

Eye on the World

Sept. 28, 2019

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Sept. 21, 2019.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Myron Ebell and Steven J. Milloy titled “Wrong Again: 50 Years of Failed Eco-Pocalyptic Predictions” was posted at cei.org on Sept. 18, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Thanks go to Tony Heller, who first collected many of these news clips and posted them on RealClimateScience.

Summary

Modern doomsayers have been predicting climate and environmental disaster since the 1960s. They continue to do so today.

None of the apocalyptic predictions with due dates as of today have come true.

What follows is a collection of notably wild predictions from notable people in government and science.

More than merely spotlighting the failed predictions, this collection shows that the makers of failed apocalyptic predictions often are individuals holding respected positions in government and science.

While such predictions have been and continue to be enthusiastically reported by a media eager for sensational headlines, the failures are typically not revisited.

- 1967: 'Dire famine by 1975'—source: Salt Lake Tribune, November 17, 1967
- 1969: 'Everyone will disappear in a cloud of blue steam by 1989'—source: New York Times, August 10 1969
- 1970: Ice age by 2000—source: Boston Globe, April 16, 1970
- 1970: 'America subject to water rationing by 1974 and food rationing by 1980'—source: Redlands Daily Facts, October 6, 1970
- 1971: 'New Ice Age Coming'—source: Washington Post, July 9, 1971
- 1972: New ice age by 2070—source: NOAA, October 2015
- 1974: 'New Ice Age Coming Fast'—source: The Guardian, January 29, 1974
- 1974: 'Another Ice Age?'—source: *Time*, June 24, 1974
- 1974: Ozone Depletion a 'Great Peril to Life'—but no such 'great peril to life' has been observed as the so-called 'ozone hole' remains—sources: headline (NASA Data and Graph)
- 1976: 'The Cooling'—source: New York Times Book Review, July 18, 1976
- 1980: 'Acid Rain Kills Life in Lakes'—source: Noblesville Ledger (Noblesville, IN) April 9, 1980
- 1978: 'No End in Sight' to 30-Year Cooling Trend—source: New York Times, January 5, 1978—but according to NASA satellite data there is a slight warming trend since 1979—source: DrRoySpencer.com
- 1988: James Hansen forecasts increase regional drought in 1990s—but the last really dry year in the Midwest was 1988, and recent years have been record wet—source: RealClimateScience.com
- 1988: Washington DC days over 90F to from 35 to 85—but the number of hot days in the DC area peaked in 1911, and have been declining ever since—source: RealClimateScience.com
- 1988: Maldives completely under water in 30 years—source: Agence France Press, September 26, 1988
- 1989: Rising seas to 'obliterate' nations by 2000—source: Associated Press, June 30, 1989
- 1989: New York City's West Side Highway underwater by 2019—source: Salon.com, October 23, 2001
- 1995 to Present: Climate Model Failure—source: CEI.org
- 2000: 'Children won't know what snow is'—source: The Independent, March 20, 2000
- 2002: Famine in 10 years—source: The Guardian, December 23, 2002

- 2004: Britain to have Siberian climate by 2020—source: The Guardian, February 21, 2004
- 2008: Arctic will be ice-free by 2018—source: Associated Press, June 24, 2008
- 2008: Al Gore warns of ice-free Arctic by 2013—source: WattsUpWithThat.com, December 16, 2018
- 2009: Prince Charles says only 8 years to save the planet—source: The Independent, July 9, 2009
- 2009: UK prime minister says 50 days to 'save the planet from catastrophe'—source: The Independent: October 20, 2009
- 2009: Arctic ice-free by 2014—source: USA Today, December 14, 2009
- 2013: Arctic ice-free by 2015—source: The Guardian, July 24, 2013
- 2013: Arctic ice-free by 2016—source: The Guardian, December 9, 2013
- 2014: Only 500 days before 'climate chaos'—source: Washington Examiner



An article by David M. Allison titled "5 Reasons Why the Saudi Oil Attacks Won't Lead to [U.S.] War With Iran" was posted at nationalinterest.org on Sept. 20, 2019. Following is the article.

Almost immediately after Saturday's [Sept. 14] attack on a major Saudi Aramco oil production facility in Abqaiq, the first fingers were pointed at Iran.

While Tehran's Houthi allies in Yemen claimed responsibility, unnamed U.S. officials told the media Iran had launched cruise missiles and drones from its territory.

As Saudi oil production halved and U.S. gasoline prices spiked, President Donald Trump raised the stakes. He warned that the United States was "locked and loaded" following identification of the perpetrator. This led numerous outlets to claim that a U.S.-Iran war is likely or even inevitable. Fortunately, there are five reasons why it's not.

1. Americans don't want war with Iran.

Despite four decades of tense relations and the popular slogan "Death to America" in Iran, the U.S. public simply does not want to fight Iran. We collected original weekly public opinion survey data in June and July 2019 to gauge the willingness of Americans to support military action against Iran.

The data revealed that strong majorities of Democrats (86 percent), Independents (81 percent), and Republicans (81 percent) would all support a presidential decision to take no escalatory action. There was also common

support for imposing additional sanctions (52, 61, and 89 percent, respectively), but support for military options was substantially lower.

The timing of these surveys was critical. In a period where U.S. officials repeatedly accused Iran of belligerent actions, attitudes remained stable across the political spectrum.

