



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #223 — SEPT. 11, 2012

Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com

INDEX: Click here.

National Debt Reality

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Sept. 11, 2012)

You don't even have to be a Keynesian to know there's more than one way to skin a cat.

"We' Don't Owe \$16 Trillion and You Don't Owe \$50,000" by Letsgetitdone, OpEdNews

Sept. 10, 2012, (<http://www.opednews.com/articles/We-Don-t-Owe-16-Trillio-by-Letsgetit-done-120910-588.html>)



"Then, when I'm Secretary of the Treasury, we're gonna sucker the middle class into paying off the debt!"

Just saw John Sununu, one of Republicans favorite Bushie junk yard attack dogs all up in arms about the debt subject to the limit (the so-called national debt) reaching \$16 Trillion dollars, and going on to tell people that every man, woman, and child in the United States now owes \$50,000 to pay that debt off. Now, I'm here to tell you that all that is bull sh*t.

The debt subject to the limit is a debt incurred by the Congress and the Treasury Department because when the Government spends more than it taxes, the Treasury Department issues debt instruments in the name of the US Government even though it doesn't have to do that in order to deficit spend. These instruments make the Government a debtor. But they don't make any individual man, woman, or child in the United States a debtor. So, the idea that YOU owe \$50,000 or even a single dollar is BS. You've signed no such note. You've not charged a single dollar on your credit card for this purpose. And you've not made a single promise that any portion of the national debt will be paid by YOU.

Well, you might ask: "Doesn't the US have to pay the \$16 Trillion debt sooner or later by taxing, and won't we then be responsible for our portion in the form of a tax obligation?"

The answer is that the US must pay all its debts when they fall due. It's in the Constitution. If the Federal Government refused to do that it would be violating the Constitution, and would be illegal. But saying that the US must pay all its debts, doesn't say that it must do so only by using taxation to raise enough revenue to run budget surpluses and pay those debts. It's that lie that Sununu and the other austerians want you to believe!

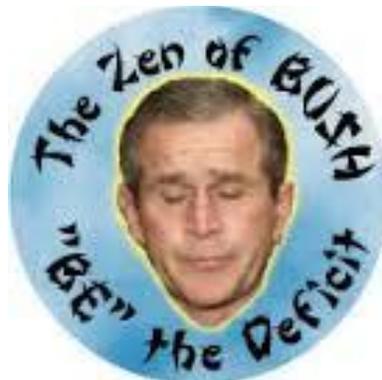
How we pay US debts is up to us and is a political question. If we do it the way Sununu suggests we'll condemn the country to permanent recession in the context of a perpetually depressed economy in which the wealthy get wealthier and everyone else gets poorer. That's what a plutocratic tool like John Sununu wants. But there are other ways to do it.

The best way, because it ends unnecessary welfare for the rich and foreign nations is to stop issuing debt instruments, continue with enough deficit spending to create full employment and an economy operating at its full potential, and make up the gap between spending and revenue by using the legal power of the Government to issue 1 oz. Proof Platinum coins with arbitrary face values, and using the coin seigniorage profits gained by depositing the coins at the Federal Reserve. Here's the process, along with the political speech explaining it to everybody:

http://www.correntewire.com/beyond_debtdeficit_politics_the_60_trillion_plan_for_ending_federal_borrowing_and_paying_off_the_nation

Read it, and understand that There Is An Alternative (TIAA) to making every, or any, man, woman, or child pay \$50,000 to pay off that national debt through taxing more than we spend, and that John Sununu, as usual, either doesn't know what he's talking about or is lying through his teeth about there not being one. Take your choice!

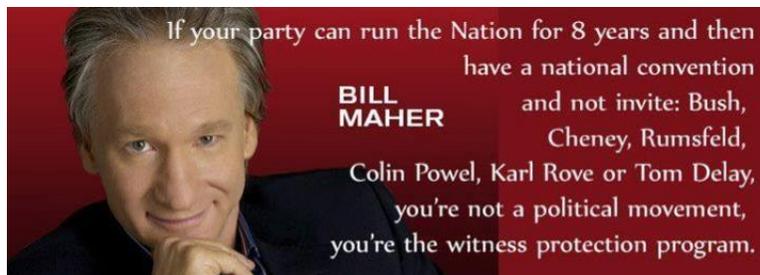
(Letsgetitdone (Joe Firestone) is Managing Director and CEO of the Knowledge Management Consortium International (KMCI.org).)



