enjoy his news columns)-because I didn't want to unduly burden the full editorial board. However, this is the last Sunday upcoming before Primary Elections, and I'm concerned that *The Times* – which wants to hear all views (even opposing views) - will fail its readers: I.e., this is the "2-minute warning" and the last chance to "make a difference." I notice that you haven't published ANY opposing views or rebuttals to your recent Editorial Board "recommendations" for the Primary Elections on Tuesday, 8/20/2024, and want an honest answer: Does The Times really use the cancel culture and silence all opposing views —or was this an accident?

If you really don't allow any rebuttals, please let me know, and I would like to talk to the full board and find out what your rules are—so that we'll be on the same page.

If, however, you **do** permit timely rebuttals, such as mine, then please see below (and attached) for 4 submissions—you have your pick: if one is bad, you have 3 other choices—which you can edit, mix, or match).

I'm frustrated, fatigue (I've been up since before sunrise today, working \*\*solely\*\* on this ONE submission, making sure my submissions are factually accurate and coherent), -so I hope someone will read what I send today, and very confused—even a bit angry—but I'm not trying to be mean, insult, or offend you, as I believe you're trying hard. In fact, I know you're short-handed because Jim Verhult's autoresponder (see attached) said he'd be out of the office until Aug. 15, and to email you.

Therefore, I know you're short-handed and want to let you know I understand you're workload is now heavier—and I'm not trying to add to your headache—but rather meet you halfway & make your job easier.

That said, The Times has NEVER published ANYTHING I've submitted—EVER!, even though it's a well-known fact that I'm a good writer—and, as this submission is time-sensitive, I shall cc copy the entire editorial board—to seek their help in seeing my submission gets a fair review—if you're too busy.

One last thing: When looking at your profiles, I see Sebastian Dortch studied theology—like me: While not related, I do have a published book on Amazon on a VERY, VERY difficult theological subject which I mention because I feel Sebastian may appreciate my effort. For the sake of time, the subject of my book (it's my only book and you can find it in Amazon by putting in my full name) was so good that Rev. Jack Wellman, an old Baptist preacher changed his mind, and wrote me a glowing 5-star review—which I mention to you also to remind you that while I'm "not perfect," I am very smart (so some say) and have a good heart, and am trying to be patient with the many, many failures The Times has had to publish even ONE of my letters: https://www.Amazon.com/When-Babies-Die-Where-Full-color-ebook/dp/B008J8RTOK

OK, for the sake of time—and to stay on topic, the Primary Election is fast approaching, and if you aspire to give TIMES readers a fair shake to weigh in, it's a time-sensitive issue, and any 1 of my 4 submissions should be helpful, possibly sufficient, but all I ask is you simply TRY your best, Graham. I'm trying my best, but now I pass the baton to you & your Editorial Board: Tarry not! Time is a ticking.

Gordon // see below for my 4 submissions, some short, some long (for context & to verify/ document)

## Submission 1 of 4: "Disappointed in Times' Liberal bias & support of RINOS like Laurel Lee"

[ this letter is 741 words according to OpenOffice—a little long for a letter, so see #2, below 1

### Kamalanomics will be Bidenomics 201 (Letters) | August 12

I'm the same Gordon Wayne Watts who nearly won the 3RD-largest pro-life case since Roe (Google Gordon Wayne Watts and Terri Schiavo if you didn't get the note), {{20}} and I'm a genuine Conservative in ALL regard—including fiscally—but, oddly-enough, *The Times* has NEVER published my letter or column submissions. Even *The Ledger* occasionally publishes me (see their Sunday, June 30, 2024 letters section), but nowadays I live in Hillsborough County, and I wonder if *The Times* could possibly "fairly" consider even one letter. (You publish Pay Byrne's letters all the time, and I enjoy his letters, but can I get a chance, once in a while?) If this is difficult, I recommend you expand your letters section from half a page to one full page—or more—maybe expanding to "P1—P8" in PERSPECTIVE if need be.

If The Times wishes to be fair—and consider my rebuttal to their misinformed endorsement of Congresswoman Laurel Lee (a dangerous Liberal RINO who refuses to cut spending!), this Sunday will be the only issue before Primary Elections to "make a difference," so please try to timely review my submission.

I'm very disappointed in The Times for its overt bias in favor of Liberal or Democrat letters. If you claim to be "Florida's Best Paper" in a "Red" state, one would think you would try to publish close to 50% "Conservative" letters, but a recent audit (see attached) shows that in the 2022 election cycle (7/27/22 to 8/23/22), The Times published 45 "Democrat" letters to only 15 "Republican" ones; and, thus far (7/24/24 to 8/12/24), the ratio is 29:8—a huge (and inappropriate) bias! Moreover, many other papers publish my letters & columns, but I no longer live in Lakeland, other papers would likely tell me to submit letters to The Times.

As an example, Charles Michael Sitero's letter claims to be conservative, and rightly calls out the Biden administration for reckless spending, but fails to hold GOP lawmakers accountable. For example, my member of Congress, Laurel Lee, claims to be Conservative, but she has repeatedly refused to even try to cut student loan originations spending, even though our GOP platform clearly prohibits use of tax dollars to make student loans. (3) Sitero blames students (and yes, there are some freeloader youth), but with our current shortage of doctors & nurses, students have no choice BUT to take out ANY loans to get educated! (Unless you're ok with ER's being short doctors!) Sitero should be calling lawmakers to STOP student loans originations: Lawmakers (not young, powerless students) can stop this reckless spending—and Sitero should be harassing THEM—if he's serious. Directly funding college would cost taxpayers less as we do with public ed—by forcing them to live within their means.

