



What Happened to Common Sense? - October 2024

We used to have common sense. What happened to it? Let us look at some of the positions many Americans have changed their opinions on and the unexpected negative consequences.

1. Does Enforcing Law and Order Produce Safer Communities?

Common Sense - Looking at crime rates to see if they are rising or lowering is difficult because, “Most violent and property crimes in the U.S. are not reported to police, and most of the crimes that are reported are not solved” (1) “What the Data Says about Crime in the U.S.,” Pew Research Center, 4/24/2024). But it is a concern to many of us. “A growing share of Americans say reducing crime should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year. Around six-in-ten U.S. adults (58%) hold that view today, up from 47% at the beginning of Joe Biden’s presidency in 2021” (1). Many of us agree. We believe in “equal justice under the law.” We reason that if evidence seems to indicate that a person may have committed a crime, they should be arrested, brought to a fair trial, then are either acquitted and freed or convicted and sentenced. Promoting justice and consistently enforcing law and order discourages most people from law-breaking, creating a safer society for all.

Does This Make Sense? - Some believe in excusing lawbreakers, defunding police, and refusing to enforce the law. They are allowing people to riot, shoplift, do random acts of violence, and destroy peoples’ homes and places of work. This is because of perceived systemic racism. Some prosecutors have changed felonies into misdemeanors, refused to prosecute them, then dismissed them. Those crimes are then not even counted in statistics.

God’s Sense - The Bible says: “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” (Ecclesiastes 8:11). “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor” (Leviticus 19:15). “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery” (Isaiah 61:8).

Solution - This crime can’t continue. We must have safe communities. We must pray for God’s help, speak out, and vote for ballot initiatives and leaders who support enforcing law and order. **Share this information with others.**

2. Migrant Children - Should We Vet the Adults?

Common Sense - Children are precious and should be protected. Responsible, loving adults should make sure that no harm comes to minors. Those who migrate to the United States need to be accompanied by family members or responsible adults. Then our authorities should make sure each one remains with those who are proved to be their family members or are reunited with family living here in the states.

Does This Make Sense? - The current administration is allowing 10’s of thousands of unaccompanied minors to enter our country at a rate so fast that the adults they are traveling with or those they are turned over to are not properly vetted. This is leaving them vulnerable to horrible situations. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reported on August 19, 2024, that authorities have lost track of more than 32,000 unaccompanied migrant minors. The US Immigration and Custom Enforcement Agency (ICE) says these children could now be involved in one of the following: child labor, forced early marriages, aggravated smuggling of drugs (through forced gang affiliations), or sex related human trafficking. Many minors are being abused by cartels or the coyotes they are traveling with. This is a travesty!

God’s Sense - Jesus said in the Bible: “Take heed that you do not despise (*be hateful, mean, offend or abuse*) one of these little ones (*children*) ... “woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” (Matthew 18:7, 10). “Even so, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish (*be killed*)” (Mathew 18:14). Jesus identifies with and takes it personally how we treat children. He said, “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me” (Matthew 18:5).

Solution - We must pray, speak out, and vote for ballot initiatives and leaders who won’t allow unaccompanied minors to enter. Then family members will accompany them, keeping them safe from coyotes and the cartel. Also the pace must be slowed down to accurately vet adults, protecting these precious children. **Share this information with others.**

3. Welcoming Everybody In or Taking Precautions?

Common Sense - We don’t leave our doors wide open so just anyone can come into our homes. We also don’t allow someone in without first making sure who they are and what their purposes are for wanting to enter. This is acting wisely and keeping us all safe. Building a wall and other physical barriers, in addition to using technology will increase our nation’s security. The White House and the Vatican have walls, gates, and guards to enforce security.

Does This Make Sense? - This administration rejected the wall, allowing **20 million illegal migrants** in without vetting. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reports 425,431 **criminals**, who had been convicted in their home countries, were released into our nation by our border authorities. Of these criminals, 13,099 had been convicted **1**



of **homicide** and 15,811 of **sexual assault**. Homeland Security Investigations report more than 10,000 MS-13 **gang members** entered and are now in 40 states. They're a "transnational gang" known for their "extreme violence." Another violent gang is Tren de Araagua, from Venezuela. "Venezuela, like Cuba, China and a handful of other countries, doesn't provide any criminal history information to U.S. officials. ... Not only does Venezuela not share law enforcement data, but it has also largely refused to take its nationals back on deportation flights" (nbcnews.com). ICE data also reported in July 2024 that there are 350 known **terrorists** who've been released. We don't know how many terrorists are "got aways." This is not wise, nor is it keeping us, our families, our businesses, nor our communities safe.

