

09/25/21 Saturday

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'Country Has Gone to Hell': Trump Urges US Voters to Back 'America First' GOP Ahead of 2024 Election

By - Gaby Arancibia

The former US president has recently gotten back in the rally saddle as part of a larger effort to boost the attention of his supporters ahead of the 2024 election cycle. However, despite the latest string of rallies, he has yet to announce whether he will officially contend in the looming presidential cycle.

Former US President Donald Trump urged US voters to give their support to the Republican party in upcoming elections, should they want to keep their country, underscoring that a vote for the Democrats would send the nation into what he described as a downward spiral.

The American president addressed his supporters during a highly-anticipated Saturday rally in Perry, Georgia. Some commentators had suggested that the event would see Trump declare his intent to run in 2024, however, that was not the case.

The weekend rally touched on a variety of topics that ranged from the Biden administration's handling of the Afghanistan withdrawal, surging border crisis in Del Rio and, of course, the Arizona audit results, which recently reconfirmed that US President Joe Biden had bested Trump.

Trump took his first shot at the Biden White House by laying straight into the [latest developments](#) in Del Rio, telling the crowd that the "country is being turned into a migrant camp" before stating that "American sovereignty is being extinguished" by left-wing policies that have - according to Trump - allowed for the migrant surge.

"What they're doing at this level, you're not going to have a country left [by 2024]," Trump told the crowd. "No greater catastrophe - that what's happening at the southern border."

"This would never ever be happening if I were president," the former president added, before going on to blast that criticism dealt to Border Patrol agents who were photographed [violently attacking](#) Haitian migrants.

Trump continued his remarks by stating that migrants "didn't come" to the US-Mexico border while he was in office because they knew it "was not worth the trip."

Data [provided](#) by the Pew Research Center has indicated that border crossings at the US' southern border had been high during the Trump years, but those figures eventually underwent a sharp decline in fiscal 2020 as a result of new strategies the administration used to handle asylum cases.

The Saturday rally also saw Trump claim that countries were "emptying their prisons" into the US.

"Now every [few] months we have hundreds of thousands coming in," the former president told a cheering crowd. "This is an invasion."

Driving his message home, Trump said to his supporters that "if you want to have a country left, you must elect no Democrats and vote only for 'America first' Republicans."

Trump then blasted Biden over the chaotic pullout from Afghanistan, calling it one of the "most appalling displays of incompetence," highlighting that his rally had 13 empty seats in recognition of the service members who were killed in Kabul in the days leading up to the August 31 withdrawal deadline.

"[Democrats] think I have a big mouth. I don't have a big mouth. I have a mouth that tells the truth. I have a mouth that wants to improve our country," he told his supporters. Later, he referred to Biden as "the biggest failure to ever occupy the Oval Office."

Taking a slight detour to the latest happenings in Arizona, specifically with the audit, Trump later accused the media of having "disgracely [sic] reported" the developments.

At one point during the event, Trump suggested that the US was turning into Venezuela, which he described as a place where people are "living in hell."

"We will not be a socialist country," he told the crowd. "This is going to be Venezuela very soon if they keep going the way they're going."

In an odd twist, however, Trump remarked on the outcome of the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election, saying that the Peach State would have been better off if then-Democratic candidate Stacey Abrams had won that election.

Trump's Saturday rally marks the looming 2022 midterm elections, which will determine whether Republicans ultimately regain control of either congressional chamber. Trump has thrown his support behind Republican challengers in Georgia.

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'Things Happen': Trump Says 'Bad Call' From Doctor Would Possibly Prevent 2024 Election Run

By - Gaby Arancibia

Since his departure from the White House, former US President Donald Trump has repeatedly flirted with the idea of jumping into the 2024 presidential election pool. He has yet to give a definitive answer, however, effectively leaving many of his supporters on the sidelines.

Former US President Donald Trump recently revealed that a "bad call" from his physician would be reason enough for him to not toss his name into the pool of presidential contenders in the 2024 election.

The one-term president's remarks came during a late Friday speaking opportunity on "The Water Cooler" podcast with host David Brody. The segment saw Trump touch on a variety of subjects, from his 2024 prospects to his efforts against the House select committee investigating the deadly 6 January Capitol riot.

Trump grabbed the attention of the viewers the moment he noted that his 2024 bid - should he decide to move forward with it - could not occur if his personal physician indicates the former president's health isn't up to the task.

"Well, I don't — I guess a bad call from a doctor or something, right?" Trump told Brody. "Things happen. Through God, they happen."

"But I feel so good," he added.

Trump, 75, is one of the older presidents to serve to date. He was considered the oldest commander-in-chief until his successor clinched the Oval Office at 78 years old.

However, that's not to say he isn't healthy enough to take another job at the presidency.

One of Trump's last physical exams reportedly indicated that he was mostly "healthy," and that he had managed to lower his cholesterol levels. Now away from the constant pressure brought on by the White House, it's anyone's guess whether his health has improved.

In regards to the 2024 election, Trump said that while he knows what he's ["gonna do,"](#) he isn't willing to spill the beans just yet due to "campaign finance laws."

"I think you are gonna be happy, let me put it that way," he told a group of first responders when asked during an event marking the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks whether he would seek another term in the White House.

A [recent poll](#) indicated that just 51% of polled Republicans believe the party would have a better shot at regaining the White House with Trump as its official nominee in the 2024 election cycle.

The remaining 49% agreed that another individual is preferred for the post.

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Magnitude 5.0 Earthquake Rocks Taiwan - EMSC

By - Gaby Arancibia

The early morning earthquake was initially registered by officials as a magnitude 5.7 quake; however, it was subsequently downgraded to a magnitude 5.0.