Jim Verhulst has said "less" is better for word length in letters, but with so much irresponsible behavior (The Times endorsing RINO Laurel Lee, then refusing to publish any rebuttals to your recommendations, and then publishing a horribly misinformed letter by Sitero), I can't properly address this in 150 words.

Some say The Times get so many submissions that I shouldn't expect to get my letters published very often, but The Times publishes Pay Byrne's letters all the time (at least 8 times in 2022 and 4 times this year, maybe more but I didn't have time to research further because I must concentrate on my own letter). I have nothing against Pat—and do enjoy his letters—but if he gets published all the time. I should get at least one letter once in a while—especially since it's only fair to have a "Conservative" rebuttal to the nonsense. As I document in my column submission, below, students have more-than repaid taxpayers \{\{\begin{align\*}{2}}\{\frac{10}{2}}\, and this at illegally-inflated levels of price-gouging tuition, and taxpayers have made a profit from this lending scam that a mobster would envy. {{7}} Unlike PPP recipients who got huge loans and repaid nothing—so Sitero shouldn't blame students, but rather lawmakers!

Why doesn't Lee attempt to cut student loan originations spending? Either she's a RINO & needs to go back to being Secretary of State—or she needs "help." Here's the help: all economists know that lenders (in this case, Dept of Ed, lending MY tax dollars!) would be reluctant to lend if borrowers (students) could assert bankruptcy defense. Perhaps Lee should join Josh Hawley & John Cornyn (two Conservative senators) on S.2598, their student loan bankruptcy bill from last session. Or crash the dollar because you didn't force down lending. It's your move.

Gordon Wayne Watts, Plant City

The writer is editor for The Register (GordonWatts.com or GordonWayneWatts.com), a former candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, and Natl Dir of CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II® registered trademark (ContractWithAmerica2.com), whose main claim to fame was almost winning the Terri Schiavo case all by himself, with his narrow 4-3 defeat in the Florida Supreme Court, where he sought to be Schiavo's "next friend" aka guardian—which was better than the similar 7-0 loss experienced by former Florida Governor, Jeb Bush, who sought the same thing before Florida's High Court. Currently, Watts advocates Conservative fiscal principles to protect both taxpayers, students, patients, and the economy in general.

Sources to verify claims in this letter are below, listed in the "sources" section for the quest column.

Submission 2 of 4: "Disappointed in Times' Liberal bias & support of RINOS like Laurel Lee"

[this letter is 286 words according to OpenOffice]

Kamalanomics will be Bidenomics 201 (Letters) | August 12

Charles Michael Sitero's letter claims to be conservative, and rightly calls out the Biden administration for reckless spending, but fails to hold GOP lawmakers accountable. For example, my member of Congress, Laurel Lee, claims to be Conservative, but she repeatedly refuses to try to cut student loan originations spending, even though our GOP platform prohibits use of tax dollars to make student loans. Sitero blames students (yes, there are some freeloaders!), but with a current shortage of doctors & nurses, students have no choice BUT to take out ANY loans to get educated! (Unless you're ok with ER's being short doctors!)

Students have more-than repaid taxpayers ("US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims," Forbes), this at illegally-inflated levels of price-gouging tuition; taxpayers make a profit from this lending scam that mobsters would envy. ("Government projects to make \$50B in student loan profit," USA Today) Unlike PPP recipients who got huge loans but repaid nothing—so Sitero shouldn't blame students, but rather demanding lawmakers STOP student loans originations: Lawmakers (not young, powerless students) can stop this reckless spending. Directly funding college (as we do with public ed) would cost taxpayers less—by forcing them to live within their means.

Economists know that lenders (in this case, Dept of Ed, lending MY tax dollars!) are reluctant to lend if borrowers (students) can assert bankruptcy defense. Lee should join Josh Hawley & John Cornyn (two Conservative senators) on S.2598, their student loan bankruptcy bill from last session. This might help Lee file a spending cuts bill, but I fear she won't—which is why I'm voting for Jen Barbosa or James Judge in my GOP Primary: Both are far more Conservative than Lee.

Gordon Wayne Watts, Plant City

#### Submission 3 of 4:

"Times wrong to endorse RINO, Laurel Lee" [this letter is 299 words according to OpenOffice1

Six U.S. House races. Six recommendations | July 28

I was aghast when I read this! The Times endorsed Lee over Alan Cohn last cycle, but that might be excused because Lee was a newcomer; this time is inexcusable!

Your board said there's "not a single reason for Republicans to replace incumbent Rep. Laurel Lee," but that's balderdash!

Besides missing key votes, Lee's a reliable vote for every big spending or debt ceiling bill! I've called Lee's office many times{{2}}, asking her to obey the GOP Platform which states "The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans." (3) But Lee refuses to file legislation to cut this Liberal pork spending! Student debt—at over \$2 Trillion—is almost ten 10% of total U.S. Debt (the largest discretionary "pork" in the budget!), now over \$34 Trillion growing \$1 trillion every 90—100 days. Student Debt's only overshadowed by "mandatory spending" giants, like Defense & Social Security!

