

# TRUMP 2024 CAMPAIGN IS OVER BEFORE IT BEGAN

Carl Golden, December 7, 2022



On Nov. 15, former president Donald Trump announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024. Less than three weeks later, he ended it.

Not by a formal statement of withdrawal, but by thrusting a dagger into his viability by arguably the most deranged bit of lunacy to ever pass the lips of a public figure in the history of the republic.

The U. S. Constitution, he said, should be subject to "termination," - his word - and he should be reinstated immediately as president because Twitter censored and suppressed potentially damaging allegations regarding President Biden's neer-do-well son, Hunter.

Had the drug-addled Hunter's activities been spread through Twitter, he claimed, the damage inflicted on Biden would have been so severe as to turn the election to Trump.

The only way to right this grievous wrong, according to the former president, is to trash the Constitution and declare him the rightful winner. This from someone who in January of 2017 placed his hand on a Bible and swore an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution. His vow to “uphold and protect” lasted two years.

Even for someone whose career in private and public life is littered with exaggerations, embellishments and outright falsehoods, the suggestion that the Constitution - the governing document in the nation’s democracy - be treated as if it was a list of suggestions rather than a guarantee of freedoms, protection from an authoritarian government and security was a bridge too far.

It revealed Trump as someone who has slipped his moorings from sane and rational thought and descended into a political twilight zone where he can create his own reality and demand that the nation embrace it.

As criticism mounted, Trump seemed to realize he’d crossed a line and attempted to walk back his comments by - as usual - screaming “fake news.” It was too late, and from this point on he’ll be defined as someone who suggested ignoring the Constitution if it stood in his way.

For Republican leadership, the episode should be the last straw. There is no defense for Trump’s outburst, no arguing it was taken out of context or deliberately distorted by the media. His words appeared on Truth Social, the site he created after he was booted from Twitter: “A massive fraud of this type and magnitude allows for termination of all rules, regulations and articles, even those found in the Constitution.”

Note the word “termination” which clearly appears despite Trump’s belated cries of protest that he never uttered it.

It represented an escalation of the relentless two-year war Trump has waged to overturn the 2020 election, a process he claims was riddled with fraud that robbed him of re-election.

His act has worn thin and wearisome, and party leaders have become more outspoken in urging the party to move on. Republicans want to concentrate on 2024 to convince the American people that the Biden administration has failed on nearly every front and that a Republican president, along with control of Congress, can restore fiscal stability and address nagging issues like immigration reform and rising crime rates.

Trump, obsessed with his loss to Biden, stands in the way with his increasingly unhinged rants of election fraud.

Republicans who remained silent or dismissed his comments as typical Trumpian hyperbole are guilty of a cop-out bordering on cowardice. It is impossible to not cringe at the prospect of their ticket being led by someone to whom abiding by the Constitution is inconvenient and can be disregarded.

The media will be in full cry, demanding Republican candidates explain their view of Trump’s remarks and whether they continue to support him or his view. As campaign messaging goes, it is a disaster waiting to happen.

It is up to the party leaders to jettison Trump, marginalize him and make it clear that support and money will be in short supply.

It is imperative that the party act decisively and without reservation to deliver a statement that punching holes in the Constitution is a swift and irrevocable disqualifier.

It is past time for Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell to drop his bourbon-sipping Southern gentleman facade and face down Trump directly.

If he reveres the Constitution, he has no choice.

-

Copyright 2022 Carl Golden, distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

Carl Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University in New Jersey. You can reach him at [cgolden1937@gmail.com](mailto:cgolden1937@gmail.com).

# COMMENTS

## DISCUSS ON FACEBOOK

0 comments

Sort by Oldest



## DISCUSS ON DISQUS

0 Comments

1 Login ▾

G

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

Share

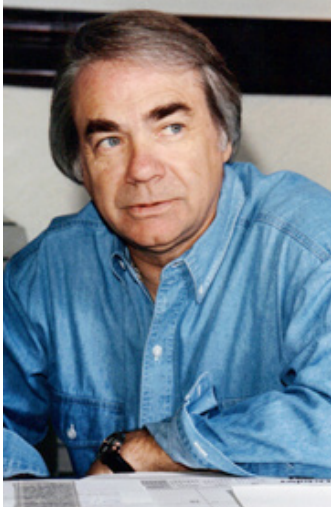
Best Newest Oldest

Be the first to comment.

