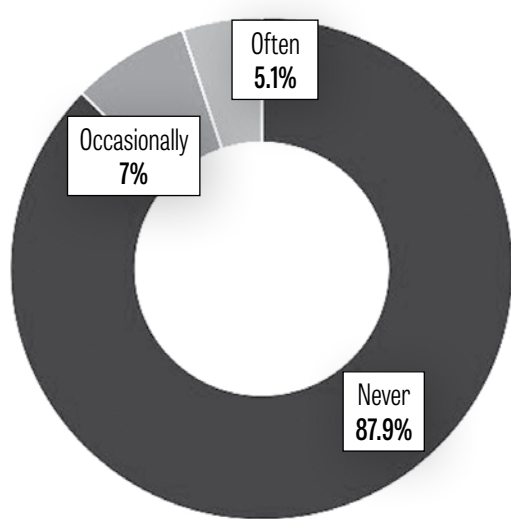


ONLINE POLL:

How often do you use the city-owned Ann Street or transit center parking garages?



This poll reflects the opinions of 199 respondents. Visit www.state-journal.com to take part in today's poll.

EDITORIAL

Share the roadways with farm equipment

We are constantly reminded that motorists should share the road with motorcycles, pedestrians and cyclists. But in Kentucky, especially in the spring and autumn seasons, it is imperative that drivers also remember that area farmers may be moving large sprayers, planters, tractors and other equipment on local roadways as they prepare their fields to get seed in the ground.

“Getting back in the field every spring is one of the best things about farming. But at the same time, it can be dangerous — both in the field and when we have to move equipment on the road,” explained Kentucky Soybean Board Chairman Barry Alexander. “So many things could easily go wrong. Farm equipment is big, it moves slowly, and it makes wide turns.”

During planting season, the Kentucky Soybean Board offers the following safety tips:

- ▶ Plan ahead. If you know the route to your destination includes farm territory, leave a little early so you have extra time and don't feel so hurried.
- ▶ Slow down. Farm vehicles move slowly. They may be just coming out of one field and already preparing to turn into another. Maintain a 50-foot “cushion” between your vehicle and the equipment.
- ▶ Yield. Give farm equipment the right-of-way when meeting it on the road. Tractors and sprayers do well in wide-open fields but weren't designed to navigate narrow roads found in rural Kentucky.
- ▶ Pass carefully. Rural roads are often narrow, curvy and hilly. Be sure you can see a reasonable distance ahead before you consider passing slow-moving equipment and keep an eye on the driver of that equipment.
- ▶ Take a second look. Before pulling into an intersection or making a move to pass, be sure your path is clear in all directions.
- ▶ Be patient. Extra-wide farm machinery may have to take up more than one lane — it can't be helped, and the operator is dodging mailboxes and road signs. Zipping around slow-moving equipment is dangerous, and trying to shave a few minutes off your arrival time isn't worth risking your life or the lives of others.

Like other motor vehicles, farm equipment has equal right to use public roads. In the coming months, local FFA students will be participating in the 18th annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day, so we encourage our readers to be on the lookout for farm equipment and to share the roadways.

When life itself seems lunatic

“When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies. Perhaps to be too practical may be madness. To surrender dreams, this may be madness. To seek treasures where there is only trash ... Too much sanity may be madness, and the maddest of is to see life as it is and not as it should be.” — “Don Quixote,” Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

With the current president, administration, courts and congress, madness lies right in front of us with the boastful proclamation of President Donald Trump indicating that the “overwhelming” majority of Americans have given him a mandate to “Make America Great Again.” America is great, and will be even greater, but not with Trump and his supporters, cowardly and sycophantic GOP, state legislatures, congress and his margin of votes which did not give him a mandate.

A mandate is generally considered the authority to carry out a policy or a course of action given by an “overwhelming” majority of a nation's citizens to an elected official for the common good and not special interests. In Trump's case, both Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden had a wider majority over him. Consider these numbers (rounded up): out of 152 million votes, Trump received 77 million and Harris 75 million (only a 2 million variance); there are 260 million “age eligible voters” in the U.S. of which Trump only received 29.6% of the votes (108 million did not vote). According to World Meter, the U.S. has a population of 346 million, of whom 77 million voted for Trump, giving him only 22.2% of Americans who actually want him as president ... hardly a mandate.

The second manifestation of madness is the immoral, inhuman, economically unsound, socially detrimental and internationally illegal mass deportation of immigrants. While morality, humanity, and human costs are the main concerns, let's look at the economics and logistics of mass deportation. If it were legis-

tically possible to deport 11 million people in one year, the price would be approximately \$315-\$350 billion. But we would need 24 more ICE detention centers, 1,000 new immigration courts for processing, and additional staff, possibly even national guard and improperly, the military; the time frame would be more like 10 years and the price closer to \$967.9 billion (American Immigration Council).