Our study included both the June 13 attacks on the Japanese tanker *Kokuka Courageous* and the Norwegian tanker *Front Altair* in the Gulf of Oman and the June 20 shutdown of a U.S. Navy RQ-4A drone over the Strait of Hormuz.

Neither incident significantly increased public support for military action. Even Republicans did not express increased support for airstrikes or a ground invasion in the days following Iranian provocations.

The durability of these preferences mean that last weekend's strikes on Saudi oil processing facilities are unlikely to result in any public pressure for a response. Public support—even among President Donald Trump's political base—is highest for nonmilitary options.

2. Trump has shown his hand. He prefers negotiation to conflict with Iran.

For all his bluster, President Trump has repeatedly expressed a preference for pursuing negotiations instead of military actions. Trump has also established a reputation for threatening to use force and then quickly dialing back his tough talk.

Just two months ago, he made public that he had called off a strike against Iran and expressed hope that Iranian leaders would join him at the bargaining table.

This reversal mirrors Trump's actions in 2017, when he repeatedly threatened to destroy North Korea. Ultimately, he decided against the military option and eventually became the first sitting U.S. president to cross the Demilitarized Zone into North Korea.

As of Tuesday, Trump has said that while final intelligence confirmation of Iranian culpability was forthcoming, he still wanted to avoid war.

This statement follows his observation on Monday during remarks, alongside the Crown Prince of Bahrain, that diplomacy is "never exhausted until the final 12 seconds."

Trump has stuck to this reasoning even as circumstantial evidence has emerged that U.S. satellites observed Iranian preparations for the Aramco strikes.

3. The "devil incarnate" has left the building.

Until last week, John Bolton—who former Secretary of Defense James Mattis joked was the "devil incarnate"—was Trump's National Security Advisor.

Bolton's dismissal has significantly weakened the influence of the so-called "B-Team" consisting of Bolton, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed.

Bolton, one of the strongest proponents of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, was long considered the most hawkish of White House senior advisors with the ear of the president. He advocated for a confrontational approach to North Korea, Russia, and Syria and has reportedly sought a confrontation with Iran for years.

Indeed, Bolton emerged as one of the chief antagonists of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal. However, Bolton's ouster has been directly linked to a disagreement about Iran policy, and his departure suggests that Iran doves now dominate White House thinking.

4. The U.S. military is opposed to fighting Iran.

In July of this year, U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley expressed skepticism to the Senate about the likelihood of a major war with Iran.

Milley, a four-star general, made these remarks during his confirmation hearings to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he explained that the military is focused on a strategy of great-power competition, and conflict with a recalcitrant state like Iran would be disruptive to these plans.

Reporters for the *Wall Street Journal* have since confirmed that these views remain the dominant narrative at the Pentagon. Unsurprisingly, military officials have been urging caution and restraint in the aftermath of Saturday's attack.

Still, U.S. strategic planners have continued to run war games of a potential conflict with Iran.

The scenarios take into account the following.

- Roughly nine hundred thousand active and reserve Iranian military personnel.
- Potential mining of the Strait of Hormuz.
- An arsenal of ballistic missiles.
- Relatively modern indigenous and Russian-origin air defenses.
- A population that will assuredly take up arms against an invader.

Regardless of overwhelming U.S. military superiority vis-a-vis Iran and power projection capabilities, the U.S. military knows this would not be an easy fight.

5. Iran doesn't really want a war with the United States.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has publicly stated that Iran does not seek war with the United States. Iranian officials know that while the United States might not be able to conclusively win, Iran would bear the majority of the human costs.

The shadow of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq War still looms large in the mind of the Iranian public. Iran suffered an estimated one million deaths in the conflict, or 2 percent of its population at the time—impacting an entire generation.

Iran's objective isn't to bait the United States into a war. Rather, it is to play a careful game of chess that allows the regime to improve its bargaining position by demonstrating the ability to impose costs on the United States and its allies.

Tehran has done this through a series of limited and reversible escalations while avoiding what their own leaders admit would be a devastating war against a more powerful foe.

They have carefully avoided provocations that might force Trump's hand, relying on the use of proxy forces and covert action in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

And Iran has good reason to believe this strategy may work, given Trump's cancellation of previous strikes on Iran and willingness to bargain with North Korea following intensification of its rhetoric and nuclear and missile activities.

The bottom line

While scholars and policymakers frequently express concern about the risk of accidental war, avoiding inadvertent escalation seems quite feasible in this case.

Because the United States and Iran are both committed to avoiding war, any further actions will consist of carefully limited strikes or covert and proxy activities. Miscalculation is unlikely when open conflict would come with high costs for both countries, costs that neither their leaders nor their publics are willing to accept.



An article by Candida Moss titled "Have Archaeologists Found Where Jesus Fed the 5,000?" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Sept. 22, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Archaeologists excavating near the Sea of Galilee may have discovered the site where Jesus is said to have miraculously fed a crowd of five thousand people using only five loaves and two fish. The miracle, which is mentioned in all four of the canonical Gospels, is regarded by some historians as one of the more ancient traditions associated with Jesus.

The new claim is based on discoveries made by scientists from the University of Haifa. During excavations at the Byzantine era "Burnt Church" in the Hippos National Park (the church is named because it was one of seven churches destroyed as part of the Sasanian conquest in 614 CE).

Archaeologists uncovered a 1,400 year old mosaic on the floor of the church that depicts the feeding miracle.

