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April 2026 Newsletter



Dear Subscriber,

We congratulate all of you who participated in No Kings Day 3 last month. With an estimated 8 million participants nationwide, it was a great success. We are glad to publish some of the many photos you took in your various locations!

Looking ahead, Senior Citizens for America begins a major new initiative today - an intensive series of essays and Zoom meetings with you, our subscribers, called:

**Protecting our Constitutional Democracy:
The issues that are inspiring Americans to oppose an autocratic President
and change the complacent Congress that has enabled him**

Each month we will tee up one or more of the issues through the newsletter, then schedule a webinar or large format Zoom in the course of which knowledgeable persons and you will be able to exchange views on the issues.

We get started with the question posed by Barry Ungar in the essay below entitled "Where are the Young Voters?" Millions of Americans, largely middle-aged and senior citizens, attended the over 3,000 rallies that were held on March 28. They made an excellent showing, but there was only smattering of younger adults among them.

Why was this, and what are its implications? These questions don't always make the headlines. Please read Barry's piece, take a look at some of the statistics that follow it, then review and offer your answers to the questions that are raised.

Next up: discussion of two situations that are very much in the headlines: the Iran War and the recent electoral defeat of Hungary's strong man, Viktor Orbán. The former of these implicates not just one but rather a bundle of issues that affect our national security and economy in multiple ways. The discussion begins in Iran War - Part I. Part II will appear later in the spring. Next, the demise of Orbán's rule is briefly remarked, together with a question of what you make of it.

Finally, we are planning ways for you to take a more active role in SCFA's mission of "protecting democracy in an authoritarian time". You are important to this mission. In fact, you are critical to its success. We will be in touch in the coming weeks to see what you think.

More to come!

The Editor



“Where are the Young Voters ?”

by Barry Ungar

The founding principle of Senior Citizens for America is that we seniors were bequeathed, and flourished under, a system of representative democracy, and that we feel compelled to pass on that bequest to the generations of Americans which follow us. We see that obligation as our principal political purpose. But many of us who have participated in the No Kings rallies have noticed that gray-haired citizens seem to far outnumber younger participants. Why is that?

One possibility is that our observations are not an accurate description of younger voter interest and participation in the anti-authoritarian movement. According to AI, no one thus far has done a demographic study of the participants in the rallies. So anecdotal evidence will have to suffice, and if there is a problem with younger voter engagement, we need to know it sooner rather than later.

According to various sources I've consulted, which consist of online research, discussion with a professor of political science, and my grandchildren, here is what I have learned.

The most concerning reaction came from two of my grandchildren. One is a recent graduate of Vassar. When I described to him the mission of Senior Citizens for America, *i.e.*, that we seniors were blessed to have received from our predecessors our system of government, and feel compelled to protect it and pass it on, his reaction was that his generation does not feel that this system has been a blessing. Another grandchild, a graduate of Cornell, agreed that the present system has not worked well for her generation. She suggested that many of her friends are interested in specific changes, such as those suggested by the new mayor of New York, but that others might want to try some new and different form of government, although she did not know what that form might be.

If this is a common opinion among young voters, SCFA's basic premise will not appeal to that generation. Unfortunately, there is good reason to believe that it is common opinion. We know that discontent with liberal democracy is not limited to the United States. Throughout the democratic world there has been a populist move away from democracy and toward authoritarianism. Particularly in countries which never experienced authoritarian government, such as America, the population may be tempted to give authoritarianism a try, not appreciating that once you give up your political power, it is not easy to recover. We should not abandon our founding principle, but we probably need to add to it, to make clear that we do not want just to preserve our democracy, we also want to improve it.

On the other hand, presence at No Kings rallies may not be a reliable measure of the interest and involvement of younger Americans in the anti-authoritarian movement. Many of us grew up in the 1960s. Public protests come naturally to us. The younger generation may not have confidence that such public protests accomplish anything, and may view them as simply "performative." But they may not be uninvolved; they're just involved in a different way. They rely on social media, and that is where they share opinions and organize. This undoubtedly is true for a significant number of younger voters. SCFA is sensitive to that fact, and presently is investigating how we might use social media to get our messages to a larger audience.