Unexpected Negative Consequences -

A. Migrant Crime - A US Customs and Border Protection Report was last updated on 9/16/2024, see its facts below. The years 2017-2020 are basically the previous administration and 2021-2024 are basically our current administration. Remember, during the last 4 years, many police departments were defunded and many prosecutors refused to prosecute numerous crimes, so the real numbers of crimes are probably much higher. Also notice that with open borders, the numbers of crimes (and victims) have sky-rocketed.

Total Criminal Convictions by Type	Fiscal Years 17-20	Fiscal Years 21-24 (open borders)
Assault, Battery, Domestic Violence -	1,723	4,565
Burglary, Robbery, Larceny, Theft, Fraud -	1,269	3,211
Driving Under the Influence -	6,987	8,313
Homicide, Manslaughter -	11	178
Illegal Drug Possession, Trafficking	2,955	7,846
Illegal Entry, Re-Entry -	12,346	31,292
Illegal Weapons Possession, Transport, Trafficking -	394	1,161
Sexual Offenses -	431	1,339
Other -	4,609	11,872



B. Human Trafficking of Women and Children (slavery either for sex or forced labor) - The U.S. Department of State reported - "**Physical Abuse:** Trafficked victims are often beaten and brutalized, raped and sexually abused. ... Victims also frequently are deprived of adequate food, shelter and sleep.... **Psychological Abuse:** Traffickers commonly subject their victims to psychological abuse through threats, deprivation and isolation. Traffickers may threaten to kill or harm victims or their family members if they do not do as they are told" ("Human Trafficking: Modern Enslavement of Immigrant Women" ACLU). Because of fear, these are seldom reported or prosecuted, so actual numbers are hard to calculate. "Woman account for about 80 percent of individuals involved in sex-trafficking, with some estimates stating that a quarter of these cases involve minor children. The average age for females at the time of entry into sex-trafficking is thought to be between 17-19 years old" ("The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Immigration" June 27, 2018 Stephen Wood). This is horrible! We must protect women and minors.

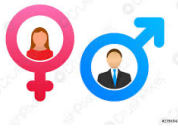
C. Fentanyl Deaths - Massive numbers of illegal immigrants distract our border agents so drug cartels can smuggle in more fentanyl laced pills, causing accidental use and poisoning deaths. The top line of the table below are totals of fentanyl deaths during the years of the previous administration and the bottom line are those of our current administration. Each number represents the life of a precious person and the pain of their family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Fentanyl Estimated Overdose/Poisoning Deaths			
2017 - 28,466	2018 - 31,355	2019 - 36,359	2020 - 56,516
2021 - 70,601	2022 - 73,838	2023 - 74,702	2024 - not yet calculated

D. Financial Burden on Tax Payers - "The federal government spent over \$66 billion on illegal immigrants in 2023." ... "The lion's share of that cost is borne by state and local governments. ... they have to balance their budgets by either absorbing this cost through raising taxes or they have to cut services to their citizens" ("The Cost of the Border Crisis - \$150 Billion and Counting," The House Budget Committee, 5/12/2024). Illegal immigration is also straining health care, schools, law enforcement, housing, and the job market.

God's Sense - The Bible says "And God gave (*King*) Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart" (1 Kings 4:29). "He built ... fortified cities *with* walls, gates, and bars" (2 Chronicles 8:5). Even heaven has walls and gates, with guarding angels stationed at the gates (Revelation 21:12).

Solution - We've been told for more than 3 years that our borders are closed and are secure. But we have evidence that that's not true. An old saying says, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." We must pray for God's help, speak out, and vote for ballot initiatives and leaders who support these precautions: **1)** slowing down the rate of legal immigration so all can be thoroughly vetted, ensuring no dangerous individuals are entering, and preventing smuggling of fentanyl and other drugs; **2)** securing our border with walls, other physical barriers, and technology; **3)** increasing the number of our border agents so they can **2**



focus on protecting our borders, thoroughly processing legal immigrants, and discovering if they've been safe on their journey or are victims of either violence or human trafficking, 4) removing this burden off Americans. **Share this information with others.**

4. How Many Genders Are There, 2 or 72?

Common Sense - From biology **science**, we know we have the same chromosomes and **genes** in every cell of our bodies. These make up our two **genders**, females are XX and males are XY and we have two types of human genitalia. No puberty blockers, or "sex change" mutilation surgeries can change a person's **gender**. Also, we know it's not safe for stronger biological males to play against biological females, nor use their restrooms and locker rooms.