According to the Gospel of Mark, Jesus and his disciples withdrew to a "deserted place" in the Galilee region after the death of John the Baptist in order to rest (Mark 6:31). The location must have been relatively close to the shore of the Sea of Galilee because they used a boat to get there.

Once the group came ashore they were swamped by a crowd of people who had followed them there. The ever-practical disciples advised Jesus to send the crowd away as it was growing late and there was nothing for people to eat.

The miracle that follows is by biblical standards a rather low-key affair. Jesus had the disciples gather up the nutritional resources of the group. Then, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the bread, and had the loaves and fishes evenly distributed among the people.

- Traditionally, people have believed that the feeding of the five thousand miracle took place in Tabgha, Capernaum, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- Hippos, the site of the newest discovery, is on the southeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Both these churches were constructed during a period in which Christians made pilgrimages to religious sites looking for the alleviation of physical suffering. This suffering was usually related to sickness but people also asked for help with the hardships that resulted from crop failure, famine, taxation, and conflict.

Perhaps what we have here are different religious centers that competed for and catered to the needs of pilgrims and tourists.

Equally, the discovery of multiple churches claiming a connection to the feeding of the five thousand story might just be directing us to the importance of food in ancient religion and religion in general.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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- An article titled “Trump Won’t Like This: Iran’s Clever Strategy of Pushback Is Working” was posted at nationalinterest.org on Sept. 21, 2019.
 - An article titled “Iran’s Nightmare: Israel F-35s Armed With Hypersonic Missiles” was posted at nationalinterest.org on Sept. 21, 2019.
 - An article by Aron Heller titled “Israeli Politics Remain in Chaos After Deadlocked Election” was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 26, 2019.
 - An article by Jared Malsin and Amira El-Fekki titled “Rare Egyptian Protests [Against President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi] See Dozens Arrested” was posted at wsj.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
 - An article by Steven Lee Myers titled “A Crackdown on Islam Is Spreading Across China” was posted at yahoo.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
 - A Reuters article titled “Somalia’s [Islamist Militant Group] Al Shabaab Raid Military Base, Loot Weapons” was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 22, 2019.

- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Breakthroughs As British PM Calls for New Iran Deal; Europeans Blame Iran for Saudi Attack" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article titled "U.S. [Education Department] Orders 2 Universities [Duke and North Carolina] to Recast Tone on Israel" was posted at nytimes.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
- An article titled "India Seizes One Ton of Ketamine [\$42 Million Worth] on Boat, Arrests Six Myanmar Crew" was posted at afp.com on Sept. 22, 2019.
- An article by Foster Klug and Deb Riechmann titled "Pakistan PM Warns of War As Trump, India's Leader Buddy Up" was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 24, 2019.
- An article by Jose Orozco titled "Mexico's Record-Setting Homicides, Sluggish Economy Test AMLO [President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador]" was posted at bloomberg.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "The Corrupt UN Strikes Again, Human Rights Council Sets Up Resolution Applauding Venezuelan Dictator Maduro" was posted at townhall.com on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article by Sarah Knapton titled "Eating Meat Could Be Banned Like Smoking, Says Top Barrister [Britain's Michael Mansfield], As He Calls for New Crime of 'Ecocide' " was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article titled "Iceland (Yes, Iceland) Is the Best Place in the World for Retirement [According to the Annual Global Retirement Index by Natixis Investment Managers Ranking 44 Developed Countries; With the U.S. Slipping 2 Spots to 18th]" was posted at money.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Barbie Latza Nadeau titled "Italy and France Prepare for Imminent Collapse of Mont Blanc Glacier" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article titled "Earthquake [Magnitude 6.5] Shakes Eastern Indonesia, Kills at Least 20" was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 26, 2019.
- An article titled "Thousands of Swiss Protest 5G Wireless Over Health Fears" was posted at afp.com on Sept. 21, 2019.



An article by Dan Alexander titled "The Net Worth of Every 2020 Presidential Candidate" was posted at forbes.com. Following are excerpts of the article.

Everyone knows Donald Trump is rich. But how about the 25 people jockeying to replace him as president?

Forbes dug into the details—examining financial disclosure statements, scouring local real estate records and calculating pension benefits—to figure out the finances of the 2020 candidates.

Methodology: By law, all presidential candidates must file financial disclosure reports, which list most of their assets and liabilities in broad ranges. That gives us a start. We narrow those ranges wherever possible, then hunt for holdings and debts not listed on the filings, like personal real estate, mortgages and federal government pensions. This ranking includes assets owned by spouses and dependent children.

There were some surprises.

- Bernie is a millionaire.
- So is “middle-class Joe” Biden.
- Elizabeth Warren is richer than both of them, worth an estimated \$12 million.
- Warren has a net worth of \$12 million and Sanders has broken into the 1%. Some progressive candidates who are pushing policies to tax the wealthy might end up being the target of their own platforms.
- But Warren is a long way from John Delaney, whose \$200 million fortune makes him twice as wealthy as every other Democratic candidate not named Tom Steyer. The hedge fund tycoon, who announced his candidacy in July 2019, is worth an estimated \$1.6 billion.

Aside from Trump and Steyer, the average net worth is \$12.9 million—the same as it was for the 2016 contenders. The median net worth is \$2 million. The poorest is Pete Buttigieg, who has an estimated \$100,000—or about 0.003% of Trump’s fortune.