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It's always good to start the day with a chuckle. :-)

20120910-02	11:41	SteveM	Re: "Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #222)
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Prove it to the author so they retract or make corrections.

[20120910-05](#) 12:29 SteveB Re: "Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" (reply to SteveM, above)

I could care less about the author or the publication. Care only for the truth.

I'm doing my part already, plus working 8-10 hours a day on the bakery.

Not much time for additional writing assignments to lost causes.

Let me ask you this: If you don't care about the truth, what is your purpose here?

[20120910-10](#) 16:42 SteveM Re: "Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" (reply to SteveB, above)

Let me ask you, when did you stop being open minded about what is really the truth and not a socialist fairy tale?

When did you become so intolerant?

[20120910-12](#) 17:26 SteveB Re: "Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" (reply to SteveM, above)

We're not talking about "socialist fairy tales". We're talking about words in black and white.

Your writers said flat out that R0mney didn't say what Biden said he did. So did the R0mney campaign. If that's the case (in September, 2012), then where did I get this, dated May 1?

Read this (May 1, 2012) (<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/timstanley/100154555/obamas-tacky-i-shot-bin-laden-ad-has-turned-a-military-triumph-into-a-political-disaster/>):

"Why haven't we caught bin Laden in your opinion?" Mitt replied, "I think, I wouldn't want to over-concentrate on bin Laden. He's one of many, many people who are involved in this global Jihadist effort. He's by no means the only leader. It's a very diverse group – Hamas, Hezbollah, al-Qaeda, Muslim Brotherhood and of course different names throughout the world. *It's not worth moving heaven and earth and spending billions of dollars just trying to catch one person...* Global Jihad is not an effort that is being populated by a handful or even a football stadium full of people. It is – it involves millions of people and is going to require a far more comprehensive strategy than a targeted approach for bin laden or a few of his associates."

This means that 30 seconds of fact-checking by an amateur like me showed that these fact-checkers who wrote your article are bogus.

If the facts are bogus, what about the conclusions???

To me this is a big deal. The truth is a big deal. You run away from it. I embrace it. If you don't run away from the truth, prove it now. Admit the truth of this tiny point! Admit that it might be important to find the truth about this and other matters. This is one you can check for yourself.

If you don't care about the truth, this conversation is of limited usefulness. If you care about the truth and can prove it, as I have given you the opportunity to do above, well, that would be a good thing.

Constantly changing the subject is an evasive maneuver and also of limited usefulness.

[20120910-18](#) 22:15 SteveM Re: "Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" (reply to SteveB, above)

What you found was a truncated version of the interview, (which is widely known Sherlock), that suits your needs. That does make it TRUE. As a matter of legal fact, the term is deception by omission.

[20120910-19](#) 23:26 SteveB Re: "Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" (reply to SteveM, above)

I have no idea what the hell you are talking about. This conversation has taken a Salvador Dali turn.

"Truncated interview" has nothing to do with anything. It wasn't even an interview. We are talking about printed articles and emails that I'm sure are not truncated. What the hell are you even talking about. Read the FotM Newsletter and maybe you can follow the conversation.

You'll see I'm not talking about any video interview, only the article in USA Today ("Fact Check: Obama and Biden at the DNC" – absolutely full of easily provable lies) and the subsequent email concerning some dumb video comically titled "The Country Is Ruined".

No comprendo, pal.

You never directly respond to factual argument. You run away from it. Your email below is just the latest example. Why not meet the issues (the lies, in this case) head-on? Why run away?

[20120910-03](#) 12:02 SteveM Re: "2016: Obama's America Movie Is Disturbingly Necessary" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #222)

Once again, feel free to tell Scott Paulson he is a liar. He is a Radio personality, has a blog, and both facebook and linked in presence.

Be sure to copy me on you comment. I'm sure Paulson will treasure your insight as much as I do.

[20120910-06](#) 12:31 SteveB Re: "2016: Obama's America Movie Is Disturbingly Necessary" (reply to SteveM, above)

Now, we all know he's a liar. Even you know. That's enough for me. My job is done.