Glenn Ballard
Guest columnist

At the same time, tax revenues would decrease, the workforce would diminish, the national debt would increase, and the U.S. Gross Domestic Product would decrease by at least 4.2%, but more likely by 6.8%. While these numbers represent the price of mass deportation, the following numbers represent the costs — the opportunity costs/alternative investments to which we may more closely relate. These figures are based on 11 million people deported at the one year/\$350 billion price ... we could build 40,450 new elementary schools; construct over 2.9 million new homes; fund Head Start for 79 years; pay full tuition/expenses for 4.3 million to attend state colleges; buy a new car for 20.4 million people. A single year of 1 million people deported at \$96 billion (10-year plan), would cost nearly twice the annual budget of the National Institutes of Health, nearly four times the budget of NASA, nearly three times as much as we spend on child nutrition programs, more than the government gives out in Child Tax Credits, and 18 times more than the entire world spends on cancer research each year. Where does madness lie?

In addition, madness will lie in dismantling federal agencies, like the Department of Education, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (this agency was recently targeted ... an agency which saves the American people and the federal govern-

ment \$4 for every \$1 spent, \$20 billion just last year); a reduced IRS with less ability to collect all taxes due, especially from the super-rich; attacking LGBTQ+ citizens; increasing ultra-conservative judges; eliminating crucial climate regulations; destroying abortion access; decreasing taxes for the ultra-wealthy; gutting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and ACA, nutrition programs, FEMA, and USAID; pulling out of WHO and the Paris Climate Agreement; disregarding the rule of law, international law and human rights.

Is it sane to allow a megalomania infused man who would be king, supported by “magalomania” addicted voters, local boards, state legislatures, a lapdog congress, courts, and a “personal loyalty oath cabinet controlled by an oligarchy, a plutocracy, and a kleptocracy (another term is theocracy) to destroy our 249-year-old experiment in democracy, our constitution, and this government of, by, and for the people? Is it sane to allow our American rule of law, dignity, ideals, morals, liberty and positive world leadership to disappear? Is it sane to allow a group like Christian Nationalists to be the arbiter of our values, morals, rules of conduct and right from wrong? Christian Nationalist, is at best, an oxymoronic figure of speech that has no basis in reality, including religious reality. The concepts of Christianity and Nationalism are essentially and existentially mutually exclusive. Is it sane, for us, the citizens, to do nothing about what is happening in our country, or do we, in the words of Julie Potter, Editor of “Sojourners”, just be “useless bystanders?”

The answer is in one word by William Shakespeare, through “Hamlet”, Act III, Scene III, Line 87 — “No.”

Glenn Ballard, of Frankfort, has 40 years of experience in administration in the areas of mental health, health care and education. He is retired and “a repurposed citizen for commonwealth and country.” He can be emailed at midvar1975@gmail.com.

LETTER

WRITER PROPOSES RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY

Dear editor,

State Auditor Allison Ball wants to play “follow the idiots” in Washington by asking our legislature to create an efficiency group like Elon Musk's “DOGE” (Department of Stupidity).

Yes, that's just what we need: a group of self-appointed fools prowling through citizens' records looking for fraud. (Musk has spent millions of dollars and found nothing.)

If Ball wants to promote efficiency, may I propose the following recommendations:

- Eliminate all legislators' benefits (pensions, medical, vacations, holiday pay, kickbacks, free food, and bribes.)

- Increase the lobbyist fee from \$750.00 to \$500,000.00 every six months.

- All enacted bills must (1) benefit all citizens of the Commonwealth, (2) must be written by the legislator introducing the bill, instead of fools in Iowa.

- All campaign donations are to be taxed at 47% and considered income.

If my recommendations are adopted, the legislative session will last two weeks, the lobbyist will leave and laws benefiting Kentuckians will be passed instead of laws regarding the sex lives of inmates. In addition, money from the legislative benefits will be spent on road improvement, education and the environment instead of Robert Stivers's silk shirts.

*Damian Beach
Frankfort*

SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The State Journal encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters should be the original work of the author, no form letters, and be fewer than 250 words. The State Journal reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and brevity. To submit a letter email letters@state-journal.com. Please provide an address and phone number.

THE State Journal

Joe Imel, Publisher
270-783-3273
joe.imel@bgdailynews.com

Chanda Veno, Editor
502-209-6340
chanda.veno@state-journal.com

Hannah Brown, Design Editor
502-209-6339
hannah.brown@state-journal.com

NEWS

Linda Younkin
502-209-6336
linda.younkin@state-journal.com

Phil Case
502-682-5995
phil.case@state-journal.com

Linda Boileau, Editorial Cartoonist
linda.boileau@me.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Meri Latek, Director of Advertising
502-395-3434
meri.latek@state-journal.com

CLASSIFIEDS/LEGAL NOTICES
classifieds@state-journal.com
public.notices@state-journal.com
502-871-4559

MAIN OFFICE

Sheri Bunker, Director of Customer Service
502-209-6305
sheri.bunker@state-journal.com

Jim Wainscott, Bookkeeper
502-209-6301
jim.wainscott@state-journal.com

The State Journal (USPS 520-160) is published Wednesday and Saturday mornings by Frankfort Newsmedia LLC, 1216 Wilkinson Blvd., Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The State Journal, P.O. Box 368, Frankfort, KY 40602.

State Journal EZ Pay subscription rates: Monthly by mail, \$11.00 per month; three months - \$33.00; six months - \$66.00; 12 months - \$132.00. Plus tax.

For home delivery call the circulation department at 502-227-4556. Periodical postage paid at Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Unclaimed credit balances will be forwarded to our Newspaper in Education Program.