USA Today reports (7) taxpayers have made huge profits from students; other sources (8), (10) confirm that students have actually overpaid taxpayers ("US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims," Forbes). {{10}} But students—bled dry—can't continue if loan originations aren't cut. This will result in an inevitable crash of the dollar. {{13}} Lee's refusal to even try to make these spending cuts is "the tell" that she's a RINO who doesn't represent Republicans! Moreover, FreedomIndex gives her a score of 53 for adherence to The Constitution {{4.1}} (limited government, fiscal responsibility), and Lee has a lifetime score of only 55% from The John Birch Society. {{4.2}}

As all other measures have failed, Lee should file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy to student loans: This would not only force down irresponsible student loan lending {{21}} (on my tax dollar!), but also be a way to "work across the aisle" on an issue important to Democrats.

Gordon Wayne Watts, Plant City

The writer is editor for The Register (GordonWatts.com or GordonWayneWatts.com), a former candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, and Natl Dir of CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II® registered trademark (ContractWithAmerica2.com), whose main claim to fame was almost winning the Terri Schiavo case all by himself, with his narrow 4-3 defeat in the Florida Supreme Court, where he sought to be Schiavo's "next friend" aka guardian—which was better than the similar 7-0 loss experienced by former Florida Governor, Jeb Bush, who sought the same thing before Florida's High Court. Currently, Watts advocates Conservative fiscal principles to protect both taxpayers, students, patients, and the economy in general.

Sources to verify claims made in my footer, above. Other sources, cited in the letter, are listed in the "sources" section for the guest column submission below:

\*\* In Re: GORDON WAYNE WATTS (as next friend of THERESA MARIE 'TERRI' SCHIAVO), No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2005), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel) https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/ dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf

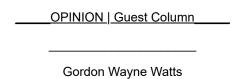
\*\* In Re: JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, ET AL. v. MICHAEL SCHIAVO, GUARDIAN: THERESA SCHIAVO, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court) https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf

\*\* Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223, 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23,

2005), denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal

Appeals level) https://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf

- \*\* Cf: https://www.Google.com/search?&g="4-3"+schiavo+gordon+wayne+watts
- \*\* My "staff" entry on my work website has many other credentials & accomplishments of similar nature:
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#staff
- \* https://Archive.vn/laznT#staff
- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240520235246/https://contractwithamerica2.com/#staff



[[ Submission 4 of 4: A column, and is a little long on words, but included to verify my claims ]]

# Times wrong to endorse RINO Laurel Lee

Lee doesn't represent either Republicans or Democrats (only donors), but the problem is more widespread than one lawmaker -threatening even to crash the Dollar



"Crash of the Dollar" Meme from Gordon Wayne Watts. [ Provided ]

#### Published Sunday, August 18, 2024

The Times recently published a fine piece by Richard Williams ["Let's Start Shunning Liars," July 5], which called for a "Biblical Solution." Right! Well, other than—say—WW3 or another Pandemic, a crash of the dollar is the worst threat we face, so we must "return to a place of beginnings" if we are to survive.

In its Oct. 13, 2022 Editorial Board recommendations, The Times endorsed Laurel Lee, Republican, over Alan Cohn, Democrat, for the Dist. 15 Congressional race. This even in spite of The Times knowing full well that her campaign contributions were from the elite, rich, at least \$1 million from a political committee associated with her husband. ["Who's boosting Laurel Lee's campaign contributions for Congress," William March, July 24, 2022]. ("Follow the money," they say!)



Gordon W. Watts [ Provided ]

In my few requests for help from Graham Brink, Jim Verhulst, and Sheri Day, by phone, email, or text, respectively, all 3 promptly responded to help with technical questions on submitting letters & columns, and I'm confident that all Times staff have good intentions, so I mean no disrespect, but—bluntly put—The Times lied when it said that Lee was more qualified —and is in need of a "Biblical Solution," so here's my response:

The Times touts Lee's service as a Secretary of State overseeing Florida's elections, and I would agree Lee did well there (or at least did no harm), but that doesn't mean she's "good" as a lawmaker: She is not!

I knew Lee was a RINO (Republican in Name Only) early on and voted for Cohn, but The Times confirmed this when it reported that: "The two also agreed on the need for border security, with Cohn saying there needed to be a bipartisan solution to the waves of immigrants entering the U.S." ["3 takeaways from Laurel Lee, Alan Cohn debate for Florida's 15th District," Romy Ellenbogen, Oct. 22, 2022] However, that's the least of Lee's problems.

I'm sure no one will forget my recent letter to The Ledger ["Trump's flip-flop back RINO Laurel Lee," Sunday, June 30, 2024]-least of all Trump or Lee! {{1}} But their 200-word limit doesn't do justice to the magnitude of Lee's dangerous behavior, so a column (perhaps several!) are needed to address it: as my letter informs readers, Lee never responded to our press inquiry [{2}} asking her to cut our budget's largest pork, as our GOP Platform requires. "The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans." {{3}} Student debt—at over \$2 Trillion—is almost ten percent of total U.S. Debt (the LARGEST discretionary "pork" in the budget!), which is now over \$34 Trillion—growing by \$1 trillion every 90—100 days. Student Debt is only overshadowed by "mandatory spending" giants, like Defense and Social Security!