[20120910-11](#) 17:09 Art Re: "2016: Obama's America Movie Is Disturbingly Necessary" (reply to SteveB, above)

It is interesting how the Republicans immediately leaped on "facts check" issue after they got hammered at their convention. You just knew they were going to find something even if all the Democrats said was "Nice day". I am starting, I think, to see the beginnings of a national recognition that the Republican position is really just full of it. The outright lies, the deceit, failure to release tax returns, radicalism of the tea party on social issues, etc are all becoming very evident to all. Some of my most vehement right wing Republican friends are even beginning to show some doubt. For most of them the real bottom line, I believe, continues to be racism. They will never admit that so you can never discuss it, but that is the real issue. If Obama were white or even had white skin, he would be way ahead, even with the economy. Conventional wisdom says with the economy it should be the other way round, but not so this time. Even with all that he stays even or just ahead. Shows how utterly dreadful the Republican position really is.

[20120910-13](#) 17:33 SteveB Re: "2016: Obama's America Movie Is Disturbingly Necessary" (reply to Art, above)

Michael Jackson was able to become white. Why oh why not Mr. Obama?

I think you may be right about a dawning recognition...the polls are starting to show it. And I believe Mitt will be eaten alive in any debate with the Prez.

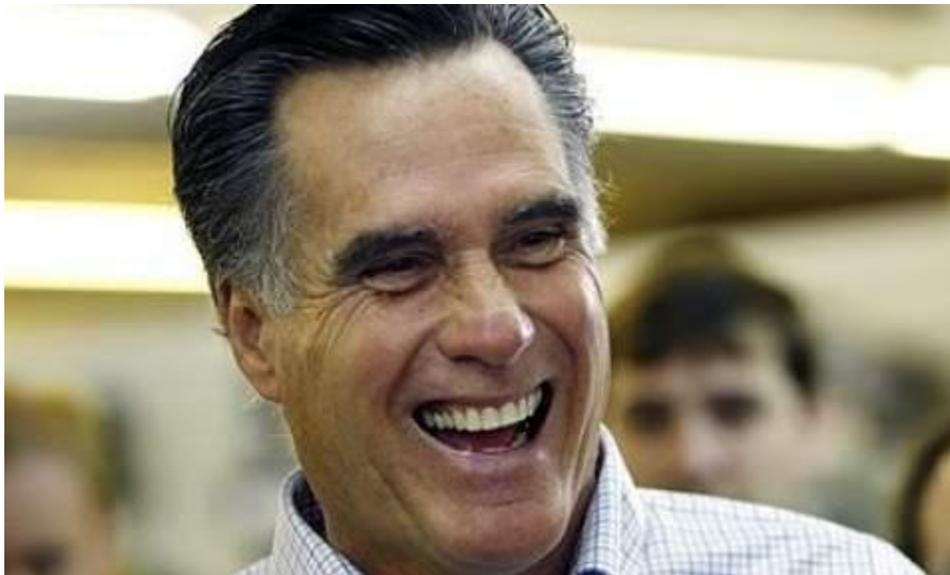
Still, every one of these right-wingers has a huge problem with the truth. They are truth challenged.

[20120910-04](#) 12:22 SteveB "Romney Clarifies He Still Supports Denying Insurance to Millions of Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions"

Does he ever really know what he's saying?

"Romney Clarifies He Still Supports Denying Insurance to Millions of Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions" by Tara Culp-Ressler, NationofChange

Sept. 10, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/romney-clarifies-he-still-supports-denying-insurance-millions-americans-pre-existing-conditions-1347>)



This weekend on Meet the Press, Romney said "there are a number of things I like" about President Obama's health care reform law, including the popular provision on pre-existing conditions. Romney's campaign, however, began walking back his statements as soon as they left his mouth.

After the NBC interview aired, a Romney aide was quick to clarify Romney was "not proposing a federal mandate to require insurance plans to offer [the] particular features" that he suggested he supported. When further pressed on Romney's stated support for preventing discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions, a campaign aide explained, "Governor Romney will ensure that discrimination against individuals with pre-existing conditions who maintain continuous coverage is prohibited."

The aide pointed to earlier statements from Romney on the subject, explaining that Romney's current position is exactly what he expressed at a Florida rally this summer:

ROMNEY: So let's say someone has been **continuously insured** and they develop a serious condition. And let's say they lose their jobs or they change jobs or they move and go to a different place, I don't want

them to be denied insurance because they have some pre-existing conditions. So we're going to have to make sure that the law that we replace Obamacare with, **ensures that people who have a pre-existing condition, who have been insured in the past, are able to get insurance in the future** so they don't have to worry about that condition keeping them from getting the kind of health care they deserve.