We reached out to all of the candidates. No one, not even the Democrats who spend the most time bashing Trump for his financial dealings, answered every question. So we ranked the entire field on transparency, assigning scores ranging from 0 (lips sealed) to 5 (full disclosure). In the end, we uncovered the money, regardless of whether the candidates wanted it out in the open.

The \$5 billion field

Forbes has not yet estimated the net worth of three 2020 candidates, Wayne Messam, Bill Weld and Joe Walsh. Messam has yet to file a financial disclosure report. After publication of this article, Weld released his disclosure, and Walsh declared his candidacy. This story will be updated.

- Donald Trump

Net worth: \$3.1 billion

Financial transparency score: 0/5

Money raised (as of June 2019): \$124 million

The billionaire-in-chief is rich enough to fund his entire presidential campaign by himself. Not that he will. While donors around the country have been pitching in to support his reelection effort, the richest president in American history has donated exactly \$0 of his own, according to the latest filings.

■ Tom Steyer

Net worth: \$1.6 billion

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$0

After years of backing other Democrats, the hedge funder is trying his own luck as a candidate. Money won't be an issue. Steyer founded Farallon Capital in 1986 and turned it into one of the largest hedge fund firms in the country. He stepped back in 2012 to focus on politics and philanthropy, concentrating his early efforts on protecting the environment. That struck some people as odd, given that he had previously invested in the fossil-fuel industry. Oil tycoon Harold Hamm, a prominent Trump supporter, once called Steyer "the world's biggest hypocrite." For his part, Steyer said he had a change of heart and divested his old fossil-fuel holdings.

■ John Delaney

Net worth: \$200 million

Financial transparency score: 2/5

Money raised: \$26 million

Delaney made a fortune in the business world before serving three terms in Congress. The son of a union electrician, he launched HealthCare Financial Partners, a lender to health care businesses, in 1993. One of his major backers: Tom Steyer, whose hedge fund invested \$25 million. Delaney took HealthCare Financial Partners public in 1996 and pocketed \$30 million when he sold it three years later to Heller Financial (later rolled into GE Capital). He quickly founded a second company, commercial lender CapitalSource, raising \$542 million to launch it—\$190 million of it from Steyer's firm.

■ Michael Bennet

Net worth: \$15 million

Financial transparency score: 2/5

Money raised: \$4 million

The Democratic senator got millions working for Republican megadonor Philip Anschutz. After serving in the Justice Department during the Clinton administration, Bennet left Washington in 1997 to join the Anschutz Investment Company. There, he worked on a deal to merge three movie theater chains

into Regal Entertainment Group and ultimately joined its board of directors. Today his assets include hedge fund holdings and Colorado real estate.

■ Elizabeth Warren

Net worth: \$12 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$36 million

Teachers aren't paid so poorly after all—at least not Harvard professors. Warren and her husband, Bruce Mann, both longtime instructors at the university, have built up a small fortune through years of teaching, writing and consulting. Their largest holdings include TIAA and CREF accounts (available to educators and nonprofit employees) worth more than \$4 million. One of their best investments has been their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, purchased in 1995 for \$447,000. It's now worth an estimated \$3 million.

■ Joe Biden

Net worth: \$9 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$22 million

"Middle-class Joe" is now solidly upper class. The former vice president and his wife, Jill, earned more than \$15 million in the two years after they left the White House, cashing in on a multi-book deal with publisher Flatiron. In 2017, they dropped \$2.7 million on a 4,800-square-foot pad in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The next year, they paid off a mortgage on their other home, in Wilmington, Delaware.

■ Kamala Harris

Net worth: \$6 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$25 million

Senator Harris married lawyer Douglas Emhoff in 2014, creating a California power couple. She brought the clout, and he brought the money. Since then, they have raked in \$8.2 million—most of it from Emhoff's work at law firms Venable and DLA Piper. The couple owns homes in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, worth a combined \$5.8 million before debt.

■ Joe Sestak

Net worth: \$6 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$0

Sestak graduated second in his class at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1974 and retired as a three-star admiral three decades later. For his service, he gets roughly \$120,000 every year for the rest of his life. That pension is worth nearly \$1.5 million. Sestak has funneled his salary into a diversified portfolio, which includes more than \$15,000 of Apple stock and at least \$100,000 in Amazon shares.

■ **Beto O'Rourke**

Net worth: \$4 million

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$14 million

The former Texas congressman married into a rich family (his wife, Amy, is the daughter of an El Paso real estate tycoon) but only a small chunk of that wealth has trickled down to the couple. Their largest asset is a note held by Amy, worth \$2.5 million, according to a campaign spokesperson. Beto holds a minority interest in a \$2.5 million El Paso strip mall, which he got from his mother.

■ **Bill De Blasio (dropped out)**

Net worth: \$2.5 million

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$1 million

Mayor Bill de Blasio has spent most of his life in public service, but like the Oval Office occupant he hopes to replace, he owes his fortune to timely investments in New York City real estate. In 2000 de Blasio, who held a handful of city and federal jobs before being elected mayor, and his wife bought a 1,200-square-foot row house on a quiet Brooklyn block. Four years later, they picked up a 1,600-square-footer just down the road. Since then, real estate values have skyrocketed. Last year de Blasio collected \$108,450 by renting out the two properties while he and his family live in Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official residence.