That Lee won't file legislation to STOP spending MY tax dollars to originate (make) student loans is "the tell": She's a RINO who doesn't represent her Conservative base, disloyal to our GOP Platform—in a word, a liar. Besides her absentee record of missing many key votes, FreedomIndex gives her a score of 53 for adherence to The Constitution (limited government, fiscal responsibility, etc.). By contrast, Matt Gaetz is ranked 85, Anna Paulina Luna, 96, and Scott Franklin, another RINO—who also refused to attempt such spending cuts when he was my congressman—ranked at only 70. {{4.1}} Lee has a lifetime score of only 55% from The John Birch Society. By contrast, Luna is ranked 100%, Greq Steube, 86%, but Franklin only scores 73%. [4.2] Moreover, Club for Growth, a Conservative watchdog, focused on limited government and conservative economic policy, scores Laurel Lee at 66% and fellow-RINO, Scott Franklin, at 81%. By contrast, Florida representatives Byron Donalds, Cory Mills, Anna Paulina Luna, Greg Steube, Bill Posey, and Michael Waltz all score a perfect 100%. {{4.3}} Lastly, Heritage Action, which was founded in 2010, fights for conservative policies in State and Federal legislation, scores both Lee and Franklin at a modest 71%. By contrast, Donalds and Luna both score 98%, and Corey Mills 100%. {{4.4}}

I don't mean disrespect to Lee, and know she has a stellar reputation for showing respect to others (and her staff are always respectful & attentive to me when I call to express my legislative opinions). But I didn't hire her for a \$200 grand/year job to just be nice: She has a job to do-and refuses! Presumably because lobbyists, who benefit when taxpayers are raped in the Trillions, benefit!

It's actually worse: As long as I can remember—ere the beginning of time—almost ZERO GOP lawmakers have even TRIED to obey our platform—as The Register's own investigation { 5} shows, only 8.14% of all GOP lawmakers have even made feeble attempts to obey our platform (or 0.00% when you don't consider H.R.899, to eliminate the Dept of Ed, be this bill has no chance of passing). OpenTheBooks, a Conservative watchdog, confirms our fears: They found (6) that the GOP-led "Freedom Caucus" earmarked far more than the Democrat-led "Squad" (\$23.1 million/member vs. \$13.9 million for the average Squad member), spending like drunken sailors. (My apologies to all drunken sailors—for my ill comparison to GOP lawmakers!)

USA Today reports {{7}} taxpayers have made a huge profit from students, and multiple other sources {{8}}{{9}}{{10}} confirm that, indeed, students have overpaid taxpayers ("US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims," Forbes). {{10}} (This makes a good case for "forgiveness," but that isn't a long-term solution, and would only free some debt slaves without abolishing debt slavery. PPP recipients—by contrast—haven't repaid anything—and with our dire shortage of doctors & nurses, students can't be blamed for going to college, no matter the costs—but that's a matter for another column.)

But this won't continue. Students-bled dry-can't continue if loan originations aren't cut-and this will result in the inevitable (but preventable) crash of the dollar. {{13}}

Lee might make the excuse that such cuts wouldn't pass with a Democrat-led Senate. But this is simply false: The House originates all spending, and could simply refuse to pass any budget unless these cuts are included—so RINO Lee is without excuse. Moreover, many current GOP lawmakers in both House & Senate were in office when the GOP held House, Senate, & Oval Office and have even LESS excuse. I've met Rep. Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman of House Education/Workforce Committee, and believe her intentions are pure (she kindly granted me an unscheduled interview (11) after a recent talk she gave at Lakeland's SEU, hosted by mutual friend, Dennis Ross, a former member of Congress). So, I mean no disrespect to Dr. Foxx—but—like many current GOP lawmakers, she was in office in 2017 when Trump enjoyed GOP control of both chambers—but, like almost all GOP lawmakers—Foxx steadfastly refused to even try to obey GOP platform prohibitions against taxpayer-funded student loan spending. (Ironically, Foxx was 1 of 3 coauthors to that platform!){{3}}

Trump is equally guilty: Forbes reports that "Trump Proposes Limits On Student Loan Borrowing," [12] but even when Trump had a Republican-led House and Senate, he didn't keep his word. So, where's that leave us?

If even a fully GOP-controlled government didn't make this needed cut, then—shy of an UNLIKELY miracle—we WILL crash the dollar. (13) Only one thing is likely to force down lending sufficient to avert disaster: All economists know that when borrowers have bankruptcy "defense" available, it curtails irresponsible lending, so restoration and reinstatement of bankruptcy availability to student debt is needed, and—ironically—this is required by the Democrat platform. ({14})

Do Lee & other GOP lawmakers not attempt these spending cuts because they're RINOS? Yes, somewhat, but it can't fully explain their inaction: Therefore, Lee should immediately file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy to college debt, andeven more important than the effect it would have on Dept of Ed to "tamp down" excess student loan lending (which was NEVER needed in our grandparents' time, and isn't needed now)-this would "force back" greedy higher ed lobbyists, who would see the "handwriting on the wall" & realize that lending will go down anyhow, thus "back off" & allow spending cuts to pass without threats to cut off campaign contributions.