Does This Make Sense? - Some believe we can identify as any gender that we want or as more than one gender. The number of genders keeps increasing, with one article saying there are currently 72 (What Are the 72 Other Genders?, medicinenet.com). **Psychiatric** studies report about chemical and surgical transitions, "these methods overlook the fact that 88% to 98% of those struggling with gender dysphoria will accept their biological sex after going through puberty, according to the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association's 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders'" ("Don't Be Fooled: Gender Identity Policies Don't Follow the Science." heritage.org). There are individuals who silently regret transitioning. "(T)hose who have lived life as a transgender male or female and who have detransitioned claim that the numbers are much higher (than are reported) and that people are afraid to speak out" (Human Life International, hli.org). Read these accounts of 30 individuals who transitioned. They explain their stories that led to their gender confusion, their transitioning experiences and regrets, and the difficulties of detransitioning (Trans Life Survivors, by Walt Heyer).

God's Sense - The Bible says: "So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27). God also tells us, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We are not to hate or mistreat transgenders.

Solution - Adults have the right to make decisions about their own gender identities, but they should not try to force others to agree, nor legally push their agendas on children. Also, puberty blockers should not be used and genital and breast removal surgeries should be postponed until adulthood when they are mature enough to make these decisions. These are irreversible, life-changing procedures that should not be done on minors. We must speak out and vote against ballot initiatives and leaders who are pushing transgender agendas, especially on children through schools or the health care system. **Share this information with others.**

5. Whose Children Are They, the Governments' or the Parents'?

Common Sense - Parents have rights to be informed about lessons and curriculum that affect their children including: gender issues and age-appropriate sex education. They also have the right to make decisions for their children until they're adults and old enough to make them on their own. Parents should also be able to send their children to the school of their choice and to speak up at PTA and school board meetings. "While the number varies by interpretation, roughly twice as many states (approximately 32) recognize fundamental parental rights and call for strict scrutiny as a *matter of judicial precedent*. Yet only 18 states have included them as part of the state's written laws so far" (parentalrightsfoundation.org).

Does This Make Sense? - Some governments and some schools believe they should have complete power over our children's education. They've chosen curriculum that include: drag queen story hour, inappropriate sex education, gender dysphoria, and CRT (Critical Race Theory). This divides American children into two groups, where children either feel guilty as oppressors or shame as oppressed victims without hope of success. While schools can't give aspirin without parental permission, some have facilitated minors' pronoun and restroom changes, puberty blockers, sex change surgeries, and abortions without parent notification.

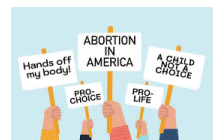
God's Sense - The Bible says: Parents are responsible for their children's education, not the government (Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6). Children are a gift of God to their parents (Psalm 127:3-5). Parents are to cherish and nurture their children (1 Thess. 2:7-8,11-12; Eph. 6:4; Ps.103:13).

Solution - We must pray, speak out, and vote for ballot initiatives and leaders who respect and support parental rights. We should push for parental rights to be part of every state's written laws, carefully scrutinizing the wording. **Share this information with others.**

6. Abortion - Is it a Child or a Choice?

Common Sense - This issue has been relegated back to the states where the people can vote for what they believe is right. No president or federal official can take this decision away from the people. Women have voices and speak up, but who speaks for unborn children? Thankfully, there are individuals who have survived their mothers' attempted abortions. Ten have shared their stories (Abortion Survivors Break Their Silence, by Melissa Ohden). These stories speak for all unborn children who don't yet have their own voices.