■ **Bernie Sanders**

Net worth: \$2.5 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$46 million

Turns out, the socialist senator is a pretty successful capitalist. After running for president in 2016, Sanders inked three lucrative book deals that have brought him more than \$2 million so far, catapulting him into the 1%. Since the 2016 election, he has shelled out \$575,000 for a northern Vermont summer home and paid off a 30-year mortgage on his Burlington, Vermont, house—25 years early.

■ Jay Inslee (dropped out)

Net worth: \$2 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$5 million

Since 1988, Inslee has bounced back and forth between the Washington state government (serving as a legislator and now governor) and the federal government (representing Washington's 4th district, then its 1st district). That's made him eligible for an estimated \$68,000 per year for life in state and federal pensions, an income stream worth around \$750,000 in all. He owns a five-bedroom, \$1 million home outside Seattle.

■ Amy Klobuchar

Net worth: \$2 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$13 million

A prosecutor turned politician, Klobuchar holds a plain-vanilla portfolio. Her retirement holdings include a federal pension worth an estimated \$560,000, the result of 12 years in the U.S. senate.

■ Cory Booker

Net worth: \$1.5 million

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$12 million

When the New Jersey senator arrived in Washington in 2013, he owned stock in companies like Netflix, Facebook and Amazon. He sold all of that within a year of taking office, putting the proceeds into checking and savings accounts. Today Booker's portfolio includes a 2,800-square-foot house in Newark, where he served as mayor from 2006 to 2013, and a New Jersey state pension. His federal tax returns show average annual giving of 11%, higher than any of the other 14 candidates who have released their filings.

■ Steve Bullock

Net worth: \$1.5 million

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$2 million

The governor of Montana is a small-time landlord. He owns 50% of a historic building in Helena, Montana, where he rents out two commercial spaces and one residential apartment. It's in a convenient location for Bullock, just a mile down the

road from his office at the state capitol. His stake is worth roughly \$300,000 after debt. The rest of Bullock's portfolio is mostly composed of retirement accounts.

■ Marianne Williamson

Net worth: \$1.5 million

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$3 million

Williamson made millions as a self-help guru and author (with books like the 1992 bestseller *A Return To Love*), but she hasn't held onto most of the money. What she does have sits in mutual funds, money market accounts and cash accounts, along with a handful of publicly traded stocks like Apple, Home Depot and VF Corp. While Williamson is not likely to win the election, she'll almost certainly make money off her campaign. In April, she released her latest book, *A Politics of Love*.

■ Kirsten Gillibrand

Net worth: \$1 million

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$15 million

Gillibrand owns a \$350,000 home in Troy, New York, with her husband, Jonathan. She's the breadwinner, earning \$174,000 annually for serving in the senate. He made just \$185,000 as a consultant and investor between 2007 and 2018, according to tax returns. Their most valuable asset appears to be Gillibrand's federal pension, worth an estimated \$450,000.

■ Seth Moulton (dropped out)

Net worth: \$1 million

Financial transparency score: 2/5

Money raised: \$2 million

Moulton got a physics degree from Harvard, then joined the Marine Corps and served four tours in Iraq. Back Stateside, he used the G.I. Bill to get master's degrees from Harvard's public policy and business schools, before running for Congress. His \$1 million fortune is largely spread among mutual funds, index funds and a 2,750-square-foot condo in Salem, Massachusetts.

■ Andrew Yang

Net worth: \$1 million

Financial transparency score: 2/5

Money raised: \$5 million

The son of Taiwanese immigrants, Yang left a corporate law gig to go into the startup world. In 2000 he cofounded Stargiving.com, a website that gave charitable donors the chance to meet celebrities. After it folded he went to work for small mobile software and healthcare companies, then became CEO of test prep business Manhattan Prep in 2006. Yang helped grow the company to \$11 million in revenues before industry giant Kaplan bought it in 2009 for tens of millions.

■ Julian Castro

Net worth: \$700,000

Financial transparency score: 2/5

Money raised: \$4 million

Barack Obama's former secretary of housing and urban development has more than \$100,000 in cash accounts, plus stock in a handful of mutual funds. After Obama left office, Castro joined the faculty of the University of Texas' school of public affairs. His \$40,000-per-year university pension is worth about \$110,000. He also owns a modest, 2,000-square-foot home in San Antonio, where he served as mayor from 2009 to 2014.

■ Tulsi Gabbard

Net worth: \$500,000

Financial transparency score: 2/5

Money raised: \$6 million

Gabbard invested in the cryptocurrency craze in 2017, buying between \$2,000 and \$30,000 worth of Litecoin and Ethereum, according to documents she filed with the government. By the time she turned in her most recent financial disclosure report, in July 2019, she had gotten rid of those investments. It's not clear if she made money on them. Most of her fortune is tied up in an \$865,000 home in Washington, D.C., which has an estimated \$560,000 in debt against it.

■ Tim Ryan

Net worth: \$500,000

Financial transparency score: 3/5

Money raised: \$900,000

Elected to the House of Representatives at 29 years old, Ryan has been earning a congressional salary for years. After getting a law degree in 2000, he briefly served in the Ohio state senate, then won his House seat in 2002. In 2013, Ryan married a public school teacher, who is still paying off her student loans, according to his most recent financial disclosure report.