Finally, most of us essentially believe in our government and public institutions. We just think they have been undermined and distorted, and need to be restored. There is some evidence that younger people feel differently. They do not have confidence in the institutions at all. They are less interested in general principles, such as "save democracy," than they are in specific policies. They care about a woman's freedom of choice, LGBTQ rights, ICE conduct, affordability, and other specific issues. If this is the case, it raises an important question for SCFA. Many of us share views on specific issues, but SCFA was formed particularly to defeat a broad idea – authoritarianism. If we want to attract certain portions of the population, perhaps particularly young voters, however, we will have to consider whether to expand our platform to include positions on specific issues.

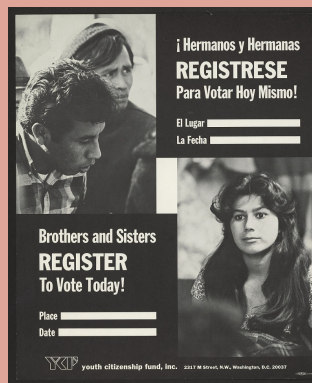
If we are to succeed at our mission, we need to understand the barriers to our success, and to take steps to overcome them. That is what we are continuing to do, and we are grateful for whatever thoughts you, our subscribers, have to help us achieve that goal.

A few statistics from the Pew Research Center and the Pew-Knight

Initiative

It probably won't surprise anyone to learn that the 43.9% voting rate of 18-24 year olds in the most recent presidential election (2024) was substantially lower than the 71.7% voting rate of those 65 and older. However, it might be a surprise to discover that the respective voting rates in the preceding congressional election year, 2022, were not just different but overwhelmingly different, 25.6% v. 64.6%. Older people voted in that election at a ratio of almost 2 1/2 to 1 relative to the younger cohort.

According to a report from the Pew-Knight Initiative entitled "Young Adults and the Future of News", another stark difference between younger and older adults is in the percentages of the two cohorts who generally follow the news. In the case of older adults, it's 62%. For the younger cohort, it's only 15%. (Notably, when they are looking for news, 76% of younger adults find it on social media, with about half of these getting it from "news influencers".) The report goes on to say that younger adults are less likely to feel attached to their communities than older adults are. In addition, although all of us may find the news unsettling, younger adults are particularly prone to being upset by it. 33% of young adults reported feeling scared and confused by the news "often or extremely often."



(A poster from the 1970's prepared by the Youth Citizenship Fund, Inc. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.)

Now, some questions for your consideration!

Have you ever had a conversation with your grandchildren (or other young people) about the subject of democracy?

If they are old enough to vote, have they registered and voted in an election?

What issues do they seem to care most about?

Have they expressed to you any opinion about the importance or lack of importance of voting? Do they think it makes any difference?

Have they experienced any civic education courses in their school this year? Any other year?

Do you think that they have been adequately prepared by their school(s) to exercise their rights as citizens?

Would you like to see more attention paid to civic education and, if so, what would you recommend?

We would love to have your feedback. Please send us your thoughts on these questions or any related subjects either by going to our website (use the button at the bottom of this newsletter and navigate to Contact Us) or by sending us an email at seniorcitizensforamerica@gmail.com. Thanks!

A Petition Proposed by Subscriber Les Wold of Les Wold Consulting LLC

The following petition takes language from two of the most important documents in the history of the United States of America, the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address. This was intentionally done to remind us of our history and place it in the context of the present day.