Does This Make Sense? - What reasons warrant taking a child's life? A million children? In 2023, more than a million abortions were done in the U.S. (Shots, Health news from national public radio, 3/19/2024, npr.org). Women's reasons were calculated then updated **3**





on 5/24/2024: “Rape and incest: 0.4%; Risk to the woman’s life or a major bodily function: 0.3%; Other physical health concerns: 2.2%; Abnormality in the unborn baby: 1.2%; Elective and unspecified reasons: 95.9% (lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-reasons-for-abortion). Elective abortion reasons include: Having a child would interfere with education or work; Can’t afford a child now; Don’t want to be a single mother; Having relationship problems; Not ready to be a mother; and Finished with child bearing (Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives - cuttmacher.org). One of the biggest arguments abortion proponents make is that a woman has rights over her own body. That is true, but abortion is not killing the mother’s body, it is killing the baby’s body. No one has the right to take a child’s life. During a national emergency, men are drafted, against their will. Doesn’t a man have rights over his own body? For a baby, facing an abortion is a life or death emergency! Our Declaration of Independence guarantees “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” to each of us, mothers and babies alike. It also says that “all are created equal.” That means that the mother’s rights over her body and life do not outweigh the baby’s rights over its body and life, they need to be valued equally. Seeing their baby’s sonogram often changes their minds about having that abortion.

God’s Sense - The Bible says: God hates “hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:17). We’re to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9). The baby is innocent and can’t speak for himself or herself. God calls a fetus a “child” at the moment of conception (Job 3:3). God cares for the life and health of a pregnant mother and of her unborn baby (Exodus 21:22-25), so should we. God blesses midwives and others who protect the life of the unborn and newborns (Exodus 1:1-21). God forms us and knows us and our purpose while we’re still in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). Abortion is equivalent to child sacrifice, the killing of babies for the convenience, beliefs, or religion of the parents (Deuteronomy 12:31). God brought severe judgment on nations allowing this practice (Deuteronomy 7:3-4).

Solution - Each state now has the legal right to address abortion. You should pray, speak out, and vote for ballot initiatives and leaders who support life or your belief system, example: when abortions should be allowed, etc. Also, please support Pregnancy Help Centers (PHCs) who have traditionally been known as “crisis pregnancy centers.” PHCs offer help and support to pregnant women and new mothers. **Share this information with others.**

7. Freedom of Speech or Censoring of Misinformation?

Common Sense - Freedom of speech is guaranteed in our Bill of Rights. The antidote for misinformation, or disinformation, isn’t censorship, but more speech, telling the truth. Conversations where differing views are discussed, help us think more reasonably, analyzing others’ arguments and our own more carefully. We must also use diligence in our own fact checking to discover truth. Censorship allows governments or those with power to control information, which deceives the people and allows ruling parties to become totalitarian. In a democracy, we need to be informed voters not controlled voters. “In the context of Western democracies, free speech became even more relevant, since each citizen should have his/her say and be allowed to contribute in shaping his/her political community. In authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, in both the past and the present, freedom of speech is radically curtailed, particularly the voice of those who do not agree with the political regime, its laws, as well as the public morality they reflect” (National Center for Biotechnology Information, ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

Does This Make Sense? - Some think if a view is different from theirs, it should be censored. They want to control information. They often resort to name calling or false accusations to intimidate and shut down those who disagree with them. They may even try drowning out others’ voices. These tactics mean they can’t logically, factually, or truthfully support their positions. Who’s qualified to say what’s truth or misinformation? Maybe God?

God’s Sense - In the Bible, God invites us to have a discussion with Him, “Come, let us reason together,’ ... ‘Present your case,’ says the Lord. ‘Bring forth your strong reasons,’” (Isaiah 1:18; 41:21). He says to allow others to speak even when we don’t like it, “Let them curse, but You bless” (Psalm 109:28). God says that lack of knowledge can kill us (Amos 4:6) and that “You live in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge Me” (Jeremiah 9:6).

But ... “(Y)ou shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!” (John 8:32).

Solution - We can’t let the government or social media censor speech. We must pray, speak out, and vote for ballot initiatives and leaders who fight against censorship to silence others. We must gain knowledge and be informed voters. **Share this information with others.**

America, let’s get common sense back!

*** **Voting Information for California** *** Go to voting.democracy.works to find pertinent information. Tracking your vote-by-mail ballot when it is mailed, received, and counted—has never been easier. The California Secretary of State is now offering Where’s My Ballot?—a new way for voters to track and receive notifications on the status of their vote-by-mail ballot. Powered by BallotTrax, Where’s My Ballot? lets voters know where their ballot is, and its status, every step of the way. Sign-up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive automatic email, SMS (text), or voice call notifications about your ballot.