Trump & many GOP lawmakers who oppose reinstatement of bankruptcy as a Conservative Free Market "check" on irresponsibly excess lending want it for themselves, but would deny students. Trump—who's gotten repeated bankruptcy discharge for billions-holds a "bankruptcy for me, but not for thee" double standard, violating the "golden rule" of his claimed religion, Christianity. (15) If Trump & Lee are truly Christians as they claim (are they?), they won't deny students the same "defense" they want for themselves.

But—strictly-speaking—border funding security & other needs won't happen without needed cuts to pork spending, so Lee needs to file legislation to reinstate bankruptcy (like it was in our grandparents' time, when the system had needed "checks" & "balances"), following up with student loan cuts (preferably directly funding higher ed WITHOUT "student loans"—a system that works just fine for 5TH graders—which worked fine for our grandparents—and which works just fine for EVERY other civilised nation—and which would cost taxpayers less too, as the colleges would be forced to "live within their budget" & avoid trillions in bloat).

Or-if she can't live within her budget (something ALL Americans must do!), then admit she's a tax/spend RINO and resign.

That brings me up to my last point—a solution: Many "old timers" who got college for \$100/semester (about \$1,000 in today's money) tell students to "shut up & pay your bills" (even though many have repaid far more than borrowed—and this even at illegally-inflated costs of tuition) {{16}}, but fail to hold lawmakers accountable—those who actually CAN make the needed spending cuts.

Instead of complaining to young, powerless students, who can't fix a problem they didn't create, you need to call your Member of Congress and U.S. Senator, demanding they enact spending cuts. In fact, I personally know both Jennifer Barbosa (the brilliant Ukrainian-American paralegal who challenged Adam Schiff for his seat) and James Judge (U.S. Coast Guard veteran who served in Iraq & Afghanistan)—who are running against Lee in the Dist.15 GOP primary, andafter having interviewed both {{17}}, can assure you both are genuine Conservatives who support both of these initiatives and would be good for Democrats (who want basic standard consumer protections for college loans-like even rich colleges, who take our tax dollars-have) and would eliminate the Dept. of Education. Although I didn't ask them, I'm

quessing they'd be open to direct funding higher ed—to save both students & taxpayers. AND AVOID A PREVENTABLE CRASH OF THE DOLLAR AND DEVALUATION OF ALL MONIES IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT DUE TO INCESSANT PRINTING!

Balletopedia reports that "Congressional incumbents had a 98% win rate. Forty-one states had a 100% win rate in congressional races." {{18}}

Lee is a newcomer to Congress, but she & her husband, Tom Lee, have been in politics for years—decades even—so she's basically an incumbent politician. This begs the question: If Lee is so bad for both Democrat & Republican voters, why was she elected by so wide a margin—especially in light of the fact that Congress has lower approval ratings{{19}} than a used car salesman—and only slightly higher than Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Taliban, & the devil, himself! Indeed—Pew Research reports that: "About seven-in-ten Americans (72%) say they have an unfavorable view of Congress, with 26% saying they have a favorable view," but we keep electing (and reelecting) people simply because of name recognition.

I'm a conservative Christian FIRST, and THEN a Republican, and if my Republican candidates get in line, they will get my vote. And that include Senator Rick Scott, another so-called Conservative who is actually an eloquent speaker (and writer) but does NOTHING to actually cut the Liberal pork he claims to be against.

Or—as many of my friends have warned me—I should give up on a hopeless cause, and let the dollar crash, as they feel people deserve the government they allow. It's your move: Call your lawmakers—whilst there's still a chance to avert disaster. And "think twice" before voting for Laurel Lee—when better options exist.

The writer is editor for The Register (GordonWatts.com or GordonWayneWatts.com), a former candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, and Natl Dir of CONTRACT WITH AMERICA: PART II® registered trademark (ContractWithAmerica2.com), whose main claim to fame was almost winning the Terri Schiavo case all by himself, with his narrow 4-3 defeat in the Florida Supreme Court, {{20}} where he sought to be Schiavo's "next friend" aka guardian—which was better than the similar 7-0 loss experienced by former Florida Governor, Jeb Bush, who sought the same thing before Florida's High Court. Currently, Watts advocates Conservative fiscal principles to protect both taxpayers, students, patients, and the economy in general.

## **SOURCES:**

{{1}} "Trump's flip-flop backs RINO Laurel Lee," LETTERS, The Lakeland Ledger, Sunday, June 30, 2024,

LINK: https://www.TheLedger.com/story/opinion/letters/2024/06/30/voice-of-the-people-june-30-2024-floridas-right-toprivacy/74230595007/

Archive: https://Archive.ph/FDwOL

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240701051323/https://archive.vn/FDwOL

CWA2 Fair Use Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/TheLedger Letter

Sunday30June2024 Watts.pdf.pdf

{{2}} Press Inquiry from The Register to Dist. 15 Congressional Candidates, dated June 11, 2024:

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/PressInquiry FL-15 Candidates Tue11June2024.pdf

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/PressInquiry FL-15 Candidates Tue11June2024.pdf

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240627053538/https://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/PressInguiry FL-15 Candidates Tue11June2024.pdf

{{3}} QUOTE: On page 35 of the Republican Party Platform, we see the GOP clearly says: "The federal government should not be in the business of originating student loans." (1ST sentence of last paragraph, near bottom-right of page) [Editor's Note: This is page 42 of 66 of "PDF" page numbers, but the writer labels this as page "35," since the first 7 pages weren't given regular page numbers.] Source: "REPUBLICAN PLATFORM 2016," used under Fair Use for commentary, criticism, and research. Editor's Note: This author could not find a more current version, such as 2020 or more recent.