Under the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the federal government already prevents insurers from denying coverage to the "continuously insured" group that Romney mentions, although HIPAA has failed to effectively regulate the cost and content of the insurance coverage that insurers extend to those with pre-existing conditions. The Romney campaign is insistent on clarifying the fact that, rather than supporting health care reform, Romney's stance on pre-existing conditions reinforces the status quo.

The key part of the Obamacare provision is the protection for millions of previously uninsured Americans who are denied insurance coverage because of their pre-existing conditions. Romney's campaign wants to make it clear that Romney rejects this policy in favor of denying coverage to the 89 million Americans who haven't been lucky enough to have continuous coverage.

20120910-07 14:20 SteveB If R0mney Wins & Bolivian Bakery Biz (to Pam)

I really don't think it's demographically possible for R0mney to win unless they find some Obama affair or something of that nature.

But the world would not end if R0mney were, gulp, elected.

We're ramping up baking. It's kinda fun buying 100 lbs. of stuff at a time. Lots of work. But everything is pretty much figured-out now. Very few problems remain.

Tomorrow we start keeping "regular" hours at the store—9-12 and 3-7.

Later this week we start hiring. Once we get to the 1000 cookies per day level, we'll up our hours to, probably, 7am to 8pm.

We're going to start with these kinds of cookies:

1. Chewy bitter-sweet chocolate chunk & pecan (this is the star of the lineup, addicting).
2. Snickerdoodle (sugar cookie w/cinnamon).
3. Peanut butter.
4. Oatmeal/raisin/sesame (for the health nuts).

I think we'll only make four kinds at a time (for now), but we'll always be rotating in a new flavor in place of the slowest seller. Always in the market to audition new prospects. We've already lined-up some great new and old candidates...like my Mom's chewy molasses cookies.

20120910-08 15:52 Mary Re: Latest Mandate (reply to SteveB, Feb. 26)

The following is a response that I began Feb 27 and sat in my drafts til now. I've been rather busy running a not for profit business and a bereavement ministry at church, so had no time or interest in participating in your often hateful and unfounded comments/accusations about Republicans. Interesting that you kind-hearted and socially conscious good guys feel a need to resort to name calling and personal attacks. Gooch's comment about "Rash Limpbag" was foolish and sophomoric.....perhaps it stems from a personal problem? And Cox telling Carol to....what was it?....to "crawl out from the religious rock she's been living under." She's a very well read, well traveled, intelligent and open minded individual who happens to embrace policies that don't agree with you, so she

is attacked personally!? And, Pam, calling R & R "bastards" and I believe you even said "the devil". (No interest or need in cking back to qualify the comment....the hate was apparent.) ALL THIS yet several of you have called the Republicans "hateful".

Reply to SteveB email of Feb 26:

RE editing, I'm referring to a request for newsletter entry (thank you for including it) where you "bolded" the defense of Obama, leaving the criticisms smaller font. A little "psych" trick???? And you did admit to tweaking it a little to "simplify it," I think you said. Yet you claim to only editing spelling and punctuation. Hmmmm.....

Our country was based on a healthy mistrust of the government, yet it seems to me that most of you have had seconds on the Kool-aid....trusting all that the big gov't policies want to throw at us. I'm sure you'll have a name for me and other like minded people, but I do not want the gov't in my church, my hospital, my private business, or home. Doesn't history prove that our country fares better with free enterprise? Economic growth comes from the private sector....no growth....therefore, middle class is suffering. I will admit that some jobs have been created....but keep in mind they are in the food industry at minimum wage. FACT is unemployment is at 8.3. Wasn't he going to get it to 4 during his 4 yrs?

You "friends of the middle" (where exactly IS that "middle"?) would not excuse a Republican president for 1/2 of what O has done and not done. Just be honest. ARE we better off than we were yrs ago? Were you all pleased and proud that he made an "apology tour" overseas. Shameful. Bowed to the King of SA, yet not the Queen of England. Couric and the media made such a stink about Palin not being well-read, yet Couric never held Biden's feet to the fire when he commented about FDR getting on TV in '29 to address the American people! duh!!! That was a "2-fer oooooops" yet liberal media made no mention of it. I believe ALL politicians should be held accountable for their "ooooops heard round the world".....but, hey, I'm just a simple girl who believes in fairness. Dems have been so frantic about Romney's tax records.....do I need to point out how many "records" of Mr O's have been sealed? do I need to remind you about Tom Daschle? do I need to remind you about "Fast and Furious"? Where's the liberal outrage on these FACTS?