■ Pete Buttigieg

Net worth: \$100,000

Financial transparency score: 4/5

Money raised: \$32 million

Mayor Pete has enough money to live comfortably in the Midwest, but he's still the poorest 2020 contender. Chalk that up to his age (at 37, he's the youngest candidate), student loan debt and his decision to give up a lucrative McKinsey job to run for treasurer of his home state of Indiana in 2010. He lost but got a six-figure gig as mayor of South Bend two years later. Still, he and his husband, Chasten, a former teacher, disclosed between \$100,000 and \$230,000 in student loans.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The 9 Most Terrifying Words" was posted at patriotpost.us on Sept. 21, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

It was the Hollywood sage, Ronald Reagan, who once remarked that the nine most terrifying words in the world were "I'm from the government and I'm here to help!"

If anyone ever utters those blood-chilling words to you, just hand over your wallet and walk away quickly.

Most bureaucrats aren't evil. The problem is they regard themselves as experts. And not the way that specialists such as brain surgeons or physicists or structural engineers are. Once you work for the government, you're automatically an expert in everything.

This madness isn't limited to America. In fact, I heard of a perfect example of bureaucratic incompetence and it involved English officials stationed in India back in the days when the sun never set on the British Empire.

As related by Charles Scaliger in *The New American*, the authorities had become concerned over the number of cobras slithering around Delhi. Because Hindus both revere and fear that particular snake, the native population was reluctant to kill them. So, the bureaucrats decided to offer sizable bounties for dead cobras.

After a while, they were up to their neck in snakeskins, but the cobra population didn't appear to decrease. Finally, the authorities discovered that spurred on by the bounties, Indians were actually raising cobras and killing them.

So, naturally, they stopped the bounty system. And, naturally, being bureaucrats, they didn't anticipate that since they were no longer a source of income, the Indians released their entire stock into the streets.

In the end, Delhi had more cobras than ever.

President Reagan wouldn't have been the least bit surprised.

■ Lowest common denominator

Our own version of those British idiots are all battling to be the standard-bearer of the Democrats in 2020. Because they are seeking the nomination of the Donkey Party, they have to appeal to the lowest common denominator in our society. That's why they all have to call for doing away with cheeseburgers, plastic straws, incandescent bulbs, gas-powered cars, nuclear plants, border walls and ICE agents. In order to finance all the windmills, solar panels, electric vehicles and free stuff for millennials and illegal aliens, they will also be doing away with your life savings.

For obvious reasons, they will be sparing private jets, SUVs, limousines and mansions.

■ Gore's empty promises

One of the worst things about folks like Al Gore and the climate goofballs at the U.N. is that they raise your hopes only to dash them with nary a second thought.

For instance, when Mr. Gore and his acolytes swore that by 2010, the Pacific Ocean would rise up and wash away the coastline of California from San Francisco to the Mexican border, I, who live in the San Fernando Valley, separated from uberliberal Santa Monica, Malibu, West L.A. and Beverly Hills, by the Hollywood Hills and 25 miles away from the ocean, could barely contain my glee. Not only did the future give promise of turning the state Republican, but I anticipated owning ocean front property.

But, the part of the global warming hoax I was always sure would leave Mr. Gore with egg on his face was when he insisted that the melting of the polar glaciers would increase the level of the world's seas by a full 20 feet.

That's not the way it works. Just to make sure I remembered high school science, I filled a glass with water and ice all the way to the brim. After a while, the ice cubes melted and not a single drop of water ran down the outside of the glass.

I wonder why Mr. Global Warming didn't know that. Perhaps he finished the Scotch before the ice had a chance to melt.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Identity Politics Is Nothing New" was posted at patriotpost.us on Sept. 23, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Because the Democrats these days base their own political identity as well as every election on pandering to this group or that group, depending on whether the targeted majority happen to be blacks, Latinos, Muslims, gays, lesbians, college

students, union members or suburban housewives, you might get the idea that Rahm Emanuel or David Axelrod cooked up identity politics for Barack Obama.

One can see where you'd get that idea since it was clearly Obama's intention to divide the American people every which way he could, whether it was by race, religion, gender, age, wealth, national origin or even their attitude when it came to the Second Amendment.

■ Identity politics in the courts

But the truth is, the courts have been engaging in identity politics for a very long time. They do it by deciding that congressional districts be carved up in such a way that black and Hispanic politicians can be assured they'll have "safe districts," for fear that they'd have no chance of being elected by the general public.

That, in my opinion, is as un-American as you can get. The notion that a black candidate can't win an election unless 95% of his constituents are of the same race is antithetical to the notion that we are all Americans. I, personally, would never vote for a Democrat, but I certainly wouldn't have a problem voting for a black or Latino Republican if I ever had the opportunity to do so.

It is this gerrymandering on the basis of race that has led to so many minority politicians being the most bigoted members of Congress.

■ Racial caucuses

Even the fact that the House encourages the formation of separate black and Latino caucuses argues against the idea of America's being a melting pot that takes people from every part of the world and cooks them in a crockpot that contains the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and nearly 250 years of history which, aside from the occasional glitch, has been a model for all the other nations of the world. In the end, you don't have a Hungarian-American or a Japanese-American or a Guatemalan-American. Ideally, the hyphen has been left in the pot and what you have is a proud and patriotic American.

Instead, what the Democrats, with their separatist policies, have cooked up isn't a stew, but a smorgasbord. And for dessert, a bowl full of indigestible hyphens.

■ Montgomery county, Maryland

I understand that Montgomery county, Maryland, is a very pricey place to live. But if I was in the real estate business, I'd consider setting up shop somewhere else. Maybe even Chicago or Detroit.