LINK: https://Prod-Cdn-Static.GOP.com/media/documents/DRAFT 12 FINAL%5B1%5D-ben 1468872234.pdf

Archive-1: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220511165601/https://Prod-Cdn-Static.GOP.com/media/ documents/DRAFT 12 FINAL[1]-ben 1468872234.pdf

Archive-2: https://GordonWatts.com/DRAFT 12 FINAL[1]-ben 1468872234.pdf

Archive-3: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/DRAFT 12 FINAL[1]-ben 1468872234.pdf

{{4.1}} The Freedom Index rates members of congress based on their adherence to constitutional principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, national sovereignty, and a traditional foreign policy of avoiding foreign entanglements.

LINK: https://TheFreedomindex.org/legislator/?search=&congress=118&state=fl&party=&chamber=

Archive:

Wayback-1: https://Archive.vn/CCkfT

Wayback-2: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240721014127/https://thefreedomindex.org/legislator/?search=&congress= 118&state=fl&party=&chamber=

{{4.2}} VOTE SMART'S reporting of John Birch Society rankings for selected lawmakers:

FLU.S. House - 13, Anna Luna-R100%

FLU.S. House - 14, Kathy Castor-D 12%

FLU.S. House - 15, Laurel Lee-R 55%

FLU.S. House - 16, Vern Buchanan-R 56%

FLU.S. House - 17, Greg Steube-R 86%

FLU.S. House - 18, Scott Franklin-R73%

- \* https://JustFacts.votesmart.org/interest-group/1627/rating/14188?p=2&of=
- \* https://Archive.ph/Dcucm
- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240725203231/https://justfacts.votesmart.org/interest-group/1627/rating/14188?p=2&of=
- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240725204302/https://contractwithamerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/?C=M;O=D
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/VoteSmart\_JBS\_ratings\_ArchiveToday\_PDF.pdf
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/VoteSmart\_JBS\_ratings\_Wayback\_PDF.pdf

{{4.3}} QUOTE: "Club for Growth is a national network of over 500,000 pro-growth, limited government Americans who share in the belief that prosperity and opportunity come from economic freedom...The Club for Growth is focused on conservative economic policy and does not take positions on social issues or on the immigration/borders debate." LINKS:

- \* https://www.ClubForGrowth.org/about/what-we-do/
- \* https://Archive.ph/3Pxcu
- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240718095917/https://www.ClubForGrowth.org/about/what-we-do/

### ▲ COMPARE LAUREL LEE TO OTHER FLORIDA REPUBLICANS at Club For Growth's Scorecard:

- \* https://www.ClubForGrowth.org/scorecards/app/?party=R&chamber=H&yr=2023&state=FL&rep=
- \* https://Archive.ph/3G3oR

- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240728042418/https://archive.ph/3G3oR
- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240728041726/https://www.clubforgrowth.org/scorecards/app/?party=R&chamber=H&yr= 2023&state=FL&rep=
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/ClubForGrowthFoundationScorecard FlaLawmakers Archives PDF. pdf
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/ClubForGrowthFoundationScoreca rd FlaLawmakers Wayback PDF.pdf
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/ClubForGrowthFoundationScorecard FlaLawmakers ArchiveToday\_ PDF.pdf

{{4.4}} "Heritage Action was founded in 2010 and is armed with the research and policies of The Heritage Foundation. [] Our mission is to fight for conservative policies in Washington, D.C. and in state capitals across the country. We turn ideas into bills and bills into law."

https://HeritageAction.com/about

https://HeritageAction.com/scorecard/members/118

https://Archive.ph/Z3Os8

https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240812103232/https://archive.ph/Z3Os8

https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/Heritage Scorecard 118thFlaHouseReps Wayback PDF.pdf

https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240812110138/https://contractwithamerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/Heritage\_ Scorecard 118thFlaHouseReps Wayback PDF.pdf

{{5}} The other 91.86%, being generous, are hypocritical and refuse to obey our own GOP platform, in which they are under investigation 🔎 for this—For context, we found an 18.1% compliance rate by DEMOCRAT lawmakers for a metric on their compliance with their own Democratic Party Platform on a related issue—student loan bankruptcy reinstatement: Source: "Lawmakers who don't follow their own party platforms: What percentage of lawmakers in each political party obey their own party's platform in key higher ed funding legislation? Almost zero, and this threatens to crash the U.S. Dollar if not stopped.," by Gordon Wayne Watts, Editor-in-Chief, The Register | HIGHER EDUCATION, Tuesday, 07 June 2022, LINKS:

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/HigherEd OpenInvestigation.html