Aside from what I believe goes to O's personal character and beliefs (eg alliances w/ Alinsky, Wright, who O claimed as his "mentor", then later retracted, Ayers, Rezko, and ACORN), he has done little to fulfill promises of '08 and country is worse off than when Bush left. Because he cannot point to anything good that has come of his administration, we all know he is "on the attack" and this campaign is nasty. Very sad. He does have great "sound bytes".....I'll give him that.

Final note, and I am signing off.....for good.....I've taken way too much time on this (anyone still reading??).....frankly I am tired of being called a racist if I don't like O's liberal, big gov't politics, yet a black not liking Romney isn't.

I'm tired of being called anti-woman (just ask my Steve.....I am SO not!) because I don't want to pay for Sandra Fluke's birth control (what, \$9 a month??). I'm tired of dirty politics.....on both "sides", but mostly I fear for our country and our freedoms. This election will put us a path, for sure, and I pray that it is the right one.

I wish you all the best.....health and happiness.....but I must bow out of this newsletter. I believe that most of what I read (ok, I scan!) is simply validating each other's liberal views, quoting articles, etc. I, painfully, have restrained myself from sending articles with OTHER viewpoints to you, for I fear you don't want to be confused with facts, as you've already made up your minds.

20120910-15	19:44 SteveB	Re: Latest Mandate (reply to Mary, above)
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Let me just say this in my own defense:

I am an American. If I catch a politician in a lie and can prove it, wouldn't I be remiss in my patriotic duty as an American to call the attention of others to the lie and the liar? Otherwise, to me, our democracy and the entire democratic process fails or is in grave danger of failing. WE MUST KNOW THE TRUTH IN A DEMOCRACY! The reason: we must be able to make correct decisions based on correct information.

I would be happy to research to the end with you what particular statements can be proven to be lies. When I discover one and prove it, do I not have the right, nay the duty, to spread the news as far and wide as I can. I have proven several in the last two FotM Newsletters.

Believe me, it is no personal attack to call R0mney and Ryan blatant liars of the worst kind. Scoundrels! They are public figures I am perfectly free to exercise my free speech on. I never attack private individuals in any way even close to how your email above might be construed.

20120910-09 15:55 Mary Fw: Video: "The President's \$8 Billion Coincidence"

Sorry.....couldn't resist!

[Source of original email unknown. -SteveB

2 minute video - Vital for Medicare Users to watch! Takes a while to load.

When Obama says Romney/Ryan want to cut Medicare remember this video.

Watch this short 2 minute video and pass it on to all the seniors you know. Medicare Advantage cuts begin in mid-October of this year. Seniors vote, and they need to know this cut is coming before the election. Time is running out for seniors unaware of this.

Transparency in action? I think you should know this. President's \$8 Billion Coincidence

Forward this to every senior you know and ask them to pass this along. Very important they all know what is going to happen.

Remember what FDR said, "There are no coincidences in politics..."

Video: "The Presidents \$8 Billion Coincidence" by myBrainshark, (<http://my.brainshark.com/The-President-s-8-Billion-Coincidence-356086344>)

20120910-16 20:15 SteveB Re: Video: "The President's \$8 Billion Coincidence" (reply to Mary, above)

I believe this *Forbes* article is a more honest and reasonable discussion of the subject:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/rickungar/2010/09/25/does-obamacare-really-cut-medicare-benefits-to-senior-citizens/>.

Your video is not quite completely factual. How can a Republican argue about this at this time? Isn't it obvious that the President would do more to preserve "entitlements" than R0mney? If not, then why don't you love him more than R0mney (at least in this regard)? You know?

You're trying to scare us by claiming Mr. Obama is the one out to nail the poor and middle class? LOL. It just makes no sense, does it, Mary?

And something as complicated as American health care or even Obamacare will need to be tweaked (and, in my humble opinion, made more Canadian/European/Bolivian in nature). I, myself, feel that it is a loss to the democracy that only one party seems to wish to participate in the tweaking and the solving of our problems in a realistic way based upon fact, evidence, and history, not belief and magic. One party, only, is acting like a bunch of spoiled babies in my opinion.