A powerful magnitude 5.0 earthquake rattled Taiwan early Sunday, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre has revealed. The quake had previously been detected at a magnitude 5.7.

The international non-profit organization noted that the earthquake struck at a depth of 48 kilometers some 39 kilometers north of Taiwan's Hualien City.

Testimonials collected by the site ranged from witnesses describing the disturbance as only lasting a "few seconds," with others noting that the quake simply "rattled the dishes on the fourteenth floor."

"Started out with a slight rolling quake, but ended with an exclamation mark here in Taipei on the 6th floor," another user remarked.

No reports of injuries, fatalities or damages have surfaced following the quake.

The last earthquake detected by officials in the region was recorded in Japan. That even measured out to be a minor magnitude 3.6 quake.

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Video: Amtrak Cross-Country Train Derails in Montana, Leaves Dozens Injured & At Least 3 Dead

By - Evan Craighead

The train has been reportedly identified as Amtrak's Empire Builder, which runs between Chicago, Illinois, and the Pacific Northwest region of the US, including Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

Emergency personnel arrived at a north-central Montana scene on Saturday, following reports that an Amtrak train was knocked off the tracks around 4:00 p.m., local time, while traveling between the state's Havre and Shelby stops, [according to Washington state outlet KXLY](#).

Passengers have published footage from the derailment site, showing crowds of travelers standing near luggage as they wait for further instruction.

Amanda Frickel, the disaster and emergency services coordinator for Hill County, Montana, [told](#) the New York Times that "well over" 50 people had been injured, and that more than one person had died.

Although Frickel steered clear of giving an exact death toll, the Liberty County Sheriff's Office has stated that at least three individuals died as a result of the derailment.

The county official further noted that first responders from six local counties were responding to the scene, and that several hospitals were ready to accept passengers.

A [statement](#) released by Amtrak indicates that the train consisted of two locomotives and 10 cars, of which seven of the cars derailed.

An eyewitness earlier told KSEN radio that at least four cars were turned on their side during the derailment, which is said to have occurred around a mile from the small Montana town of Joplin. Prior to the incident, the train was traveling west, toward Seattle. An Amtrak spokesperson has [indicated](#) that the train had some 146 passengers and 136 crew members onboard.

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McConnell Refuses to Rule Out GOP Blockade of a Biden SCOTUS Nominee

By - Evan Craighead

After the February 2016 death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) notoriously declared that the chamber would not consider any of US President Barack Obama's nominees. GOP senators and McConnell, who said the decision belonged to Obama's successor, refused to hold hearings on the matter.

During a recent interview with Politico, the Senate minority leader was asked whether he would opt to "mount a blockade" against a Supreme Court nominee set forth by US President Joe Biden.

"Cross those bridges when I get there, we are focusing on '22," [McConnell told the outlet](#), referring to the upcoming 2022 midterm elections.

The hypothetical situation is framed within the context of the GOP regaining control of the US Senate in 2022. The upper body of the US government is presently divided 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans.

"I don't rule anything in or out about how to handle nominations if I'm in the majority position," the Senate minority leader added.

In June, McConnell told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that he does not believe members of either political party would move to confirm a Supreme Court nominee in 2024.

"I don't think either party if it controlled, if it were different from the president, would confirm a Supreme Court nominee in the middle of an election," the Senate Minority Leader said.

Talk of a potential vacancy on the high court comes just days after Stephen Breyer, an 83-year-old justice on the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), expressed that he does not want to die in office like other lifetime appointees, such as the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

"I don't live on Pluto, which means I do stay, I think, aware of what happens in the country the best I can," Breyer told [CNN's Fareed Zakaria during a September 19 interview broadcast](#). Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and other Democrats have been vocal in calling for Breyer's retirement. The US senator from Minnesota took her comments a step further earlier this month, urging the associate justice to make his exit "sooner rather than later," if he is truly concerned about the high court's future.

"I believe if he is seriously considering retirement, and he has said he would do it based on not only his own health but also the future of the court, if this decision doesn't cry out for that, I don't know what does," Klobuchar remarked on September 5.

Breyer, in addition to being the oldest serving member of the Supreme Court, is also the most senior liberal on the high court, which is at present notably skewed with a 6-3 conservative majority.

Democrats are concerned that the unbalanced political leaning of the Supreme Court does not accurately mirror the American public's view on several issues, including abortion, gun rights, affirmative action and election/voting legislation.

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Newsom: California to Nix the Word 'Alien' From State Laws on Immigration

By - Evan Craighead

In April, US President Joe Biden ordered US immigration enforcement agencies to immediately halt their use of a number of controversial terms, including "alien," "illegal alien" and "assimilation" - specifically when referring to immigrants in the US.

In the wake of his landslide recall victory, California Governor Gavin [Newsom announced on Friday](#) that the Golden State will expand a number of humane immigration policies that, in part, seek to protect and support immigrants.

Newsom highlighted that one of the bills signed that day effectively replaces the term "alien," which was previously used in reference to non-citizens in California State code.

"As the nation's most diverse state, we are stronger and more vibrant because of our immigrant communities," the California governor said in a quoted statement.

"This important legislation removes the word 'alien,' which is not only an offensive term for a human being, but for far too long has fueled a divisive and hurtful narrative," Newsom added.

"By changing this term, we are ensuring California's laws reflect our state's values."

Per AB 1096, "alien" will be replaced with more modern legal terminology, including "noncitizen" or "immigrant."

California had been using the term "alien" since 1937, while the federal government used it from 1798 until April 2021.