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/HigherEd OpenInvestigation.html

Archive: https://Archive.vn/4zTf0

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240506022456/https://gordonwatts.com/HigherEd OpenInvestigation.html

{{6}} Source: "Substack: House Freedom Caucus Members Earmarked Nearly \$1 Billion From Taxpayers," by Adam

Andrzejewski and staff, OPEN THE BOOKS, April 3, 2024, 03:40 PM, LINKS:

https://www.OpenTheBooks.com/substack-house-freedom-caucus-members-earmarked-nearly-1-billion-fromtaxpayers/

Archive: https://Archive.vn/Wp8TI

https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240409021317/https://www.openthebooks.com/substack-house-freedom-caucus-membersearmarked-nearly-1-billion-from-taxpayers/

{{7}} "Government projects to make \$50B in student loan profit," by David Jesse (via the Detroit Free Press),

USA Today, Published 3:03 a.m. ET June 16, 2013 Updated 8:37 a.m. ET June 16, 2013,

LINK: https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2013/06/16/us-government-projected-to-make-record-50b-in-student-loanprofit/2427443/

Archive: https://Archive.vn/tQBWr

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20130616120615/https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2013/06/16/us-governmentprojected-to-make-record-50b-in-student-loan-profit/2427443/

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/GovtProjects50B-dollar-StudentLoanProfit viaArchiveToday.pdf

{{8}} QUOTE: "According to White House budget figures for fiscal 2011 ending in September, the federal government expects gross recovery of between \$1.10 and \$1.22 for every dollar of defaulted student loans. An estimated \$49.9 billion of Federal Family Education Loan and Federal Direct Lending Program loans are in default, out of a total \$713.4 billion outstanding, as of Sept. 30. Those amounts include only principal balances, not interest." Source: "COLLEGE PLANNING: Government Sees High Returns On Defaulted Student Loans," by Melissa Korn, WSJ (The Wall Street Journal), Updated Jan. 4, 2011, 3:14 p.m. (EST),

LINK: https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704723104576061953842079760

Archive: https://Archive.vn/yKQnH

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20150508021128/https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB1000142405274870472310457606 1953842079760

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/WSJ-returns-article ArchiveToday.pdf

(19) QUOTE: "In 2010 the Department of Education reported collecting \$1.22 for every dollar in defaulted student loans it had guaranteed -and that's after the sharks and their shareholders and the obligatory outright fraud had taken their first round of cuts." Source: "Column: The student loan crisis that can't be gotten rid of," by Maureen "Moe" Tkacik (12 Minute Read), REUTERS, August 15, 2012:

LINK: https://www.Reuters.com/article/us-student-loan-crisis/column-the-student-loan-crisis-that-cant-be-gotten-rid-ofidUSBRE87E13L20120815/

Archive: https://Archive.vn/x4gkq

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200704205750/https://www.Reuters.com/article/us-student-loan-crisis/column-thestudent-loan-crisis-that-cant-be-gotten-rid-of-idUSBRE87E13L20120815

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/StudentLoansCrisis-Tkacik-REUTERS-8-15-2012.pdf

{{10}} QUOTE: "It is most disturbing, however, that recent analysis of the President's Budget data reveals that even the US Department of Education, on average, recovers \$1.22 for every dollar paid out in default claims. Assuming generous collection costs, and even allowing for a nominal time value of money of a few percent (the governments cost of money is very low), it still appears that the federal government, even, is making a pretty penny from defaults." Source: "Why College Prices Keep Rising," by Alan Collinge, FORBES, (in Peter J. Reilly's column), March 19, 2012:

LINK: https://www.Forbes.com/sites/peterjreilly/2012/03/19/why-college-prices-keep-rising/

Archive: https://Archive.vn/VvZcJ

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200630152844/https://www.forbes.com/sites/peterjreilly/2012/03/19/why-collegeprices-keep-rising

CWA2 Archive: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/WhyCollegePricesKeepRising Collinge Reilly FORBES-3-19-2012.pdf

{{11}} Rep Virginia Foxx, R-NC-05, visits SEU (Southeastern University) of Lakeland, FL, Mon. 13 Feb. 2023 for a talk sponsored by American Center for Political Leadership. The interview was at the very end of this video, and the cameraman dropped the camera, so images are off, but she patiently let me interview her on 3 short, separate occasions at the very end. "Wait for it," as the saying goes. Video provided by *The Register*, which did news coverage:

8/14/24, 4:04 PM

YouTube: https://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=IPYOOsoOvvk

Facebook: https://www.Facebook.com/GordonWayneWatts/videos/751817552744598/

Mirror-1: https://GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023 MP4.mp4

Mirror-2: https://GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023 MP4.mp4

Mirror-3: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023 MP4.mp4

Wayback: http://Web.Archive.org/web/20230215002514/https://gordonwatts.com/FannyDeregulation/RepFoxx-at-SEU-Mon13Feb2023 MP4.mp4

{{12}} "Trump Proposes Limits On Student Loan Borrowing," by Zack Friedman, FORBES, Tue. March 19, 2019,

LINK: https://www.Forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2019/03/19/trump-proposes-limits-on-student-loans/

Archive: https://Archive.vn/Sa8n1

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20210308132739/https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2019/03/19/trumpproposes-limits-on-student-loans/