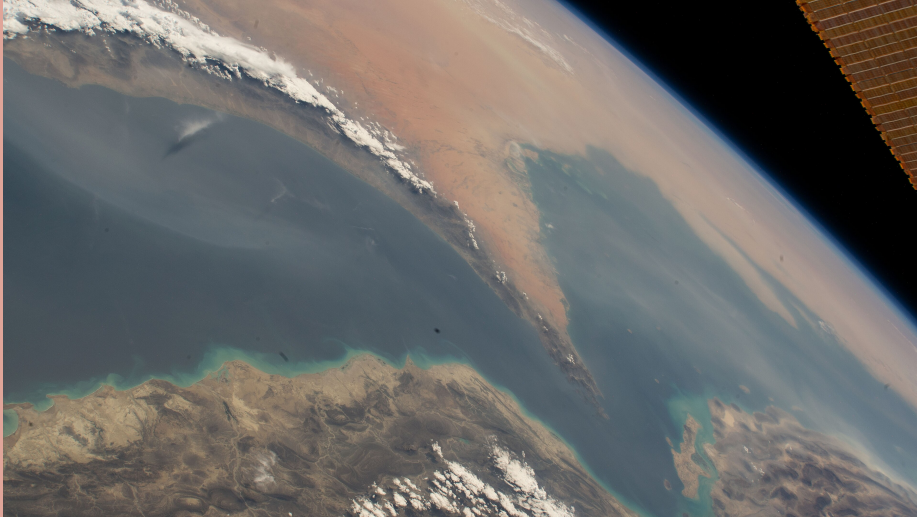
“At times in the course of human events it becomes necessary to both state and stand up for what we believe to be in the best interests of the local and global community in which we live. We the undersigned citizens of the United States of America, in an effort to preserve a less than perfect Union, hereby reassert and declare that all people are endowed with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

“Now we are engaged in a great civil debate testing whether this democracy as it was conceived can long endure. In signing below we hereby dedicate ourselves to preserve the freedoms upon which this country was founded, and that under the legal system of the United States of America, government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

- Les Wold, MD, MBA (Dr. Wold can be contacted at les.wold.llc@gmail.com.)

The Iran War - Part I

by John F. Smith III



(The Strait of Hormuz, image courtesy of the National Air and Space Administration)

This heavenly - literally heavenly - view of the Strait of Hormuz is, like so many other pictures taken from space, a reminder of the beauty of our planet. At the same time, it misleads the viewer, obscuring the conflict that rages within and around it and the role that this apparently benign waterway is playing in the affairs of both people and nations.

In past issues of the newsletter, we urged that the question of war be brought before the Congress, the only body constitutionally able to declare such a condition, particularly in a case where the United States is the aggressor and not the victim. The administration has ignored this and has proceeded on a course of reckless destruction, only to discover that it lacks the power to bring Iran to heel. Subsequent efforts by Congress to pass a new War Powers Resolution have not succeeded in attracting a majority of the members and have therefore failed.

The consequences of the conflict they have been staggering. To note just a few of them:

-A waterway that normally carries 20% of the world's shipments of oil has effectively been closed by Iran, and now also by the counter-blockade instituted by the United States.

-The immediate result of the forced cessation of shipping traffic is a major reduction in the supply of petroleum to many countries in need of the energy it generates and the products derived from it.

-Because the oil market is essentially one big worldwide market the constriction of supply has raised the cost of oil and oil-based products across the globe. Everyone is paying more for those products, even Americans, notwithstanding that the United States is a net producer of petroleum and regards it as a major export.

-The resulting increase in gasoline prices has hit the budgets of every driver in our country. For the truck driver, the staggering cost of a gallon of diesel fuel is threatening to put many out of business.

-Where the higher price of fuel can somehow be borne by shippers, that cost is passed on to both the immediate and end users of the products - from raw materials to finished goods. Consumers are suddenly confronted with expenses that they did not anticipate. Manufacturers of products raise the prices of their manufactures, an

additional cost that is again passed on to consumers.

-Inflation has thus been re-triggered and is impacting the entire world economy. Ironically, the winners in this stilted situation include our principle enemy, Russia, which, not being dependent on shipping the through the strait, now gets to sell its own oil production to needy nations at a premium.