But, as I'm sure you know, in America in 2012, it's all about the money, and that is a sad state of affairs indeed. Democrats are not widely known as the party of the rich. A little erroneously in my estimation, though there's a very good reason for this when you see the 8-ton elephant walk into the room smelling like cigars and \$100 bills.

The email itself, of course, tells a blatant bold-faced LIE!

"Medicare Advantage cuts begin in mid-October of this year. Seniors vote, and they need to know this cut is coming before the election."

FALSE! PANTS ON FIRE!

I hold the truth to be man's highest purpose and achievement. I don't like lies.

Do you?

You, yourself, in a very real way, told a big one by sending this email. (Not that I'm not always happy to hear from you.)

20120910-14	18:52 Ben	Photos: Today's Lunch at Apple
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Bonus! In addition to a [rather late] account of my delightful lunch, I am pasting in the evening Dinner Specials. (Dinner sometimes includes quite different things than those offered at lunch. I rarely send the dinner specials menu, as it is rarely available before 5:00, and by THAT time, I am scrambling for departure.)

Today, Susette joined me unexpectedly, so there are two photos. First my Szechuan Shrimp Stir Fry, then her Moroccan Spiced Chicken Breast, which included a cup of the vegetarian Smoky Moroccan Lima Bean Stew.

My Szechuan Stir Fry featured abundant broccoli and green, yellow and red bell peppers, with thin slices of onion and green onion. The shrimp were uber-fresh Texas gulf shrimp, and ... Chef Alex at the wok ... the shrimp were perfectly, lightly cooked, so that they were soft yet resilient, not quite totally opaque, and so delicately flavorful as to have been almost sweet. These are the shrimp you dream about; many actual Chinese restaurants overcook them, especially if they are not huge. These were standard Large, I think, and were just perfect. All the components were bite-size, chop-stickable, and as fresh as fresh can be; the dish was served over very fine rice vermicelli-style noodles ("glass noodle"), for which my appreciation has just gone up a notch: these slender transparent noodles, perhaps because of their high surface-area-to-volume ration, REALLY absorb flavors. Chef Alex' subtle sauce worked wonderfully with these little guys.

My delicious dish (shrimp appear to be underneath stuff, but there were plenty of them) is here:



Susette's Moroccan Spiced Chicken Breast over (what else?) cous-cous, which I failed to photograph before she'd begun to savage it, is here:



from the Legal Defense Fund:

Texas Photo ID Law Rejected

A federal three-judge panel recently rejected Texas's proposed photo voter ID law under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Texas sought to require voters to present government-issued photo ID to vote at the polls on Election Day.

LDF, on behalf of its clients the Texas League of Young Voters Educational Fund and several Black college students, entered the case to challenge the discriminatory law.

By Texas's own data, at least 600,000 registered voters do not have the ID that the law proposed, more than 170,000 of whom are Latino. Nationally, 25% of African Americans lack government-issued photo ID.

Among other things, Texas's proposed law would not have allowed for the use of student IDs, which our clients used in previous elections, but would have permitted the use of a concealed handgun license.

Calling the photo ID measure "the most stringent in the country," the court determined that "many Hispanics and African Americans who voted in the last election [would], because of the burdens imposed by [the law], likely be unable to vote in the next election."

The court recognized that a "law that forces poorer citizens to choose between their wages and their franchise unquestionably denies or abridges their right to vote."