It's bad enough that in the past month six children have been raped by illegal aliens who have settled in the sanctuary County, but now, no doubt to avoid embarrassing the offspring of the recent arrivals, the local school board has introduced a new policy.

Henceforth, schoolteachers will not be permitted to give a student a zero even if he doesn't turn in an assignment or manages to get every answer wrong on a test. Instead, he will receive a score of 50%.

No doubt that will boost his self-esteem, even if it means that upon graduation, assuming he's shuffled all the way through high school, which is fairly typical these days, the only job he'll be able to get is peddling drugs.

I suppose since the students know the truth, the point of the 50% is to convince his or her parents that the schools are at least doing a half-decent job of teaching their offspring.

So, using their scoring system, I trust you'll catch my drift when I call the members of the Montgomery school board half-wits.

■ Brokered convention?

It is becoming harder and harder for me to picture any of the current contenders for the Democratic nomination arriving at the convention with the requisite number of delegates to become their party's standard bearer, which makes my earlier suspicion that in case of a brokered convention, Michelle Obama will step forward as the great uniter.

When I first floated that possibility, I found it rather terrifying. But the more I've thought about it, the less scary I find it.

The media keeps telling us that the Obamas are among the most popular people in America. But like most of the things the media tells us, I don't believe it. What's to like? She told us that she'd never been proud of America until the evening that her husband was nominated. He told us he'd unite America and that we could keep our doctors if we wanted to. He was lying, she wasn't.

Frankly, I can't think of two more despicable people than the Obamas.

And, frankly, I don't think I am alone. In fact, I don't think either Obama could win a presidential election. And certainly not against Trump.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Finances

■ An article titled "NY Fed to Pump \$75 Billion Into Money Markets Daily Through Oct. 10 [In an Effort to Prevent a Spike in Short-Term Interest Rates]" was posted at afp.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by David Shepardson titled "U.S. Lawmakers Propose \$1 Billion Fund to Replace Huawei Equipment" was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 24, 2019.

■ An article by Kris Maher titled "GM Strike Starts to Ripple Through Michigan Economy" was posted at wsj.com on Sept. 26, 2019.

Trade war

■ A Reuters article titled "U.S. Lifts Tariffs on 400 Chinese Products, Trump Cites Trade Progress" was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Stephen Nellis titled "U.S. Trade Regulators Approve Some Apple Tariff Exemptions Amid Broader Reprieve" was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by David Lawder and Karl Plume titled "Hopes for Trade Breakthrough Fade As China Cancels U.S. Farm Visits" was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

■ An article by Mary Papenfuss titled "China Trade Negotiators Cut U.S. Trip Short After Trump Says He Doesn't Need a Deal Now" was posted at huffpost.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled "U.S.-Japan Trade Talks Will Bring Peace of Mind to Farmers, Auto makers: [Foreign Minister Toshimitsu] Motegi" was posted at reuters.com on Sept. 21, 2019.

Green New Deal

■ Looking back to February, an article by Mark Lewis Jr. titled "How Much Will the Green New Deal Cost Your Family? [The American Action Forum Estimates That Between 2020 and 2029, the total GND would cost \$51.1 Trillion to \$92.9 Trillion or \$316,000 to \$419,000 Per Household]" was posted at cei.org (Competitive Enterprise Institute) on Feb. 26, 2019.

■ An article by Peter Hasson titled "NBC News Asks Americans to Confess Their Climate Change Sins" was posted at dailycaller.com on Sept. 18, 2019.

■ An article by Patrick Sawyer and Lizzie Roberts titled "Worldwide Climate Strike Led by Group Demanding Britain Pay 'Reparations' for Being First to Industrialize" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Sept. 20, 2019.

■ An article by Karol Markowicz titled "The 'Climate Strike' Is a Crock That Exploits Kids" was posted at nypost.com on Sept. 17, 2019.

■ An article by Ian Schwartz titled "Tucker Carlson: Climate Strike Was Organized by Cynical Adults Hoping to Exploit Children for Political Purposes" was posted at realclearpolitics.com on Sept. 21, 2019.

■ An article by Laura Hollis titled "Scaremongering Isn't Science" was posted at townhall.com on Sept. 26, 2019.

Illegal immigration

■ An article titled "'Don't Open the Door': US Activists Organize to Thwart ICE" was posted at afp.com on Sept. 21, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article titled "Gov. [Tony] Evers [of Wisconsin] Considering Mandatory Assault Weapon Buybacks" was posted at wkow.com on Sept. 19, 2019.
- An article by Marc Nathanson titled "String of Shootings at High School Football Games Continues [for at Least the 5th Week in a Row] With 2 More Teens Injured" was posted at abcnews.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
- Looking back to 2018, an article by Mark W. Smith titled "More People Use a Gun in Self-Defense Each Year Than Die in Car Accidents" was posted at dailysignal.com on July 6, 2018.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Susan Jones titled "Trump to Reporters: Keep Building Up Whistleblower Flap 'So You Can Have a Bigger Downfall' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Michael C. Bender titled "Trump Team Bets Impeachment Will Backfire on Democrats" was posted at wsj.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Karl Rove titled "Pelosi's Circular Firing Squad [With Democrats Taking More Hits Than Donald Trump]" was posted at wsj.com on Sept. 25, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article titled "WSJ: Trump Asked [in a July Phone Call] Ukraine President to 8 Times to Investigate Joe Biden's Son" was posted at foxnews.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article titled "'It's Treachery If Not Treason': Harvard Law Professor [Laurence Tribe] on Trump-Ukraine Report" was posted at huffpost.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Ed Mazza titled "Conservative Icon George Will [Said Before the Impeachment Decision]: 'No Question' Trump [Must] Lose Next Year" was posted at huffpost.com on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article by Ed Mazza titled "Ex-Bush Ethics Chief [Richard Painter]: Democrats Must Impeach Trump Now Or They Will Lose in 2020" was posted at huffpost.com on Sept. 24, 2019.
- An article by Niels Lesniewski titled "Mitt Romney Not Criticizing Nancy Pelosi's Handling of Potential Trump Impeachment Over Ukraine Call" was posted at rollcall.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick and Julie Pace titled "Washington Plunges Into Trump Impeachment Investigation" was posted at apnews.com on Sept. 26, 2019.
- An article titled "[HBO's] Bill Maher Makes the Case for Joe Biden: He Is 'Mildly Embarrassing' But Not 'Insane' Like Trump" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

