

Greetings!

**It's a pivotal moment  
for America and the world**



**In this article Senator Bernie Sanders reminds us of four pivotal moments in our history, and explains why this November's election is an equally momentous time for America. The historic moments:**

**1776:** American colonies freed themselves from British control and declared independence.

**1861:** Civil war broke out in the United States and over 600,000 people died and slavery was abolished.

**1929:** Wall Street collapsed. The United States and much of the world experienced the Great Depression. Unemployment rose to 25% and millions of Americans descended into economic desperation. In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president and the federal government's role in addressing the needs of working people was transformed.

**1941:** Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and an unprepared United States was forced to mobilize and fight a world war on two fronts: Hitler in Europe and Japan in Asia.

**"Today, in 2024,"** Sanders writes, "our country once again faces a pivotal moment in American history. The crises facing us are enormous. The consequences if we fail are unthinkable." He highlights the climate crisis, wealth inequality, money in politics, AI, and basic human rights. [Here is the full article.](#)



**Stories, insights  
and action for a  
world that works  
for all of us**

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*Justice is what love  
looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

~ ~ ~

**Favorite  
Resources**

[Fix the News](#)  
(Future Crunch)

[Reasons to be  
Cheerful](#)  
[Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)  
[350.org](#)  
[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)  
[Local Futures](#)

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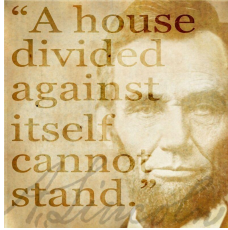
[Desert Rose Press](#)  
[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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**Be warned and take action**

**A house divided . . .**

**In 1858 Abraham Lincoln** described how America had moved away from freedom toward tyranny in his famous



"House Divided" speech. The essence of his view of America at the time was of a house built with weak and rotten timbers on the one hand, and strong and healthy ones on the other.

**How this is relevant today** is discussed in two recent posts by Jay Kuo and Heather Cox Richardson. Kuo asks, "What kind of house is the GOP building?" He observes, "Today, we again see framed timbers of different workmen, from the dictator wannabe ex-president, to the corrupt radicals on the Supreme Court, to the extremist MAGA legislators in Congress and state houses. . . The evidence [for the kind of house they the GOP wants to erect] is now clear: They want a return to patriarchal white Christian rule, and to block our long journey toward a multi-racial, egalitarian, secular society." [Read Jay Kuo's article here.](#)

Read Heather Cox Richardson's [commentary](#) on Lincoln's House Divided speech.

**Make your  
voice heard.**

### **Action Sites for Climate and Democracy**

Given the threats to our democracy and our Earth, I am leaving this resource guide in until the election in November. **Everyone is needed to do whatever they can!**

#### **Climate Action**

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

#### **Protect Our Democracy**

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy.

[thecivicscenter.org](#) : Mobilizing the youth vote in America.

[civicinfluencers.org](#): Also working to register young voters.

[vote.org](#): Everything you need to know to vote.

[steady.substack.com](#): Dan Rather's excellent commentary on current affairs.

[RobertHubbell.substack.com](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[guides.vote](#): Non-partisan guide to how candidates stand on issues.

[commoncause.org](#): An organization working for all aspects of democracy.

[votefwd.org](#): Write letters to encourage folks to vote.

[postcardstovoters.org](#): Here you can write postcards to encourage voters.

[citizen.org](#): Public Citizen is another organization working for democracy.

[statesproject.org](#): A pro-democracy organization working at the state level.

[VoteRiders](#) will tell you what you need to know in order to ensure you can vote.

**Remember, as Dr. Seuss says, "[Every Voice Counts!](#)"**

## **All Kinds of Good News**



### **World Central Kitchen**

I normally don't highlight non-profit



### **Saving the "Yosemite" of South America**



organizations in this newsletter, but because the World Central Kitchen is listed as one of *Time* magazine's most influential companies I have made an exception. It is also a group that I find doing extraordinary and risky work in the world to help people who are most in need due to displacement and war. Here is their [early June newsletter](#) describing their work all over the world, serving 400 million meals "and counting."



### Buy back your lawn?

In a program designed to save water Washington County in Southern Utah will pay you to transform your lawn into native, drought-tolerant plants. They're projecting that by the end of 2024, their program participants will have transformed enough nonfunctional lawn to be equivalent to a roll of sod about 280 miles long. Collectively, these projects should reach 100 million gallons in annual savings by year's end. That is enough water to supply 520 single family households. [Read more.](#)

In a landmark agreement, a Chilean businessman has agreed to sell his 325,000-acre property to the environmentalists who fought against his development plans. The \$63 million sale will preserve some of the most ecologically significant territory in South America, including forests of ancient Alerce trees and the Cochamó Valley, a cathedral of towering granite walls. [Read more here.](#)



### Restoration Projects

The EPA has announced new funding to redevelop 200 industrial sites across the country, and an additional \$14 million will be invested into a job training program. The redevelopments will improve air, water, and soil quality and add tens of millions of dollars in local tax revenues. Many of you have likely been to Buchart Gardens in Canada, a former limestone quarry transformed into an incredible garden. Let's hope this happens in the US now as well. [Read here.](#)

## Wisdom for Our Time



People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do. —Dorothy Day, 1897 – 1980

### Don't Stop Believin'



### My Column

#### "It's about time we . . ."

I didn't get this into the website till mid-June, so here it is for July.  
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I invite you to write your own endings to this beginning sentence. I've listed some of my own

**You might have seen the program  
"America's Got Talent."**

It's always uplifting to witness the amazing talent of an ordinary person like Richard Goodall, a janitor from Indiana.

[Enjoy the show.](#)

*May we not stop believin' in our dreams,  
and in ourselves.*

*Virginia / Gibi*

thoughts in this month's column. Like, "It's about time we got money out of politics."

