

ELECTION DAY COUNTDOWN: BETTER THAN 1 DAY LEFT [UPDATE-2]

[NB: Updates at the bottom of this post.

/~Rayne]

Old gag, I know...a couple hours left is better than a day left, amirite?

Oh, and a status report on *Cirque du COVID au chez Rayne*: the men in my house were tested at a drive-through. They waited three fucking hours in line behind at least 60 people.

This is absolutely absurd at this point in the pandemic, and it's all Trump's fault.

This country should have funded a skunkworks development program to create and distribute rapid tests which could be done at home.

This country should have funded another skunkworks development program to create and distribute a test-and-trace program which would work cheek-and-jowl with the rapid tests.

There's just no goddamned excuse for this country – which could put the first humans on the moon in a veritable oversized tuna can using less total computing power than in a flip phone – not to have been challenged by its leadership to pull out all the stops to fight this virus and its spread.

But Trump is incapable of leadership. He is only capable of grasping greed and hate.

And this is the best he can do for a closing argument, "Fire Fauci!" The expert on infectious diseases a majority of Americans support?

Wow. Unbelievable, but of course believable. The closing argument is "Fire Fauci." Well, at least it has alliteration.

— Dan Rather (@DanRather) November 2, 2020

Fire Trump.

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Sure most of you heard about Harris County, Texas, and the GOP contesting roughly 127,000 votes cast in early voting via drive-through.

The collective sigh of relief when known-partisan Judge Andrew Hanen ruled against the GOP:

... In his ruling from the bench, Hanen said he rejected the case on narrow grounds because the plaintiffs did not show they would be harmed if the drive-thru ballots are counted. He noted, however, that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals could think differently if the cases reaches it. The Republican plaintiffs are appealing the decision.

If he had ruled on the larger issues in the case, Hanen said, he would have rejected the request to toss out votes already cast. But Hanen said he would have shut down Harris County's drive-thru polling places for Election Day because the tents being used for the sites don't qualify as voting inside a "building," a requirement under state election law. ...

The Texas Supreme Court had already denied requests by Republicans to toss out drive-through ballots not once but twice.

The entire situation reeks of bad faith because local Republicans were involved in setting up the drive-through voting process, and the party didn't file a lawsuit until well after early voting had started.

No idea what will happen next during the appeal

since everything in the year of Trump pandemic is unpredictable; the plaintiffs have now filed this evening.

□BREAKING: Texas Republicans appeal Harris County voting case to 5th Circuit. BUT—They are only seeking to block it for tomorrow (E-Day) no mention of past voting during early vote period.<https://t.co/ugntk4x2F9>

— Marc E. Elias (@marceelias) November 3, 2020

UPDATE — 11:45 P.M. ET — Jeez, just read this Twitter thread by Southpaw, who wrote in the first post, “The notice of appeal to the Fifth Circuit hit the district court docket before Judge Hanen’s written order, which is a road map for the Fifth Circuit to reverse him without remand if it’s so inclined.” Why so sloppy when so much is on the line?

Meanwhile, Tarrant County, TX needs more people to help count a record number of ballots.

Sure feels like Texas is on the verge of flipping blue. TV writer Ira Madison’s Twitter account has been suspended after spoofing Beto O’Rourke, challenging Texans to swing the state, offering nudes in return. Much needed comic relief in Texas.

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Barton Gellman wrote a grim piece for The Atlantic, on How Trump Could Attempt a Coup.

Seems like we’d see more movement toward this already than the non-scalable wall around the White House:

‘Non-scalable’ barrier goes up around White House before election
<https://t.co/Jarw8yW13r>
pic.twitter.com/haY5lx5mR0

— WFLA NEWS (@WFLA) November 3, 2020

Trump's campaign continues to ask for donations through December 14, claiming the money is needed for a protracted legal battle.

Is a long fight expected, or is this part of a set-up for a coup? Or is this just another scam and his base is too stupid to discern this?

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Trump won Michigan in 2016 by a whisker – a 10,000 vote margin, or roughly 2-3 votes per precinct across the state. There was a record undervote that year, with 80,000 voters choosing no candidate at all at the top of the ticket.

The race has been too close for my taste, running an average 6-7 point spread for Biden. Knowing hijinks were employed in 2016 with foreign influence operations and the vote unable to be recounted or forensically analyzed, it's not out of the realm of possibility Trump and the GOP could pull some hanky panky here.

Especially since GOP proxies like the DeVos family and Mitch McConnell's PAC have dumped around \$40 million dollars into the senate race to prop up Trumpist John James against incumbent Gary Peters.

This morning the state began counting absentee ballots and GOP poll watchers made some stink to disrupt the process.

There's a ballot challenger here at TCF Center in Detroit where ballots are to be counted wearing a mask that looks like a horror movie mask, like from the Halloween/Friday the 13th movies. Unclear who he is with.
pic.twitter.com/fP8MzruRf9

– Niraj Warikoo (@nwarikoo) November 2, 2020

They were ejected, one for disruptive behavior and the other for failing to wear a mask safely as required. Can hardly wait to see what crap

they pull on Election Day.

In mid-October, Michigan's Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson barred open carry of weapons in polling places on Election Day due to concerns of voter intimidation. She was sued by several gun rights groups; the state's conservative-majority supreme court ruled against Benson five days ago. Benson appealed; the supreme court hasn't bothered to respond and it's already Election Day as I type this.

The feds are monitoring Detroit, Flint, Eastpointe, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Jackson, Shelby Township for voting rights violation, which seems like a joke since only Detroit, Flint, and Highland Park are minority majority communities.

The feds aren't watching two other known minority majority communities in which a former GOP secretary of state tried to remove secretary of state offices obstructing voters' registration.

While a lot of media attention will fall on Texas, Florida, and Pennsylvania, something is clearly going on in Michigan since Trump had four campaign rallies since Friday in this state. Why the heavy investment? Is it really for John James' benefit? Or is there something else going on we can't see any more readily than we could in 2016?

At least activists have been working hard to motivate Michiganders to vote. Obama was in Flint this weekend and again on Monday with Joe Biden and Stevie Wonder in Detroit. Wonder made a "love letter" video to Michigan with the MeidasTouch.

Also note a late entry aimed at Michigan by the Biden-Harris campaign using Michigan-native Eminem's "Lose Yourself."

You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to blow
This opportunity comes once in a lifetime.

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Thank you if you've already voted. Put the pedal to the metal and ensure everyone else you know votes by the time the polls close tomorrow.

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UPDATE-1 – 1:15 A.M. 03-NOV-2020 –

President Trump just said if he loses the election, he'll never come back to Michigan.

– Yamiche Alcindor (@Yamiche) November 3, 2020

Don't let the door hit you, Donald. Good fucking riddance to bad baggage.

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UPDATE-2 – 1:35 A.M. 03-NOV-2020 –

This twitter thread is heartbreaking, just gutting. Never had to happen.

This was three weeks ago. Dad died this morning after six days on a ventilator.

Pursing herd immunity puts us all at risk of this. Please vote for Joe Biden tomorrow pic.twitter.com/l19Figh0FZ

– Bitter Script Reader
(@BittScrptReadr) November 3, 2020

He's right. Donald Trump murdered BSR's father.
Fire Trump.