

Knocking on Doors

***“And it’s hard to say
Who you are these days
But you run on anyway
Don’t you baby?
You keep running for another place
to find that saving grace.*”**

Tom Petty-Saving Grace

So I’ve been knocking on doors the last several weeks, asking folks to consider voting for James Talarico, the Democrat running for the open senate seat in Texas against criminally convicted, proven embezzler, serial adulterer, noted liar, complete scumbag, and Trump backed Republican Ken Paxton.

“I could never vote for a Democrat; we just don’t share the same values.”

That’s what one very nice, super friendly, cross wearing lady said to me after she agreed with me on Paxton.

Other responses included:

“You’re trying to get a Democrat elected in Texas? Good luck with that. I gave up on that a long time ago.”

“I’m with you but don’t tell anyone,” (in hushed tones).

“Can’t do it. I hate Paxton, but I don’t agree with anything the Democratic party stands for.”

“I’ll never vote for a Democrat; you’re wasting your time on me.”

Of course, I’m a Democrat knocking on doors in deep red Texas, but I’m betting my Republican evil twin knocking on doors in deep blue Massachusetts is facing the same type of resistance from Democrats regarding Republicans.

How much of this disgust, and outright fear, for the other party is willful ignorance, and how much is brainwashing, we can’t know. But man, what we do know, is that Fox News, MSNBC, college professors, grandpa, social media influencers, billionaires and that ilk, have done a number twisting the hearts and minds of Americans against each other.

The crazies in both parties own the pulpit. Watch TV, read the papers, listen to podcasts, facebook, twitter, tic-toc or instagram for a few days and you'll come away convinced that Republicans are nazi's and Democrats baby-eaters. No wonder Republicans in blue states are afraid to tell anyone that they vote blue, and Democrats in red states are afraid to tell anyone they vote red.

It's hard to say who you are these days.

What a shame.

Because the facts tell us that the country is united on most issues. Check out the June 2026 Gallup poll on the issues of the day:

Immigration: 73% believe that immigration is a good thing for the country. Broad support remains for pathways to legal citizenship for long-term undocumented residents without criminal records. 67% do not approve of current ICE actions; 88% think ICE agents should not be wearing masks.

The Economy: 77% rate the current U.S. economy poorly or are unsatisfied with how the economy is working.

Transgender: 66% support equal rights for transgender people; 89% believe that transgender athletes should not be allowed to compete on sports teams that do not match their birth sex. 76% feel that a person's birth sex, rather than their current identity should be listed on official government documents like a driver's license or passport.

The National Debt: 81% are worried about the debt and it's long term effect on their family.

Term Limits: 83% support strict term limits on all elected officials. 73% favor term limits for Supreme Court justices. 80% support maximum age limits on all elected officials.

National Defense: 60% say the Pentagon budget is too high. 74% oppose renaming the agency to the Department of War. 67% believe that the Iran war is a mistake; 83% believe it should end now.

Crime: 73% say local law enforcement should handle crime prevention, not the federal government. 62% are in favor of body cameras. 73% believe police should be paid more.

Teachers/Education: 90% think teachers should be paid more. 73% feel public K-12 schools are headed in the wrong direction.

Guns: 86% of Americans support universal background checks on all gun buyers. 67% support banning semi-automatic weapons. 80% oppose a complete ban on guns.

The truth is most Americans want the same things. A good job. Health insurance. Excellent education for their children. A safe place to live. Honest government. No war. A fair chance that if you work hard you can achieve the American dream. These aspirations do not differ by party.

That's what I found out knocking on doors. After initial reticence in speaking with me, here's some other takeaways from my follow up question of "what concerns you the most about the direction of our country?"

"These politicians need to stop concentrating on meaningless nonsense. Men playing women's sports shouldn't even be on the to do list of anyone running for public office. I've never even met a transgender person. This is not a problem."

"We need to stop this god-damn war!"

"How about we start paying cops and teachers what they're worth?"

"We need to get the old geezers out of office!"

"They better not screw with my social security!"

While answers did vary somewhat on the top priority for the country, every person I spoke with had the same answer to my question "Is the country heading in the right direction?"

The answer was "NO!"

I bet that my evil twin, or should I say fellow American, knocking on doors in deep blue Massachusetts is getting the same type of feedback to these question as I am. Sad, very sad indeed, that a country that is so united has been hoodwinked into thinking that it is so divided.

Maybe when the folks wearing the blue hats start talking with the folks wearing the red hats, and vice-versa, we can get this country back on the right track. Take back our hearts and minds from the clutches of the crazies. Move the country in the right direction.

That could be our saving Grace.

That's all I'm sayin'

###