

COMMENTARY: PRESIDENT BIDEN, THE CONSTITUTION AND RACE

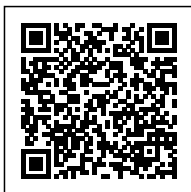
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The Democratic Party needs to pause and reflect on the real issue, which is race and not an aging President. Once again, we see the Kool-Aid of division being swallowed, not by the MAGA Right, but by Democrats who know better and openly profess a love for democracy and the Constitution of the United States. So, the question is how can one love the Constitution and at the same time only obey those sections that agree with our way of thinking? The post COMMENTARY: President Biden, The Constitution and Race first appeared on Post News Group.

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By Emil Guillermo

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao must be wondering how can a convicted felon with 34 guilty verdicts be riding high, while she, an uncharged elected official, fights for her political life?

That's how strange politics is in America today.

On the national stage, President Joe Biden made an historic ask of Americans this week. It's summer, and everyone is a "low information" voter now. But for the sake of the country, and the future of democracy, it's time to pay attention. Get nerdy now.

Biden is essentially tied with Trump, a newly convicted felon, which tells you how cockeyed political values are in America.

Instead of policy, Trump is all bluster talking about a pre-debate drug test because he's sure Biden is going to be "jacked up" on some kind of performance enhancing drug.

That kind of thing gets attention. Not whether you're going to things to improve people's lives.

But rest assured, if Donald Trump is elected for a second time, the blueprint is already out. The Heritage Foundation's plan calls for a "Department of Life," and a theocratic-based world view where abortion is illegal, and minorities of all stripes are disempowered.

A vote for Trump represents a radical reformatting of democracy.

POLITICS IN OAKLAND

In the meantime, local Oakland politics is slightly different, but no less confounding.



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Sheng Thao, 18 months into her tenure as the first Hmong American to be mayor of a major U.S. city, is recovering from the worst week in her life.

First, a group of Oakland citizens qualified enough signatures to hold a recall election of Thao. Then, on Wednesday, 15 people were shot at an unauthorized Juneteenth celebration in the city's Lake Merritt area. The topper came Thursday, when the FBI executed a pre-dawn raid of a number of houses including Thao's, all connected to a case reportedly involving improper campaign donations from Andy Duong, a Vietnamese American businessman whose company, CalWaste, won the contract to run the city's recycling program. No arrests were made, just boxes and computers hauled from the various homes. Not a good look.

THAO: "I AM INNOCENT"

For five days, Thao was silent, but on Monday, she came out firing her best shot.

"I have done nothing wrong," Thao said at a news conference. "I can tell you with confidence that this investigation is not about me. I have not been charged with a crime and I am confident that I will not be charged because I am innocent."

Thao said she was seeking answers from the U.S. attorney as to why she wasn't "offered the opportunity to cooperate voluntarily."

Good question. Unless they thought she was hiding something.

Thao addressed the shootings last week first with care, then said she won't be distracted from the real issues of Oakland. Like safety or the selling of the Oakland Coliseum to a Black-owned group.

But she went back to questioning the timing of last week.

"I want to know more about the handful of billionaires from San Francisco and Piedmont who are hell bent on running me out of office," she said, questioning how the recall announcement and the raid seemed orchestrated with the media "to fan the flames and bend the facts to shape a narrative."

Trump, the convicted felon, overcomes reality and is propelled by "friends" who see him as a winner. Thao was voted in through RCV, rank-choice-voting. She was the most people's No. 2, not No. 1.

Maybe that's why few allies are standing up behind her now. The Oakland NAACP, and even one Asian group is calling for her to resign.

For Thao, this will be the test if her story can overcome it all, again.

About the Author

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There are no comments yet.