{{13}} Well-documented and proved, courtesy *The Register:* 

- \*\* https://GordonWatts.com/#crash
- \*\* https://GordonWayneWatts.com/#crash
- \*\* https://Archive.vn/LUDWn#crash
- \*\* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240513211014/https://gordonwatts.com#crash

(14) QUOTE: On page 71 of the 2020 Democratic Party Platform, we see they clearly say that: "Democrats will also empower the CFPB to take action against exploitative lenders and will work with Congress to allow student debt to be discharged during bankruptcy." (p.72, par.1,sentence 2) [Editor's Note: This is page 72 of 92 of "PDF" page numbers, but the writer labels this as page "71," since there's a title page that offsets numbering by one.] Source: "2020Democratic Party Platform," used under Fair Use for commentary, criticism, and research. Editor's Note: This author could not find a more current version, that this 2020 version:

LINK: https://Democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf

Archive-1: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220421223320/https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf

Archive-2: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20220511165713/https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf

Archive-3: https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/2020-Democratic-Party-Platform.pdf

{{15}} JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:18b, Leviticus 19:34, The Golden Rule, OLD TESTAMENT (PENTATEUCH)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 22:39b, Mark 12:31b, Luke 6:31, Matthew 7:12, The Golden Rule, NEW TESTAMENT (HOLY BIBLE) - Editor's Note: Christians also accept the writings of Moses as Canon Scripture aka "real" Bible.

{{16}} See footnotes 7—10, above, or see e.g., https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#PaidInFull for a fuller explanation.

{{17}} "POLITICS -- Candidates: Jen Barbosa, James Judge, Pat Kemp, Laurel Lee – Central Florida's Dist.15 Congressional Race Heating Up," by Gordon Wayne Watts, The Register, Thursday, June 20, 2024, LINKS:

- \*\* https://gordonwatts.com/#Congress2024
- \*\* https://gordonwaynewatts.com/#Congress2024
- \*\* https://Archive.vn/LUDWn#Congress2024
- \*\* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240513211014/https://gordonwatts.com#Congress2024

{{18}} Balletopedia LINK: https://Ballotpedia.org/Election\_results, 2022: Incumbent win rates by state

Archive: https://Archive.ph/i8aKy

Wayback: https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240530164043/https://ballotpedia.org/Election\_results, 2022: Incumbent\_win

rates by state

{{19}} "AMERICANS' DISMAL VIEWS OF THE NATION'S POLITICS: 3. How Americans view Congress, the president, state and local political leaders," REPORT, Pew Research Center, September 19, 2023, LINK: https://www.PewResearch.org/ politics/2023/09/19/how-americans-view-congress-the-president-state-and-local-political-leaders/

Archive: https://Archive.vn/dFFyV

https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240704003137/https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/09/19/how-americans-Wavback: view-congress-the-president-state-and-local-political-leaders/

{{20}} \*\* In Re: GORDON WAYNE WATTS (as next friend of THERESA MARIE 'TERRI' SCHIAVO), No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2005), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel) https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/ dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf

\*\* In Re: JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, ET AL. v. MICHAEL SCHIAVO, GUARDIAN: THERESA

SCHIAVO, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court) https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf

\*\* Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223, 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23,

2005), denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal

Appeals level) https://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf

- \*\* Cf: https://www.Google.com/search?&q="4-3"+schiavo+gordon+wayne+watts
- \*\* My "staff" entry on my work website has many other credentials & accomplishments of similar nature:
- \* https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#staff
- \* https://Archive.vn/laznT#staff
- \* https://Web.Archive.org/web/20240520235246/https://contractwithamerica2.com/#staff

{{21}} If it's not clear that reinstatement of bankruptcy self-defense for student loans will make the lender (the U.S. Department of Education, using trillions of our tax dollars) more reluctant to cut this toxic liberal "pork" spending (and possibly directly fund college like we do with public ed - like we did in the past - like every other civilised nation of honour does - thus saving taxpayers when cost control could be done here, too) - then please refer to https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#pork and compare it with https://ContractWithAmerica2.com/#bankruptcy for a fuller explanation. But, if you're "short on time," just remember that Credit Card companies ONLY stop predatory and excess lending due to the ability of borrowers to assert bankruptcy self-defense and afford themselves of other standard consumer protections, like truth in lending and statutes of limitations. Or crash the dollar if you ignore basic "common sense": It's your move.

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#### 15 attachments



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- TheLedger\_Letters\_Sun30June2024\_Watts\_PDF.pdf.pdf 3816K
- UpdatedLetterToTheEditor\_DOC.doc
- UpdatedLetterToTheEditor\_PDF.pdf 334K

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Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 7:42 PM

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- \* https://GordonWatts.com/education
- \* https://GordonWayneWatts.com/education

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#### 17 attachments



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- Gmail-JimVerhulstAutoReply\_PDF.pdf
- $\label{lem:conditions} \begin{tabular}{ll} The Ledger\_Letters\_Sun 30 June 2024\_Watts\_PDF.pdf.pdf \\ 3816 K \end{tabular}$
- UpdatedLetterToTheEditor\_DOC.doc 270K
- ${\bf UpdatedLetterToTheEditor\_PDF.pdf}$ 334K