-Meanwhile, having extravagantly expended limited stocks of weaponry - both defensive missiles like the Patriot System and offensive missiles like the Tomahawk, the United States has seen a reduction of its own long-term military resources. Those sophisticated armaments will be expensive to manufacture on the now-projected urgent basis and it will take a long time to complete the anticipated orders.

-In the interim, our capacity to face down an aggressive China and to support a Ukraine that remains under Russian attack has at least partially been compromised.

-Partly because of this, and partly just because the President and the Secretary of Defense appear hell-bent to create a massive war machine for future use, the Trump administration has sought billions in immediate defense appropriations and a gigantic half trillion - that's trillion, with a "T" - dollar increase for the Defense Department for fiscal year 2026-2027.

What, then, can be done to rein in the irresponsible conduct of the administration?

Happily, the courts, particularly the lower federal courts, have stood up to the abuses of the executive branch in a broad array of matters. For ordinary citizens, though, our primary remedy must be found in Congress. This is particularly so given that the courts usually defer to the other branches of government in matters of war and national security. So, it is ultimately upon Congress, with its power to declare war and power of the purse, upon which we must rely.

Regrettably, for the last year and one-half, the Article One branch has been anything but reliable. Congress has been complacent at best and complicit at worst in dealing with the actions of the Executive Branch, including its institution of the current war.

This is why Senior Citizens for America is so heavily focused on the Congress, both in the immediate future and the longer term.

The Congress of today needs to be pressed to change its present views. The Congress of tomorrow needs to be transformed through a change in the balance of power.

For today, we have the power to lobby, petition for the redress of grievances, and assemble peaceably to make our voices heard. Individual communications to our representatives and rallies like No Kings Day 3 are the critical indicated actions. For tomorrow, we have the ballot box. Here is our true power. Seniors turn out to vote in greater percentages than any other demographic. Voting is our "secret sauce", and we will need to use it in November.

Indeed, each of the 1,800 of us subscribers needs to communicate the same message to our children and grandchildren. (Spoiler alert: This will be among the suggestions we will soon be making of ways that you can join in "protecting democracy in an authoritarian time".)

In the case of the Iran War, the immediate need is for Congress to reengage, taking the lead back from the administration in defining the goals of the Iran conflict and the funding that will be made available for its completion. Accordingly, we urge you to urge your representatives and Senators to support two things:

- new war powers legislation, and
- fiscal measures and budgetary appropriations tailored so as to adequately cover the nation's true defense needs without taking us down the insane rabbit hole of providing everything the administration is asking for.

It will take doggedness and courage on their part. The members who have these

qualities will deserve our thanks, and our financial contributions, too.

While only incidentally related to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, serious structural and personnel damage has contemporaneously been done by this administration to our armed services and other institutions responsible for our national security. We will detail this later in the year in *The Iran War - Part II*.

A recent electoral event in Hungary with significance for the cause of democracy everywhere: the ouster of Viktor Orbán



(c) European Union, 1998-2026

Hungary's longstanding leader served for multiple terms in an increasingly autocratic fashion. He came to personify the way in which "one-man rule" could develop out of a democratic system of government. Many have found his example to be a warning of what could happen in our own country.

Comments? Please use the Contact Us function of the SCFA website (accessible using the button below) and let us know what you think.

Information about key primary election dates in Pennsylvania

Last day to register to vote: May 4, 2026

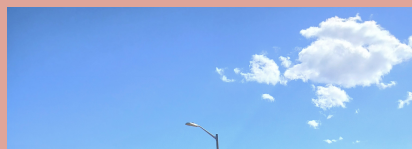
Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: May 12, 2026

Election day: May 19, 2026

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

And, finally, more of your NKD3 photos!

(All of the No Kings Day 3 photos, here and earlier in the newsletter, were taken by SCFA members)





Log on to SCFA's website here



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