[Subscribe](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Do Not Sell My Data](#)



Carl Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. He served as press secretary for New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean (1982-1990) and as communications director for New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman (1994-1997). His commentary appears on editorial pages of newspapers in New Jersey and Philadelphia as well as on news websites.



[\(http://www.caglecartoons.com/members/feed/columns/\)](http://www.caglecartoons.com/members/feed/columns/)

[View Full Archive \(https://www.cagle.com/author/carl-golden/\)](https://www.cagle.com/author/carl-golden/)

### DAILY NEWSLETTER

Sign up for FREE! Get Cartoons Daily!

Sign up for our free daily newsletter by entering your email and clicking on subscribe.

**Subscribe**

### CAGLE COLUMNISTS

More [\(category/syndicated-columns\)](/category/syndicated-columns/)

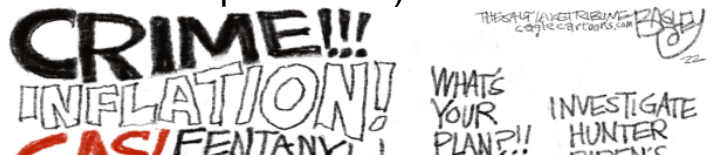
## HOPE IS ALL WE HAVE

<https://www.cagle.com/tom-purcell/2022/12/hope-is-all-we-have>



## A NEW CONGRESS? THE SAME LOW EXPECTATIONS.

<https://www.cagle.com/john-l-micek/2022/12/a-new-congress-the-same-low-expectations>





CONTACT US

Cagle Cartoons, Inc. (<http://caglecartoons.com/company>)  
Santa Barbara, CA



(<https://www.cagle.com/tom-purcell/2022/12/hope-is-all-we-have>)  
Editorial (<https://daryl.cagle.com/contact/>)

by Tom Purcell (/author/tom-purcell)

Sales ([mailto:sales@cagle.com?subject=Sales Inquiry](mailto:sales@cagle.com?subject=Sales%20Inquiry))

Heroes ([mailto:heroes@cagle.com?subject=Heroes Support Request](mailto:heroes@cagle.com?subject=Heroes%20Support%20Request))

Billing ([mailto:billing@cagle.com?subject=Billing Support Request](mailto:billing@cagle.com?subject=Billing%20Support%20Request))

Technical ([mailto:support@cagle.com?subject=Support Request](mailto:support@cagle.com?subject=Support%20Request))

my mouth and pumped me with ai ...

JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

(<https://www.cagle.com/john-l-micek/2022/12/a-new-congress-the-same-old-expectations>)

by John L. Micek (/author/john-l-micek)

There's a school of political thought that divided government is the government that governs best. Put the White House in the hands of one party...



DISCONTINUING THE BIG GAME

(<http://www.cagle.com/john-l-micek/2022/12/a-new-congress-the-same-old-expectations>)

(/subscribe) | [Subscribe \(/subscribe\)](#) | [Unsubscribe \(/unsubscribe\)](#)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR COOL, FREE DAILY NEWSLETTER

FEATURED CONTENT

Daryl Cagle's Blog (<http://www.daryl.cagle.com>)

Latest Cartoons (<http://cagle.com/cartoons>)

Most Popular Cartoons (<http://cagle.com/category/featured>)

Topical Galleries (<http://cagle.com/news/>)

Cartoonist Index (<http://cagle.com/cartoonists>)

News & Opinion (<http://cagle.com/columns>)

Cagle Books (<http://daryl.cagle.com/book>)

It's time to play the Big Game again in Washington. It's time again for members of Congress to perform one of their most important duties. But instead of passing a federal budget for the coming year, the senators and House members will take ...

Content Syndication (<https://cagleworld.com>)

Content Licensing (<https://politicalcartoons.com>)

(<https://www.cagle.com/michael-reagan/2022/12/discontinuing-the-big-game-in-dc>)

by Michael Reagan (/author/michael-reagan)

# Cagle Cartoons

© 2022 Cagle Cartoons, All Rights Reserved. Artwork, blogs and columns © each respective creator.  
Licensing Sales Terms (<https://cagle.com/licensing-sales-terms>) | Privacy Policy (<http://cagleworld.com/privacy>) | Terms  
of Service (<http://cagleworld.com/terms-of-service>)