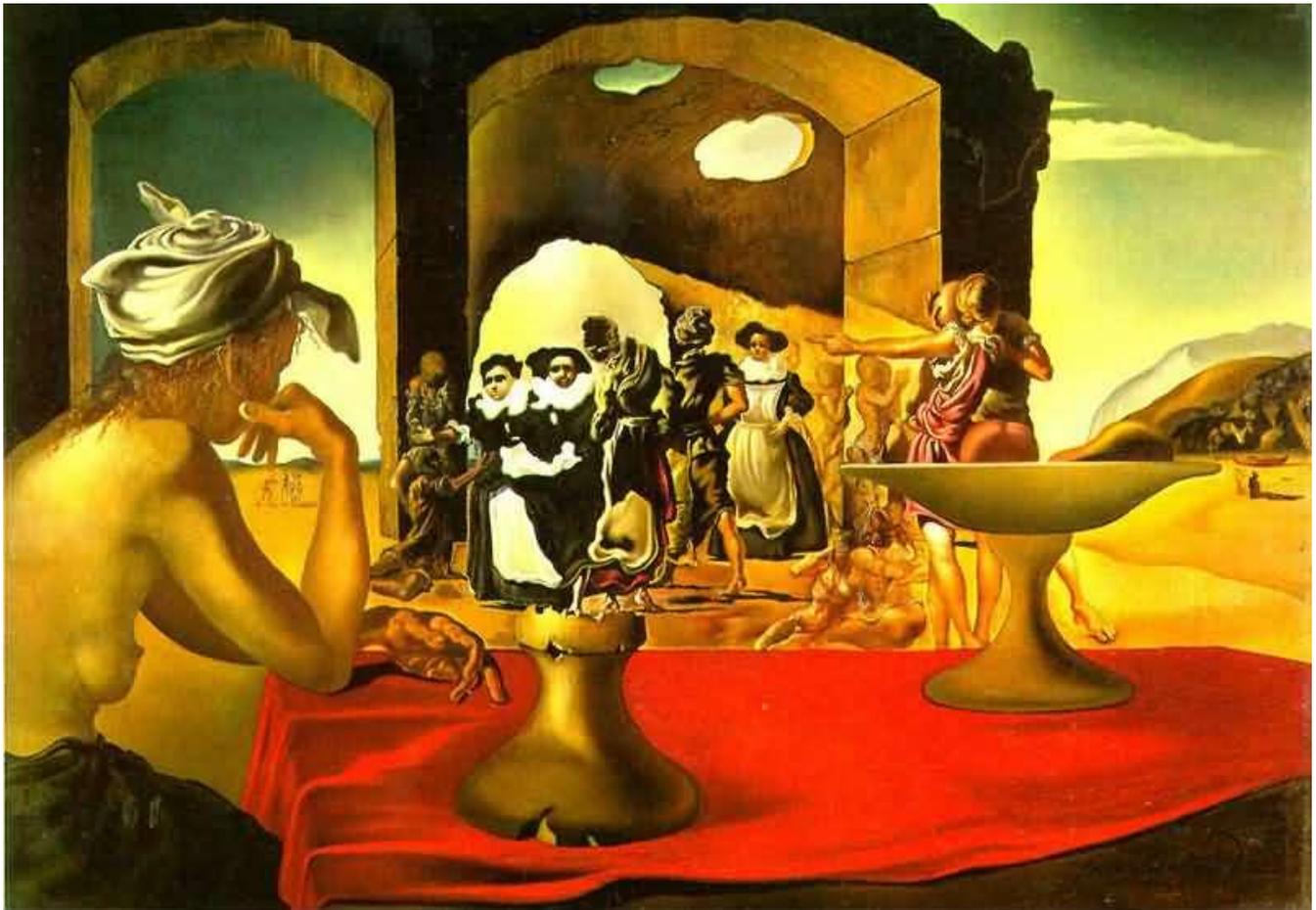
This significant ruling ensures that this discriminatory measure will not be in place for the upcoming election.

Thank you for standing with us, Valerie T. Broadie, Director of Development

P.S. The battle in Texas is not over. Texas has indicated that it will appeal this ruling to the Supreme Court and challenge the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. LDF is committed to continuing the fight to protect minority voters from unfair policies in Texas and other states. Visit our map to learn more:

<http://org2.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=fjTbkgTpleO2rg7KStXwGC%2F3Z%2FxEhMVV>.

<http://vismath1.tripod.com/igor/>



—Friends of the Middle,
Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

You can subscribe to this free, no-obligation, daily Newsletter filled with lively, intelligent discussion centered on politics and government, but ranging to anything members feel is important, interesting, or entertaining. To subscribe, use the form on our website or blog, or simply reply to this email with "Yes" or "Start" in the Subject line, then add our email address (below) to your Contacts or Safe list. To opt-out, reply with "No" or "Stop" in the subject line.

Welcome to all our new members who may be here for the first time. We want to hear from YOU! To submit your comment, you can use the form on our website or blog, or reply to this email with your two cents worth. Be sure to sign with your desired user name.

Your email address will always be kept strictly confidential.

Feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone you know on the Right or the Left, though your motives might be different in each case. Regardless, PASS IT ON! Help keep your friends and acquaintances informed and thinking.

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