- An article by Patrick Forrest titled "Joe Biden Jokes [on Late Night TV] About Picking Michelle Obama As His Running Mate" was posted at blavity.com on Sept. 5, 2019.
- Looking back to April, an article by Sam Levin titled "Elizabeth Warren Becomes First 2020 Candidate to Call for Trump's Impeachment" was posted at theguardian.com on April 19, 2019.
- An article by Michael Graham titled "Careful What You Wish For, Liz Warren—Trump Impeachment Perils Loom" was posted at bostonherald.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Ryan Lizza titled "Who Does [Trump] Impeachment Help: Biden or Warren?" was posted at politico.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Brian Schwartz titled "Wall Street Democratic Donors Warn the Party: We'll Sit Out, or Back Trump, If You Nominate Elizabeth Warren" was posted at cnbc.com on Sept. 26, 2019.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Bernie Sanders: 'We Have to Welcome People All Over the World' Fleeing Climate Change" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article titled "Bernie Sanders' New Plan Wipes Out \$81 Billion of America's Existing Medical Debt" was posted at rollingstone.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Andrew Yang: \$1K Per Month Will Make Us Stronger, Healthier [And] Improve Our Relationships and Way of Life" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Kharen Martinez Murcia titled "Chinese Activist: 'I'm Starting to Feel' That Socialism 'Has Followed Me' to the U.S." was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article by Alex Seitz-Wald titled "Next One Out? Booker Memo Warns He May Not Be in 2020 Race 'Much Longer' [As He Needs to Raise Nearly \$1.7 Million Before Sept. 30]" was posted at nbcnews.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
- An article titled "Charles Barkley Slams Democrats for Ignoring Black Voters" was posted at foxnews.com on Sept. 20, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Madaline Osborn titled "Hearings Expose How Kamala Harris Used Prosecutorial Power to Benefit Abortion Businesses That Support Her Campaign" was posted at thefederalist.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Alex Shephard titled "Kamala Harris Is Moving to Iowa" was posted at newrepublic.com on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article by Joe Garofoli titled "Will 'Moving' to Iowa Hurt Kamala Harris With California Voters?" was posted at sfchronicle.com on Sept. 24, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Beto Punches Back at Schumer for Dismissing His Gun Confiscation Idea" was posted at townhall.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Maxim Lott titled "Beto O'Rourke's Gun Confiscation Rhetoric Could Doom Political Future in Texas" was posted at foxnews.com on Sept. 24, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by David French titled "The Ukraine Story Isn't a Story About the Media" was posted at nationalreview.com on Sept. 23, 2019.
- An article by Reed Richardson titled "Fox News Civil War: Tucker Carlson Repeatedly Mocks 'Daytime Host' Shepard Smith in Jawdropping Segment" was posted at mediaite.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "[Wolf] Blitzer and [Jim] Acosta Lie About the 'Favor' Trump Asked of Ukrainian President" was posted at newsbusters.org on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "ABC, NBC: Congress Can 'Read Between the Lines' to Impeach Trump" was posted at newsbusters.org on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article titled "CNN Guest [Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy] Battles Don Lemon, Rips Network's Ukraine Coverage" was posted at yahoo.com on Sept. 25, 2019.
- An article by Mollie Hemingway titled "New York Times Kavanaugh Reporter [Robin Pogrebin] Told Sources What to Say" was posted at thefederalist.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article titled "The New York Post Rips Bill De Blasio With a Front Page Obituary Marking the End of His 2020 Campaign" was posted at foxnews.com on Sept. 21, 2019.
- An article by Tony Maglio titled "Emmys Draw 6.9 Million Viewers, Down 32% From Last Year to a New Record Low" was posted at thewrap.com on Sept. 23, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Melanie Arter titled "Candace Owens [a Black Conservative]: Dems Using White Supremacy to Scare Blacks Into Voting for Them" was posted at cnsnews.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by David French titled "A California Court Dealt a Blow to Religious Liberty [Ruling That a Catholic Hospital Could Face Legal Liability for Failing to Perform a Hysterectomy As Part of a Female-to-Male Transition]; It's Time for SCOTUS to Act" was posted at nationalreview.com on Sept. 20, 2019.
- An article by Dylan Stableford titled "'It's Happening': Alien Enthusiasts Descend on Area ;51 for a UFO Party [During Sept. 21 Weekend]" was posted at yahoo.com on Sept. 20, 2019.



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”